

Abraham Passes a Severe Test of Faith
About 5 minutes, from Gen. 22

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Sarah

Abraham

Isaac

Voice (of God)

Prompter

Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes

Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Voice

Abraham! Abraham!

Take your only son Isaac whom you love to Mount Moriah.

Offer him there as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show you.

Prompter & Echoes Abraham's only son!

Sarah

Abraham, I've never seen you so distressed!

Abraham

Oh, Sarah!

God told me to offer our son Isaac on Moriah as a burnt offering!

Sarah

What? You surely heard wrong, Abraham!

Isaac is our only son, born by a miracle in our old age.

He is the only one through whom God's promises can be fulfilled.

Abraham

Yes! And God promised to bless all nations through my descendant.

Alas! I must obey God!

Sarah

Abraham rises early and splits wood for the burnt offering.

He saddles his donkey, and leaves with two young servants
and Isaac our son.

Isaac

Father, we have been traveling three days now.

We are at the foot of Mount Moriah.

Abraham

You two servants stay here with the donkey.

My son Isaac and I will go up and worship,
and then return to you.

Isaac

I will carry the wood for the burnt offering, father.

Abraham

Good. I will take the fire and the knife.

Isaac

We must be close now, but I don't understand.

We have the fire and the wood,
but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

Abraham

God will provide, my son.

Isaac

We are at the top, father.

I will help build the altar and arrange the wood.

Abraham Son, God told me to do this.
 I must tie you up and lay you on the altar.

Isaac What? Sacrifice me?
 (*Look up*) Dear God, you told my father to slay me?
 Can it be? If it is so, then I must obey.

Prompter & Echoes We must obey God!

Isaac I let my father bind me and lay me on the altar.

Abraham My heart is breaking! I cannot do it!
 But I must! I must! I raise the knife to slay my son.

Prompter & Echoes How terrible!

Voice Abraham, Abraham! Do not harm him.
 I know that you fear God,
 as you did not withhold your only son from me.

Prompter & Echoes Baa! Baa!

Isaac What is that noise I hear coming from those bushes?

Prompter & Echoes Baa! Baa!

Abraham There! In that thicket! A ram is caught by its horns!

Isaac My father rushes to catch the sheep.
 He unties me and offers it in my place.

Abraham I name this place, THE LORD PROVIDES.

Prompter & Echoes God provides our crucial need!

Voice Abraham!
 Because you have done this and have not withheld your son,
 your only son, I will greatly bless you.
 I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the skies
 and the sand on the seashore.

Abraham I believe, and God reckons it to me as righteousness.

Prompter & Echoes The righteous shall live by faith!

Voice Because you have obeyed my voice,
 in your descendant all peoples on earth will be blessed.

Prompter & Echoes In Jesus we are blessed!