



GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

Lesson 10: Abraham's Offering

CONTENT:

1. God asked Abraham to offer up his beloved son Isaac. Abraham was ready to do this, because he trusted God.
2. Abraham and his son climbed up a mountain, built an altar and put wood on it. When Abraham was about to kill his son, an angel stopped him. God provided a ram for the offering. Abraham called the mountain 'Jehovah Jireh' which means 'God will give what we need'.
-  3. Jesus taught us to pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread' because he wants us to trust God like Abraham and ask him for what we need. He wants us to pray for other's needs too, and to share what we have with others.
-  4. God our Father gave us Jesus. He is the bread for our souls. At Mass we can receive Jesus and he makes us strong inside.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home. With the help of your family, check the Bible and fill in the missing words. Learn the Bible verse.

REFERENCES: Genesis 22:1-14. CCC 2572, 2828-2830, 2837.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, bun/pao.

I. STARTER: [Role-play]

[A child is seated [CENTRE] about to eat a bun. Another child comes up and looks at her eating.]

CHILD 2: I'm very hungry. I didn't have any breakfast.

CHILD 1: (*Handing him the bun*) Here! Have this.

CHILD 2: But what about you?

CHILD 1: Don't worry. My mummy will give me another one when I get home.

[Both smile at each other and walk off.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Tell me, why did (*name of first child*) give the bun away? [*She was kind. She knew that her mother would give her another if she was hungry.*]
- Abraham was just like (*name*). He knew that God loved him and would always take care of him, so he was ready to give God anything, even what he loved the best.

[Story of Abraham's Offering]

One day Abraham heard God's voice again. God called out, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "Yes, God, here I am!"

God said, "Go to a mountain that I will show you and offer your son Isaac up there as a burnt offering."

Abraham felt very, very sad. He didn't want to hurt his son. He was just a boy and he loved him very much. But he was ready to do what God wanted.

Early the next morning he cut wood for the fire and took Isaac, two servants and a donkey to carry the luggage. After walking for two days, they reached the mountain that God had chosen.

Then Abraham put the bundle of wood on Isaac's back and said to the servants, "Wait here with the donkey. Isaac and I are going to worship God on the mountain."

He took a knife and a torch with fire and started walking up the mountain with Isaac. (In those days there were no matchboxes, so they had to carry the fire with a torch, like the Olympic torch.)

As Isaac climbed up with his father, he was puzzled. He said, "Father, can I ask you something?"

Abraham said, "Yes my son!"

Isaac said, "I've got the wood for the offering and you have the knife and the fire. But what about the lamb? We've forgotten to bring a lamb!"

Abraham said, "My son, God himself will give us the lamb for the offering!"

They kept walking up the mountain. When they reached the top, Abraham built an altar with big stones. He put the wood on top of it. Then, very sadly, he tied up his son and put him on top of the wood. He took the knife in his hand to kill his son, but just then a voice shouted out.

"Abraham! Stop! Don't hurt your son. Now God knows that you trust him and are ready to give him anything he asks." It was an angel from God!

Abraham was very happy to hear the angel. He quickly picked up his son and untied his ropes. He hugged him and kissed him. Then, as he looked up he saw something moving in the trees. It was a ram (a boy-sheep). Its horns had got caught in the branches of a tree and it was stuck there.

Abraham shouted, "Look son! God has given us a ram to offer. I told you he would give us what we need!" Abraham and Isaac caught the ram and put it on the altar and burnt it as their offering.

Abraham said, "Let us call this mountain 'Jehovah Jireh' so that we never forget how God saved you and gave us a ram to burn."

So that mountain was called 'Jehovah Jireh' by everyone. Can you guess what 'Jehovah Jireh' means? It means 'God will give us what we need.'

NEXT CLASS:

[Give out handouts and read the written matter on the top half of the page. Ask the children if they remember what Abraham named the mountain and its meaning. Write it on the blackboard so they can copy it into the space provided: JEHOVAH JIREH; THE LORD WILL GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.]

- Jesus wants us to trust God just like Abraham. He wants us to ask him for what we need. That's why he taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." If you are hungry, you can ask him for food. If you are sad, you can ask him to make you happy. If you need a friend, you can ask him to send you one.
- But God also wants us to be like (*name*) in the act we did. We must give to others who are hungry. We must be a friend to someone who is lonely. If we know that God is our loving Father then we won't be afraid to give to others.

[Read 'bread' section. Don't do the Bible verse. This is to be done at home using a Bible so that the family gets involved.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Every day we can look up at our Father God and ask him for what we need. Of course we shouldn't be greedy and ask him for what we don't need! Close your eyes now and think of one thing you or your family needs: a job for your daddy, or a school bag, or money to pay your fees. Open your eyes. Try and draw this on the back of your handout. Ask God for it. *[Children draw.]*
- Now think of other people. Can you think of anyone who has less food to eat, or doesn't have proper clothes, or books or friends? Think of what you can do to help. Draw what you will give to someone else. Tell God what you have decided to do. *[Children draw.]*

<p>Home assignment: Read the handout at home. With the help of your family, check the Bible and fill in the missing words. Learn the Bible verse.</p>
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