

## Abraham and Isaac

### Genesis 21:1-7; 22:1-19

*Characters: Narrator, Sarah, God, Abraham, Isaac, Angel*

Narrator: Abraham and Sarah had been without a son of their own for a long time. One day, God came down from heaven and promised them a child in their old age. Isaac, their child, was eventually born, when they were both almost 100 years old. When Sarah bore Isaac, she said:

Sarah: God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.

Narrator: Several years later, God came to test Abraham:

God: Abraham!

Abraham: Here I am!

God: Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.

Narrator: The next morning, Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took Isaac and two servants to Moriah. When he got at the base of the mountain, he gathered wood, and told his servants:

Abraham: Stay here at the foot of the mountain, with the donkey, while I and the boy go up and worship at the summit. We will worship and come back to you.

Narrator: Abraham and Isaac began climbing up the mountain. While they were climbing, Isaac asked his father:

Isaac: Father?

Abraham: Yes, my son?

Isaac: We have everything we need to light the fire for the sacrifice, except the sacrifice itself. Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

Abraham: God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

- Narrator: Abraham and Isaac continued climbing, until they reached the summit. Abraham built an altar, and then bound his son, and prepared to sacrifice him. As he grabbed the knife to kill Isaac, an angel called out to him:
- Angel: Abraham! Abraham!
- Abraham: Here I am!
- Angel: Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now God knows you fear him, and have not withheld anything from him, including your only son.
- Narrator: Abraham unbound his son from the altar. He looked up, and saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. He went to it, and bound it on the altar, and offered it as a sacrifice to God. Then God called out to Abraham:
- God: I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, and through your offspring, all nations will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.
- Narrator: Abraham returned to his servants with Isaac, and they set off for Beersheba.