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# BIG IDEA: I CAN ALWAYS TRUST GOD

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**DATE:** OCTOBER 2-3, 2021 — **STORY:** ISAAC

**BIBLE BASIS:** GENESIS 22

## SERIES: MADE FOR MORE

God has made each of us for something more than we can ever imagine! We will be reading through passages in the book of Genesis.

## MEMORY VERSE

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —ROMANS 8:28

## SCHEDULE

0:00–0:10	Welcome Activities/Check-In
0:10–0:15	Transition to Large Group (B100)
0:15–0:30	Large Group (Worship, Memory Verse, Global Partner Spotlight)
0:30–0:35	Transition to Small Group (Back to Classrooms)
0:35–1:05	Small Group (Storytelling, Questions, Big Idea Connection, Respond Activity)
1:05–1:15	Dismiss/Additional Activities (During Check-Out)

## SERIES OVERVIEW

Date	Story	Big Idea	Bible Basis
September 25-26	Abraham	God Is A Promise Keeper	Genesis 15, 17, 18, 21
October 2-3	Isaac	I Can Always Trust God	Genesis 22
October 9-10	Jacob & Esau	God Has A Plan For Me	Genesis 25, 27
October 16-17	Joseph	Forgive Like God Does	Genesis 41-47
October 23-24	The Burning Bush	God Is With Us	Exodus 1-7
October 30-31	The 10 Plagues	God Is Almighty	Exodus 7-10
November 6-7	The Passover	God Is Our Rescuer	Exodus 11-13
November 13-14	Red Sea Crossing	Be Thankful & Don't Grumble	Exodus 13-17

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**OCTOBER 2-3**

**STORY: ISAAC**

**GENESIS 22**

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# DEVOTIONAL

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I've always been a roller coaster junkie! The more twists, turns, and loops, the better. If it had a corkscrew, I actually drooled a little. On summers when we could vacation at a theme park, I was beside myself. One year in particular, we ended up going to a theme park in Kansas City, Missouri. At the end of the day, we finally worked up the courage to ride one of the tallest and faster rollercoasters in the park. As much as I loved roller coasters, I just couldn't get over how high this one climbed, how fast it flew, or how loud the riders were screaming. As we neared the front of the line, though, we noticed two things. First, the coaster was actually much, much taller than we had even first thought. And secondly, the cars didn't have any discernable means of holding people in. No lap-bar, no harness, no seatbelts... nothing. People would just hang on. Nowadays this seems crazy. At the time it was only slightly less crazy! Not wanting to chicken out, though, I put on a brave face and stepped into the car. My dad sat down next to me and with one hand he held onto the front of the car while the other hand embraced me tightly. As I had expected, the roller coaster was fast, and at times it felt as though I was going to float up and out of the car. During the ride it truly felt like I was depending on my dad for my life, but with each twist, turn, and drop, my dad just held onto me tighter and tighter until we safely returned to the station. I am happy to say that the coaster has since been retired.

When I think about the story of Abraham and Isaac, I can't help but think of my time on that roller coaster. I can't help but wonder what Isaac must have thought as he carried the bundle of wood up the hill with his dad. What went through Isaac's mind? "Dad, where's the lamb for the sacrifice?" But at the end all he could do was trust. He trusted his dad as he lay down on the wood and allowed himself to be tied down. And Abraham trusted his Father, too. Following God was a wild ride for Abraham and at times a dangerous one, but Abraham trusted God to hold on to him and not let go. And as always, God came through.

We can trust our Daddy. He always comes through. Always!

*John Garrison*

GO! Contributor

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# PROVIDED RESOURCES

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Welcome Activities: Coloring/Activity pages, coloring supplies

Storytelling: None

Big Idea Connection: Blindfold

Respond Activity: Blindfold

Additional Activities: Word Cards, Question Cards

*\*\*If you need any additional resources, please let us know so that we can provide that for you!*

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## WELCOME ACTIVITIES

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### OPTION 1: COLORING PAGE/ ACTIVITY PAGE

Allow students to color or do the activity page on the back.

### OPTION 2: THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN:

*An activity to hear about everyone's week.*

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### OPTION 3: STUDENT CHOICE

Allow students to choose which option they would like to do.

