

# Am I Willing to Sacrifice?

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Some stories in the Bible lend themselves to crafts and colouring sheets. This is not one of them.

There is no way to lightly depict a father being asked to kill and sacrifice his precious son. The story of [Abraham Preparing to Sacrifice His Son](#) is a test of faith like no other.

Of course, even as Abraham was about to carry through with what God had told him to do, an angel intervened and stopped him. Yes, Abraham had reasoned that God would not ask this unless he planned to bring his son, Isaac, back from the dead after the sacrifice ([Hebrews 11:17-19](#)). But even so, there was a father and a son and a knife.

As difficult it is to comprehend the events of [Genesis 22:1-18](#) they are only a foreshadowing of another time, later in history, when another father allows his son to be sacrificed on a cross.

I wanted the children in my Bible class to contemplate sacrifice. I wanted them to think about what it would mean to love and trust God so much that we would be willing to give up something we hold precious. Abraham passed the test and showed he was willing to go to any extreme God asked of him. Would we pass that test?

The following activity meant a lot to my group of kids so I thought you might like to try it too. Like Abraham, they will be taken to the very edge in contemplating sacrifice but then they will not actually be sacrificing.

I would suggest you speak calmly and not too fast so that you create an environment of contemplation among the children.

## 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 (I used 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?

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 already begin 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 then bring out the stones and stack them together to form an altar. My class was sitting at a table so I placed the stones on the metal pizza pan in the centre of the table. The children immediately recognised it was 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. 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. More than one child in my class was not ready to "sacrifice" what they had written but, after some thought, bravely decided to do so. 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 difficult for us adults!
4. Once the papers are all on the "altar" then bring out the matchbox. When you seem to be ready to burn all of these sacrifices then open the matchbox to show that it is empty.

At this point continue the conversation to relate the activity back to Abraham. Here is what I said, "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 I prayed out loud for each child individually.



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# I Say L.O.V.E

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# I SAY L.O.V.E

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to go away? This week a friend of mine shared a song with me that has done exactly that.

The song is not fancy. It only has six words. It is a teacher training video and not a performance for the Grammy Awards. Even so, it is stuck in my mind like glue. Listen a few times and I dare you to forget it.

Everybody needs some love.

## Lyrics:

I say L  
I say L-O  
L-O-V  
L-O-V-E

Everybody needs some love. L-O-V-E!

Everybody needs some love. L-O-V-E!

Everybody needs some love. L-O-V-E!

Everybody needs some love.

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# Learning from the Life of Paul



# Learning from the Life of Paul



From a blinding light to angry mobs to a shipwreck, the Apostle Paul's story is one that involves devotion, determination and drama.

These sixteen lessons from the life of Paul help children grasp how God used Paul and others to expand the reach of the good news of Jesus to far away places.

The lessons are already covered on [www.missionbibleclass.org](https://www.missionbibleclass.org) within the book of Acts section but are grouped together here so that you can teach them as one unit.

*Online materials make it easier to keep children and families engaged in the Word of God. Instead of printed materials lesson links can be emailed to teachers and parents each week.*

Each of these sixteen lessons listed below include:

- A Bible lesson and teaching instructions
- Practical and enjoyable activities to help children learn
- Links to other online resources
- A slideshow to view online or download and use

- The same slideshow in .pdf if you choose to download and print
- An online video depicting the story from Paul's point of view

## [Click here to view the lessons.](#)

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## The One About the Cross

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"Teacher, when you tell stories, do you think sometimes you could tell me the one about the cross. I keep wondering what that cross is about." I will never forget that question from a little boy who attended church and my Bible class for the first time.

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## 25 Ways to Teach Children About the Resurrection of Jesus

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Many teachers are making plans to tell the resurrection story on Easter Sunday. Whether at Easter or any other time here are some ideas that will help you share what is the most important event in the Bible.

**"FOR WE KNOW THAT SINCE CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, HE CANNOT DIE AGAIN; DEATH NO LONGER HAS MASTERY OVER HIM."**

**ROMANS 6:9, NIV**

1. Learn about the [Burial and Resurrection of Jesus](#) so you will understand the story and feel comfortable sharing it with a child.
2. Gather your family together for quality time and learn about the [Burial and Resurrection in this Family Bible Time lesson](#)
3. Download and view a slideshow and pictures from <http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-alive/>

4. Sing songs together from the church hymnal about the resurrection. Search for songs on YouTube:
  - Low in the Grave He Lay
  - Christ the Lord is Risen Today
  - Rabboni!
  - He Lives
  - Lord I Lift Your Name on High
5. Visit a mature older Christian and ask them to share why the Resurrection is important to them.
6. Black out the windows of your classroom to make it dark like the tomb. Quietly tell the story of the resurrection by the light of a candle or by torch/flashlight
7. Place a dark cloth over a small table to form a “tomb”. Ask someone to be the body inside. Place a cardboard rock at the entrance. Let the children see the body inside and then put the stone in place. “The body” crawls out the back and the children remove the stone to see an empty tomb. Young ones love this obvious re-enactment.
8. Choose words related to the resurrection story and tape them onto stones. Before class begins hide the stones so that children can hunt for them. As the children collect the stone discuss the meaning of the words. Here are some words you might use:
  - Death
  - Burial
  - Resurrection
  - Cross
  - Tomb
  - Forgiveness
9. After telling about the Resurrection [guide a child in praying](#) thanks to God.
10. Read a book about Easter.



