

Second Sunday of Lent

Trust me

INTRODUCTION

Abraham was a good man, and like Noah, he had complete faith and trust in God. God put this trust to the test when he asked Abraham to kill his son Isaac.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read this passage:

The path to our heavenly father is like the rising sun, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God. People who turn away from his love follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall because they cannot see the way. (Proverbs 4:18-19)

SORRY

Today we will hear about the great trust which Abraham had in God. In the same way, we trust in God's goodness and love for us, and we are not afraid to come before him and admit our mistakes. And so we have the courage to say together:

Our Father...

ACCLAMATION

Open our ears to hear your word, Lord,
And fill our minds and hearts
with understanding and love.

READING (GENESIS 22:1-13)

God said to Abraham: "Take your son, Isaac, to the top of the mountain and offer him as a sacrifice to me."

Abraham loved Isaac very much, but he trusted God completely and was ready to obey. He loaded his donkey with wood and set off to the mountain God had shown him. On the way, Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb you will sacrifice?" Abraham answered him, "God will provide a lamb."

When they arrived, they built an altar and piled it high with wood. Then Abraham tied Isaac's hands and feet and took out a knife, ready to kill his only son.

Suddenly a voice from heaven said, "Abraham, Abraham, do not kill the son you love so much. Your trust and love for me was so great that you were ready to sacrifice your only son for my sake." Looking up, Abraham noticed a ram whose horns were tangled in a thorn bush. He offered the ram as a sacrifice to God in place of his precious son, Isaac.

DISCUSSION

The word "sacrifice" means to offer something for the sake of someone else. In Old Testament times, people would sacrifice animals by killing them and offering them to God. Life is the most precious gift of all, and these offerings showed how much they loved God.

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. How do you think Abraham must have felt? Abraham and his wife Sarah were already old when Isaac was born, so he was particularly precious to them. Abraham must have felt very sad indeed, but his faith and trust in God were so great that he was ready to do anything God asked.

In the New Testament, God sent his only son, Jesus, to be sacrificed by dying on the cross. Jesus had faith and trust in his father and believed that God's power would raise him from the dead.

Abraham was ready to trust God completely and put his love for him before everything else. God saw his obedience and faith and made sure that Isaac came to no harm. We should love God and trust him with all our hearts, just as Abraham did.

ACTIVITY

Copy and enlarge the pictures on the opposite page. Then cut them out for the children to color and assemble them into a picture, telling the story of Abraham and Isaac.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, give us the faith
and courage of Abraham
to do whatever you might ask of us.
Make our trust and love for you
grow stronger each day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

