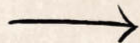


# Chapter 6: A Kingdom of Faith



## Bible Timeline:



## Bible References:

Genesis 17-22, Genesis 15:6,  
Romans 4:1-8, Galatians 3:6-9, Hebrews 11:17-19

Abram kept getting older. He had been married to Sarai for many years. One night he asked God, “How will your promises come true? I still don’t have a single child. You haven’t given me any offspring!”

God brought Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Can you count all the stars? I’ll give you even more offspring than the stars!”



Abram believed God, and God counted it to him as righteousness. Abram had faith in God. He knew God would one day give him this promised child, and plant his family in the promised land.

God’s promise wouldn’t depend on Abram. God himself was going to fulfill this promise.



This covenant promise could not be broken. God would fulfill it, no matter what it cost. He would make Abram a great nation, and bring him into this great land, and give the world the greatest blessing through Abram's offspring—even if he had to be cut in half to do it.

God told Abram, "Bring me a calf, a goat, a ram, a dove, and a pigeon." God was going to make a covenant with him. Abram brought all the animals, cut them in half, and laid them out on the pathway.

To Abram's great surprise, God appeared and passed between the animals as a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch! This was God's way of saying to Abram, "If I do not keep my promise to you, may I be cut in half!"

Abram had great faith in God's promise, but he made some big mistakes along the way. At times, Abram failed to trust God while he waited for his promised child to arrive.

But God never failed Abram. God told him, "I will make my covenant with you. From now on, your name will be Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. Even kings will come from your family! This is my everlasting covenant."

Abraham laughed. He thought, "How can I become a father? I'm a hundred years old!" Sarai also laughed. She said, "I've never been able to have a child. Will I have one now that I'm old and worn out?"

But God always keeps his promises, even when they seem impossible. God told Abraham, "Is anything too hard for me? Sarai will be named Sarah, and she will give birth to a son. You will name him Isaac."



Then God did a miracle. Sarah became pregnant, and their child was born! God's promise came true! Abraham and Sarah named the little boy Isaac, which means "laughter."

Sarah said, "God has given me laughter." For many years, Sarah had felt shame and sadness because she couldn't have children, but now God had given her laughter and joy.

God would use this child to fulfill the promise he made to Abraham. Through Isaac, God would make Abraham a great nation.



But God would test Abraham's faith in his covenant promise. When Isaac became a young man, God told Abraham, "Take your son, your only son, your beloved son Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you."

Abraham was very old, and he had walked with God for a very long time. Abraham knew God always keeps his promises, and that God had promised to make a great nation from Isaac. So Abraham obeyed God in faith, knowing that the God who made the whole world could even raise Isaac from the dead.



