

# Lesson 11

Cross

Formed

Kids

**How did Abraham bind himself to God?  
Abraham showed that he trusted God's  
faithfulness completely.**

*Read aloud: Genesis 22:1-18*

### **Recommended Illustration**

Bring out two cans of vienna sausages and two plastic forks. Point out the vienna sausages and let the kids know that this is a timed event to see how fast mom or dad (flip a coin?) can eat the sausages. The catch is that the eater will be blindfolded and stand with his (yes, "his", let's be honest, dad, you are gonna lose this coin toss) hands behind his back while mom feeds him with the fork, one sausage at a time.

Obviously no one's life is in danger here. No one is trying to rob us or beat us up or even steal our sausages. Still, can you see how trust was involved in this game? Let kids answer aloud. How is trust involved? What would have happened if one of the partners broke that trust? I do not think anyone wants a big slimy vienna sausage in their hair. Gross.

There is a trust that is bigger than a blindfolded sausage feast. Sometimes we trust so much that we actually make ourselves completely dependent on another. Think about it this way. Do you realize how much trust you put in your parents? Have you ever had to think about paying an electric bill? Or have you ever had to

think about how you are going to make a car payment? Do you even know what a tank of gas costs? Probably not. That is because you trust your parents to take care of you. You trust them so much in fact that you probably do not even realize what all goes into the job of taking care of you.

### **Helpful Insights**

At a crucial point in Abraham's life, God asked Abraham to do something unthinkable. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, his promised gift. At this point, Abraham's trust probably slammed on the brakes. He must have thought, "you have promised me descendants more numerous than the stars and you want me to sacrifice my son, the only descendant I have?" It could not have made sense, and Abraham could not have understood completely. From Abraham's perspective this must have looked like the undoing of all of God's promises.

Even in the apparent undoing of these promises, it did not undo Abraham's faith in the God who had spoken them. Abraham understood that God was worthy of his trust. He had a God on whom he could depend completely. Because of that, Abraham bound himself to God, and made himself completely dependent upon God's mercy and faithfulness by carrying out the most difficult act of obedience he would ever be asked to complete. He took his son to the place of sacrifice. In doing that, Abraham demonstrated that he had placed all his trust not in God's awesome stuff or even in the personal benefits of God's promises. Rather he had placed his trust in the character of God who had called him into a relationship of faith.

### **The Point**

Because of God's faithfulness, we can depend on him. Because of God's goodness, we can trust that when he asks us to do something, it is for our benefit. Because of God's mercy, we can trust that he will love us even when we fall short.