11. Use these [instructions for The Story of the Cross](#) to learn a simple way to tell the story using one sheet of paper.
12. Responsive Drawing: Guide older children in reading today's scripture references. Then have them draw about what they have read. Use a blank piece of paper or print this worksheet: [The Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Drawing Response](#)
13. Responsive Writing: Guide older children in reading today's scripture references. Then have them draw about what they have read. Use a blank piece of paper or print this worksheet: [The Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Writing Response](#)
14. Ask younger children to draw the story of the resurrection.
15. Make use of plastic eggs on sale at Easter time. Use these [instructions for “Resurrection Eggs”](#) to re-tell the story of the resurrection.

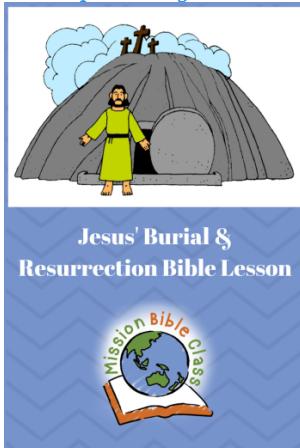


16. Make a tomb craft from a paper plate. Cut a paper plate in half, paint if desired, and then staple the top rims together. To make the body of Christ cut a simple body shape from cardboard, wrap with one layer of toilet paper and dampen with water from a spray bottle, repeat layers and let dry. The stone is just crumpled brown paper. In one class we had the children each make a tomb and then put the body inside. During the week I moved the stones and removed the bodies. The next week we were going to be studying about the resurrection. When the children arrived that day they immediately went to the tombs they had made and were shocked to find the body missing. I let them search and conjecture for awhile before leading into the story of how the women came to the tomb to find Jesus' body

missing. The children could totally relate to how the women must have felt. At the end of class I returned the "bodies" so that the children could take the craft home and recreate the event for their families.



17. Write the individual words of [Romans 6:9](#) on a whiteboard or chalkboard. Say the verse together. Erase one word or phrase and say the verse again. Say it over and over, eliminating one word or phrase each time. Soon, the children will have it memorised.
18. Write the individual words of [Romans 6:9](#) on pieces of paper and then mix them up. Children can [unscramble the verse](#) and practice repeating it to memorise it.
19. Print and use a colouring page or puzzle from one of these online resources.
  - [Colouring page and puzzle worksheets \(Resurrection\)](#) at <https://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR238.PDF>
  - [Colouring page and puzzle worksheets \(Peter and John visiting the tomb\)](#) at <http://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/Curriculum/Original/Curriculum/CURR239.PDF>
  - [Colouring page](#) at <http://www.sermons4kids.com/easter-sunday-colorpg.htm>
  - [Colouring page](#) at <http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/clrpg015.html>
20. Cook bread rolls that share the story of the resurrection: [Cooking craft: Short youtube video on how to make Resurrection Rolls to tell the story](#) from CullensABCs at <http://youtu.be/louAYkJPETQ>
21. Make a mobile using these instructions at <http://www.sundayschoolcrafts.net/jesus-rose-from-the-dead-moblie.php>
22. Make a miniature garden using instructions at <http://www.sundayschoolcrafts.net/garden-with-tomb.php>
23. Make a salt dough tomb using instructions from one of these online resources:
  - <http://www.sundayschoolcrafts.net/easter-tomb-salt-dough.php>
  - <http://nolongerconforming.blogspot.co.nz/2010/04/empty-tomb-craft.html>



24. Try out some of the ideas on the Pinterest Board: [Life of Christ \(late ministry\)](#)
25. More puzzles and worksheets to print:
  - [Worksheets and Puzzles: A printable \(Easter\) booklet containing a number of puzzles](#) at <http://sundayschoolresources.co.uk/activities.php>
  - [A children's sermon and activities](#) at <https://sermons4kids.com/surprise.html>
  - [Wordsearch puzzle \(1\)](#) from <http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/wrdsrch6.html>
  - [Wordsearch puzzle \(2\)](#) from <http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/wordsearch-resurrection.html>

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