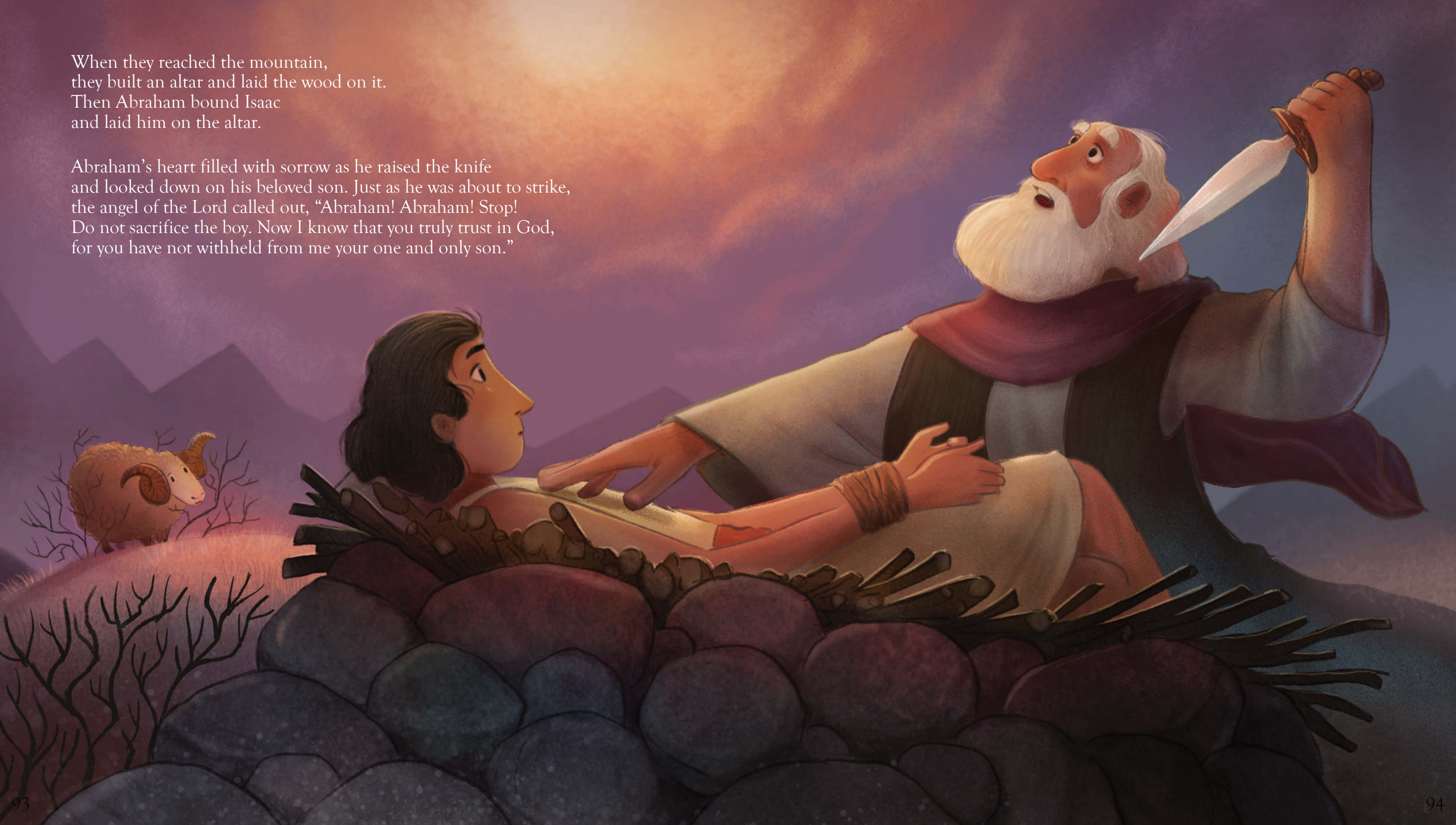
Abraham and Isaac rose early and traveled to the land of Moriah. Abraham loaded the wood onto Isaac, and Isaac carried it up the mountain.

"Father," Isaac said, "we have wood and fire—but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham answered, "God will provide for himself a lamb, my son."

When they reached the mountain,  
they built an altar and laid the wood on it.  
Then Abraham bound Isaac  
and laid him on the altar.

Abraham's heart filled with sorrow as he raised the knife  
and looked down on his beloved son. Just as he was about to strike,  
the angel of the Lord called out, "Abraham! Abraham! Stop!  
Do not sacrifice the boy. Now I know that you truly trust in God,  
for you have not withheld from me your one and only son."



Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns.  
God had provided a sacrifice!  
Abraham named this place: “The Lord will provide.”

Abraham’s family always remembered this story.  
And they would say, “On the mount of the Lord it will be provided.”

God would always provide more than his people needed or deserved.  
One day, God would provide much more than a ram—he would provide  
the final sacrifice. He would send his one and only son to a mountain  
to fulfill his covenant promise. But this time the knife would not stop.





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## A Kingdom of Faith

**God's Presence:** God speaks to Abram and then appears to him as a flaming torch and smoking pot. This is a powerful picture of just how far God will go to fulfill his covenant with Abram.

**God's People:** God's promise to Abram will be fulfilled through his son, Isaac. God changes Abram's name to Abraham, which means 'father of many nations'. Abraham demonstrates faith in God, and this shows us that God's people will be those who trust his promises.

**God's Place:** Abraham brought Isaac up to Mount Moriah, which is in the promised land and is in the region where Jerusalem would be built. Abraham names that mountain, 'The Lord will Provide.'

**God's Promise:** God promises that he will fulfill the covenant he made to Abraham. God did not require Abraham to walk through the animals that would be cut in half, which meant that God would fulfill this on his own. He would provide all that is needed through the greatest sacrifice.

### Questions

1. How many offspring did God promise to Abraham?
2. Why did God ask Abram to cut the animals in half?
3. What sacrifice does the sacrifice of Isaac point towards?

### Gospel Glimpse

Just as the flaming torch and smoking fire pot passed through the animals, Jesus passed through death for us (Colossians 2:11-14). Jesus is the promised Son of God who will become a sacrifice for his people (Hebrews 9:11-14). All who place their faith in Christ become like children of Abraham (Galatians 3:12-18).

### Prayer

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for offering your son as a sacrifice for us. You paid the greatest price to bring us into your family. You always provide far more than we could ever ask for.