*\*Students can also choose to do the coloring/activity page while they wait their turn to participate in Option 2.*

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# STORYTELLING

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I want to ask you a question. What's the craziest thing you've ever done? (*Invite responses.*) Those are some pretty crazy stories. In today's part of the Big Bible Story, God asks a man to do something that at first might seem totally crazy.

Does anyone remember who we talked about last week? That's right—Abraham. We learned that even though Abraham was a super old dude, God gave him a son named Isaac. And that's where today's story picks up.

In the Book of Genesis Chapter 22, we see that Isaac is no longer a baby but has grown up quite a bit and Abraham is now really, really old. God once again speaks to Abraham and asks him to do something that sounds completely crazy. Let's read from Genesis 22:2. (*Read or invite volunteer to read.*)

Doesn't that sound a little bit crazy? God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Abraham had waited so long to have Isaac and he loved him so much. More than that, how was God going to fulfill his promise of making Abraham the father of many nations if Abraham had to kill his only son? Do you think Abraham was able to obey God even though it didn't make sense to him? (*Take answers.*) Let's see. (*Read or invite volunteer to read Genesis 22:6-7*)

As crazy as it sounded, Abraham obeyed God. He took his son, Isaac, to the place of sacrifice. Isaac didn't know that he was going to be the sacrifice, so he said "Hey, isn't something missing? We have the fire and wood, but where's the lamb for the offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide." Even though Abraham didn't understand, he trusted that God would make everything work out. (*Pantomime the following actions.*) So he tied Isaac up, put him on the altar, and raised his knife high in the air. But then something happened.

(*Read or invite volunteer to read Genesis 22:11-12.*) Can you imagine the relief Abraham must have felt? God had been testing Abraham to see if he would trust and follow Him, and Abraham passed. At that moment Abraham heard something in the distance. He looked up and saw that there was something caught in a bush. (*Read or invite volunteer to read Genesis 22:13.*)

Not only had God kept Isaac safe, but he provided a replacement for Isaac. God provided Abraham a ram to sacrifice instead. In fact, as a way to remember, Abraham named that very spot Yahweh-Yireh, which means "the LORD will provide."

There's one more thing I want to point out about this story. This story had a lot of talk

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# STORYTELLING (CONT.)

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about sacrifices, but what's the deal with that? Well it's pretty interesting and...um...well...a little bit messy. In the Old Testament, God required people to perform animal sacrifices. "What's an animal sacrifice," you say? Well, to sacrifice means to give something up, but in this case it meant the animal had to be killed. It was pretty messy, but it's what people had to do for the atonement of their sins. Wow—atonement—that's another big word. Atonement just means "to pay for" or "to cover over."

So you see, when an animal was sacrificed, it's kind of like the blood of the animal "covered over" the person's sin. For an animal to be sacrificed, though, it had to be perfect—no spots, no blemishes, not even a speeding ticket. These sacrifices didn't get rid of sin though, so they couldn't fix our broken relationship with God. Thousands of years later, God would take care of our sins once and for all by sacrificing His perfect son, Jesus. But this time, the blood would pay for our sins completely, so they can be washed away forever. That's why we don't have to sacrifice animals anymore. We don't need them because of Jesus.

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## QUESTIONS

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*This can be done as a large group or in table groups*

### For Younger Kids:

1. Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac?
2. If you were Abraham, how would you have felt if God asked you to sacrifice your son? Would you have done it?

### For Older Kids:

1. If you were Abraham, do you think you could have sacrificed your son?
2. What do you think this story teaches us about God?

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# BIG IDEA CONNECTION

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Our story today makes you wonder how Abraham could have trusted and obeyed God that much. In order to really understand how Abraham could have trusted God so much, I want to show you something.

*(Call on one volunteer. Have other kids stand around the room as “statues” or obstacles to avoid. Decide on a starting and ending point. Blindfold the volunteer and begin giving them verbal directions to get through the course without running into anything or anyone. Once the volunteer has reached the end of the course, invite everyone back to the teaching area. Ask the volunteer these questions:)*

What was it like to walk around without being able to see? Was it kind of easy or pretty hard to trust me to steer you around the obstacles? Why? How would it have been different if you didn't have someone who could see guiding you?

