

Read Genesis 22:9-19

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time

16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

When they got to the place God told him to go, what did Abraham do first (v. 9)? (Read) He got Isaac ready to sacrifice.

What did Abraham do next (v. 10)? He took out his knife to kill Isaac.

What did the angel of the Lord say to Abraham (vv. 11-12a)? (Read) Stop! Stop! Don't kill Isaac. Don't sacrifice him.

What did Abraham prove to God (v. 12b)? That he would obey God no matter what the cost. That he was willing to kill his only son if God wanted him to. He showed God how strong his faith was. He passed the test with flying colors!

What did Abraham see and do next (v. 13)? He saw a ram – a male bighorn sheep – caught in a thicket of bushes by its horns. He took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering to God.

What did Abraham call that place (v. 14)? "The Lord Will Provide." **What did the Lord provide?** A substitute for Isaac so Isaac didn't have to die. **Who was a substitute for us – so we didn't have to die for our sins?** Jesus. He died in our place just like the ram.

What did the Lord say to Abraham (vv. 16-18)? (Read) Because you obeyed me, especially because it seemed like a foolish idea to kill your son, I will bless you with so many descendants you won't be able to count them all.

What did Abraham do next (v. 19)? He went back to his servants -- just like he told them that he and Isaac would return -- and they went back home.