

DigKids- July 5, 2009

For parents the story of Abraham's faith in [Genesis 22](#) can be rather unsettling. The mere thought of sacrificing one's child as an act of obedience can send a chill up the spine. Yet Abraham obeyed, never doubting for a second that God would somehow spare his beloved son, or even raise him from the dead.

For kids this story might also be a little frightening. How far does God want us to go to obey him? Will God ever ask me to make that kind of sacrifice? These activities will help children understand that God loves them and wants only the best for them. And they'll experience God's best when they obey him.

Bible Point:  **OUR OBEYING GOD GIVES GOD JOY.**

Objective: *Children will understand that their obedience to God always pleases him.*

Supplies:

Bible
several colored index cards for each child
markers

Time: 10 to 15 minutes

Preparation: none

As you read the story from [Genesis 22](#), you'll be asking questions about feelings. Each time you ask a question about feelings, have each child write a specific feeling on his or her card and hold it up to show you.

SAY:

In today's story God asked Abraham to do a very hard thing, something Abraham couldn't understand. As we read the story from the Bible, imagine what Abraham and Isaac must have been feeling. Read [Genesis 22:1-2](#), and then ask:

• **How do you think Abraham felt?**

Make sure the kids write their responses on a card. Then read verses [3-8](#).

ASK:

• **Isaac wasn't a little child anymore. How do you think he felt?**

Read verses [9-10](#). Ask how Abraham felt, and then how Isaac felt.

Read verses [11-13](#), and ask how Abraham and Isaac felt then.

Read verses [14-18](#), and ask how Abraham and Isaac felt. Then ask:

• **How do you think God felt after Abraham obeyed him?**

Have kids write their answers on their cards. SAY: **God was very pleased with Abraham for having faith and obeying God, even though it was very hard.** Read aloud [Deuteronomy 5:10](#). 🙌 OUR OBEYING GOD GIVES GOD JOY! **All the feelings we experience when we obey God can be very different, just like with Abraham. Sometimes we're unsure, sometimes we're confident, and sometimes we're really scared. But our obeying God always makes God happy.**

Have kids bring their cards to the center of the room. Together, have everyone use all the cards to spell out the word *joy* on the floor. Then join hands around the cards and pray that God will give kids strength to obey.

• PREPARE IN ADVANCE •

• ALLERGY ALERT •

DON'T BE A DOUGH-DOUGH

Objective: *Children will make cookie dough to see how obedience brings joy.*

Supplies:

- Bible
- cookie recipe
- ingredients for the cookies
- measuring utensils
- glass mixing bowl
- mixing spoon
- plastic bag
- photocopy of the recipe card
- batch of cookies already made

Time: 15 to 20 minutes

Preparation: Have all the ingredients and supplies ready and set out on a table so all the kids can see you. Have pre-made cookies ready to hand out.

Read aloud the story of [Genesis 22:1-19](#), or tell the story in your own words. Then say: **When Abraham and Isaac got back from their experience on the mountain, they must have been hungry and tired. I'm feeling kind of hungry myself. Let's whip up a batch of cookies!**

Hand the copy of the recipe to a child, and ask him or her to read it to you. As the child reads the ingredients, intentionally ruin the cookies by ignoring the amounts given in the recipe, saying things like, "I really think it needs a lot more of this"

and "We don't need *that* much." Try to make the dough as watery and messy as possible. Make sure all the kids can see your mess.

SAY:

Yuck! These cookies look horrible. Why did they turn out so badly? Ask kids to give their opinions about why the cookie dough was ruined. Then say: **OK. I guess we'd better start over.**

Pour the ruined dough into a plastic bag. Ask for another student to read the recipe. This time have kids take turns carefully helping you measure and mix each ingredient. Set the dough aside.

SAY:

There! That's better. This dough will make cookies that someone will enjoy, won't it?

ASK:

- **Why is it important to follow the directions in recipes?**
- **How is following the directions in a recipe like following the directions God gives us in the Bible? How is it different?**
- **Why was it important for Abraham to follow God's directions, even if he didn't understand them?**

SAY:

We need to remember that God can see and understand many things we can't. God knew about the angel he would send to stop Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. Abraham didn't know about that, but he did know he could trust God. And God was happy with Abraham because he obeyed.

Bring out the batch of cookies you already made and say: **When we obey God, it brings God joy. It's kind of like these cookies-when we follow the directions in the recipe, it will bring us joy.** Hand out the cookies and enjoy!