You know, it was kind of the same way with Abraham. Abraham was like the person with the blindfold on. *(Walk through the obstacle course to illustrate the next points.)* He couldn't see what was in front of him. In other words, he couldn't see what was in the future, but who could? *(Kids respond.)* God could. God was like the person without a blindfold giving Abraham directions. God could see what was ahead of Abraham and he could steer Abraham in the right direction. God could see that Abraham would be the father of a great nation, so he directed Abraham to start a family despite being 100 years old. God could see that Abraham's faith had to be tested, so he directed Abraham to sacrifice his son. Abraham trusted God with his whole heart because he knew that God could see things that he couldn't. Think about our memory verse. *(Recite Romans 8:28 together.)* It tells us that God is working all things together for good. God works together even things that we don't understand for our good! **God sees the big picture, He loves us, and we can trust Him with our whole lives.**

The story of Abraham and Isaac gives us a picture of God's big rescue plan to save the world from sin. In our story today, God asked Abraham to give up his only son to be sacrificed. Abraham trusted and followed God, and God provided a ram to take Isaac's place. Thousands of years later, God himself would give up His only son, Jesus, to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus would be the one to take our place on the cross. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can find freedom from our sins, because He took the punishment of them for us. Let's pray *(pray as you feel led by the Holy Spirit).*

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# RESPOND ACTIVITY

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*In today's story, kids learned about how we can always trust God even when things may not make sense to us right away. God is trustworthy and good and He can see things that we can't.*

## **TRUST WALK:**

**Say:** During Large Group we got to hear how Abraham trusted God even to the point of sacrificing his own son. Abraham trusted that God was able to see and know things he couldn't, so he followed God's directions. Right now, we're going to see what that must have been like for Abraham.

**Directions:** Tell your group that they will participate in a trust walk through an obstacle course that you create as a group (similar to the one in Large Group). The object of the trust walk is to get through all of the obstacles without running into anything. Choose some of your kids and help position them throughout your small group area as obstacles. They can sit, stand, or pose in crazy ways. Assist them so that they're able to create a course that could be navigated safely and somewhat easily. Use the tape to create a starting and finish line.

Choose one kid who is comfortable with wearing a blindfold. Place them at the beginning of the obstacle course with the blindfold on and begin giving them verbal instructions helping them navigate the course without bumping into the obstacles. For older kids, consider letting some of the kids take turns giving the verbal directions. Once a kid has completed the course, have them take the place of another child and repeat the activity until everyone has had a turn as either a navigator or an obstacle. When finished, ask the following questions:

### **Questions:**

1. Can you think of how that trust walk was kind of like following God?
2. How do you think we might be like the person with the blindfold on?
3. How do you think God might be like the person giving directions?
4. Is there anything you think God might be asking you to sacrifice, or give up? What is it? Why would God maybe want you to give that up? (Possible answers: an unhealthy friendship, a video game, watching a particular TV show, or spending too much time on electronics.)
5. Is it easy or hard for you to do those things? Why?

**Say:** God is trustworthy, so we can follow him even when He asks us to do really hard things. Remember we're like the person with the blindfold on, but God can see clearly and He's going to direct you in the right way.

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# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

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*These **additional activities** are completely optional. These activities are meant to fill any time that you may have left. Students can participate or finish their respond activity. Have your adult helper check-out students while you do one or more of the options with the students who are waiting to be picked up by their parents.*

## **FINDERS KEEPERS:**

### *Bible Story Review Game*

Tape up the word cards face-up to the board or a wall. Divide kids into two teams and have them stand on the opposite side of the room, with their backs to the words. Ask one of the questions from your Bible Review Envelope. Once the question is said, one player from each team will race up to the wall and try to put their hand on the answer first. If they're correct, they can keep the card. Once all the cards are grabbed, the team with the most cards wins. Feel free to make up your own questions and answers as well to keep the game going! You can write additional answers on the white board for the kids to find.

## **BACK AND FORTH:**

### *Bible Memorization Activity*

Have kids get in two lines facing each other. The two kids at the front of the lines will go back and forth saying one word of the verse until it is completed. Once it is completed, they'll go to the end of the line and the next two will go back and forth saying the verse. You can add in challenges like saying the verse fast, saying it in a silly voice, saying it really slow, saying it in a high or low voice, etc. You can also have kids only say one word of the verse and go to the end of the line so the whole team is working together at once. Once kids seem confident in knowing their verse, ask the following questions:

### **Questions:**

1. Now that you have that verse memorized, can you tell me what it means to you?
2. The Bible tells us that God is in control over all things. God has great plans and nothing can stop those plans. God works everything out for our good. What does that tell you about God? What does that tell you about His love for you?