

Almost a thousand years later, a temple for worshipping God was built right on that spot on Mount Moriah where Isaac was almost sacrificed. Lambs were sacrificed there as the Jews waited for the Messiah, God's Lamb, to come.

Another thousand years later, God's Son, Jesus, was sacrificed near there so that you and I could have our sins forgiven and live forever with Him.

Isaac was not the Messiah, but his experience helped people think about what God was going to do, and how hard it would be. Imagine how much God must love us to be willing to offer His Son!

Today you can visit the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and see the stone where the altar was built to sacrifice Isaac.



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

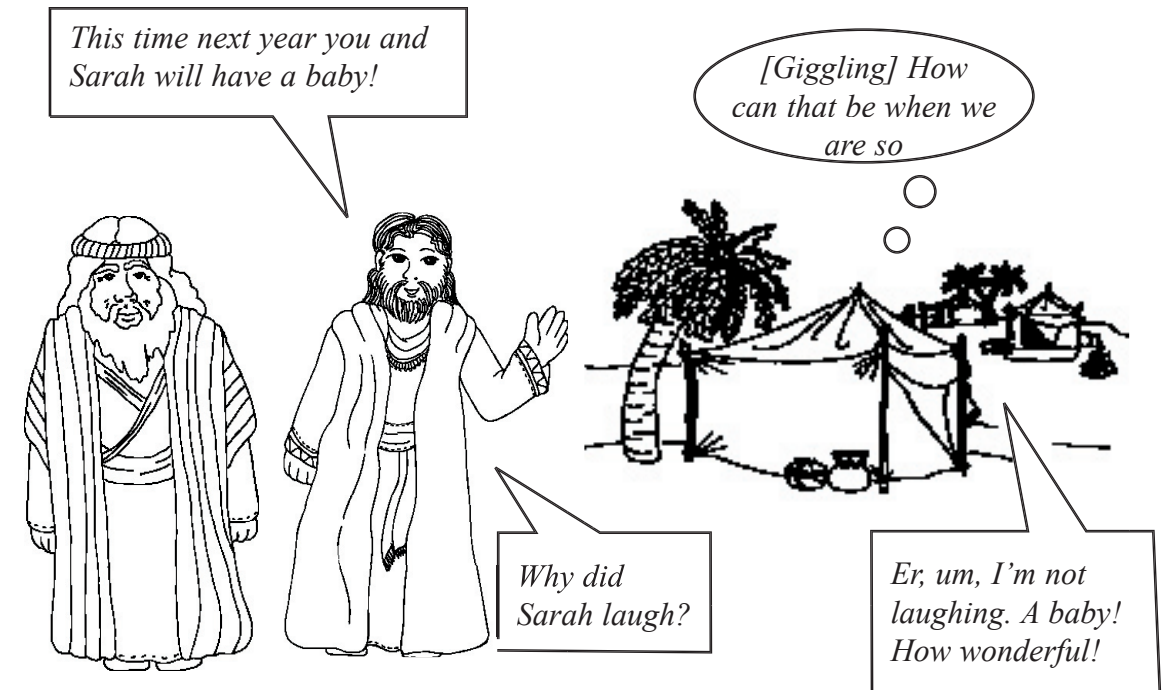
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# GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## LESSON 1 Isaac: Friend of God

Isaac had old parents. When he was born his father was 100 years old and his mom was 90. They had wanted a baby for a long time. How they came to have a baby when they were so old is an interesting story. Read it in Genesis 17:15-19 and 18:9-15.



And just as God said, Baby Isaac *was* born! Isaac's parents adored him. As Isaac grew up, Abraham taught him about worshipping God.

Let's make an altar out of these big stones.

But we made an altar the last place we were.

Yes, and everywhere we live, we will build an altar for worshipping God. Once the altar is finished, we will sacrifice a lamb on it.

When we do this we are looking forward to God's lamb, His Redeemer, who will die for our sins so we can live with God forever.

Yes, He loves us so much!


Why?

God would send someone to die? Just for us?

I don't understand that.



Jacob grew up and had 12 sons who became the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jacob's descendants are called the Jews.

 Find the names of Jacob's 12 sons in Genesis 35:23-26. Write their names on the lines below.



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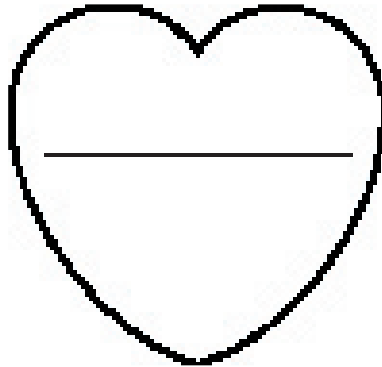
Isaac became known as one of the great patriarchs, which means family leaders who loved God and taught their families to worship God.

After this, God was often called "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," because they were the original family leaders.

Isaac grew up and got married.



Write his sweetheart's name on the line inside the heart.



You can read Isaac's love story in Genesis 24.



Isaac and his wife had twin baby boys. Find their names and what they were like in Genesis 25:24-26. Write the names under the babies and finish the sentences below.



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\_\_\_\_\_

Esau did this . . .

\_\_\_\_\_

Jacob did this . . .

\_\_\_\_\_

When Isaac was older . . .

This story is found in Genesis 22.



Dad, you woke me up really early today! Why are we sneaking out without telling Mom?

We are going on a special trip to worship God.

Mom worships God too. Why didn't we tell her where we are going?

This trip is just for the two of us.

But, if we are going to worship God, where is the lamb? We did not bring one!

God will provide the lamb.



I feel so sad! I know Sarah would not have let Isaac go if I had told her the instructions God gave me. But God is such a good friend I am sure He has a reason for this. How can I tell Isaac that HE is the lamb?

Soon they came to Mount Moriah . . .

The altar is finished. Shall I put this wood on it for the fire?

Now we are ready. What are we going to do for a lamb?

Good idea!

How can I tell him? What if he runs away? I am too old to catch him!

Oh, my precious son! God has told me to sacrifice you. You are the lamb.

ME? Sacrifice me? That must mean that I am the Promised One. If I die, my dad and mom and everyone who has worshipped God and sacrificed lambs will live with Him forever. I love God and my family.

I am ready father. Do what God has



I can hardly do this, Isaac. [Sob!] It is so hard! I love you so much!

I love you too, father. I do not want to die. But I trust God.

Abraham, stop! Do not kill Isaac! This test has gone far enough. You and Isaac have done every-

Look father! A lamb is caught in the bushes.

God did provide a lamb, Isaac! I love you so much. Sacrificing you was just breaking my heart.

God loves us so much that He is willing to sacrifice His son's life to save us. It must break His heart too!

Yes, and His Redeemer who will come must love us too! It is no fun to be sacrificed!

Baaa!

