

Am I Willing to Sacrifice?



This activity helps children to better understand sacrifice. What does it mean to love and trust God so much that we would be willing to give up something we hold precious.

The story of [Abraham Preparing to Sacrifice His Son](#) is a test of faith like no other. There is no way to lightly depict a father being asked to kill and sacrifice his precious son. But then, even as Abraham was about to carry through with what God had told him to do, an angel intervened and stopped him.

Supplies you will need:

- Enough paper so that each child will have a few small sheets of paper
- Pens or pencils
- Some flat stones
- Something upon which to place the stones (ex: a round metal pizza pan)
- An empty box of matches

Instructions:

After telling [the story of Abraham and Isaac](#), further discuss how God was more important to Abraham than anything or anyone. Abraham proved that he was willing to sacrifice even the most important thing in his life, his son. Is God that precious to us? What would we be willing to sacrifice if we were tested?

Create an environment of contemplation among the children by speaking calmly and not too fast.

1. Have the children write or draw what is important or precious to them on small pieces of paper. One item on each piece of paper. As they write, you can start asking them whether the thing written on their paper is as important as God. Keep in mind that this is not about good or bad. They will be writing down some very good things and people. This is about whether or not God is more important than even the MOST precious things.
2. After they have written for a little while, bring out the stones and stack them together to form an altar.
3. Now ask the children to think carefully about what they have written on their papers and whether or not they would be willing to give them up (sacrifice them) if God asked them to.
4. If they are willing to give it up, then have them scrunch up the piece of paper and place it on the altar. Don't rush this. Allow them to really consider. Some children may not be ready to "sacrifice" what they have written. Some will be after some thought, and others may not.
5. When they place something on the altar, be sure and tell them you understand how difficult it is and are proud they have made that decision. After all, sacrifice is difficult for children just like it is for adults!
6. Once the papers are all on the "altar" then bring out the matchbox. When you are ready to burn all of these sacrifices, open the matchbox to show that it is empty.

At this point, continue the conversation to relate the activity back to Abraham. Here is something you could say:
“Of course we are not going to burn all of these things. God wants us to enjoy all of these blessings in our lives. After all, many of these people and things are very good for us and he does not want us to give them up.

But God DOES want us to understand that HE is more important than even the best things in our lives. Isaac was the best thing in Abraham’s life but Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice him showed that God was even more important than his beloved son.

In today’s bible lesson we learn that God tested Abraham to see if he was willing to give up Isaac if it was for God. Abraham passed the test.

And guess what? Today we have had a kind of test. YOU were willing to give up your precious things if it was for God. You showed that God is more important than all of these things. You passed the test. I am so proud of you.”

At the conclusion of the activity, pray out loud for each child individually.