



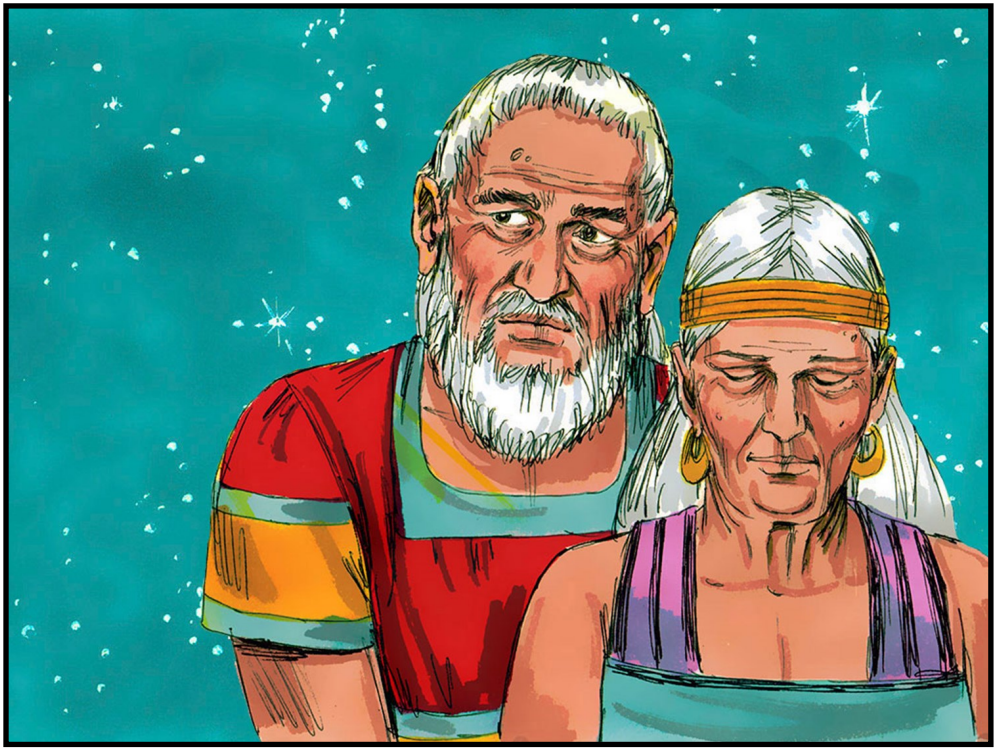
Story 7:

Abraham has Isaac
Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-19



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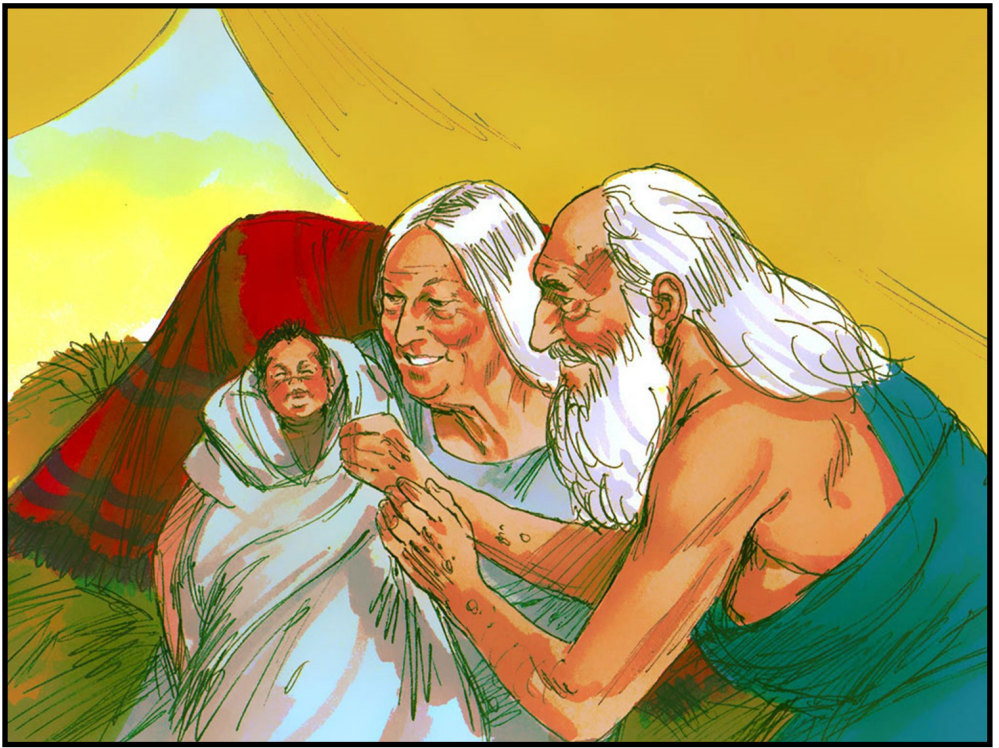
God had promised Abraham and his wife Sarah that they would have a son. Through that son their descendants would become a great nation. That nation would be like stars in the sky—too many people to count. But there was a problem; they were both now too old to have children.



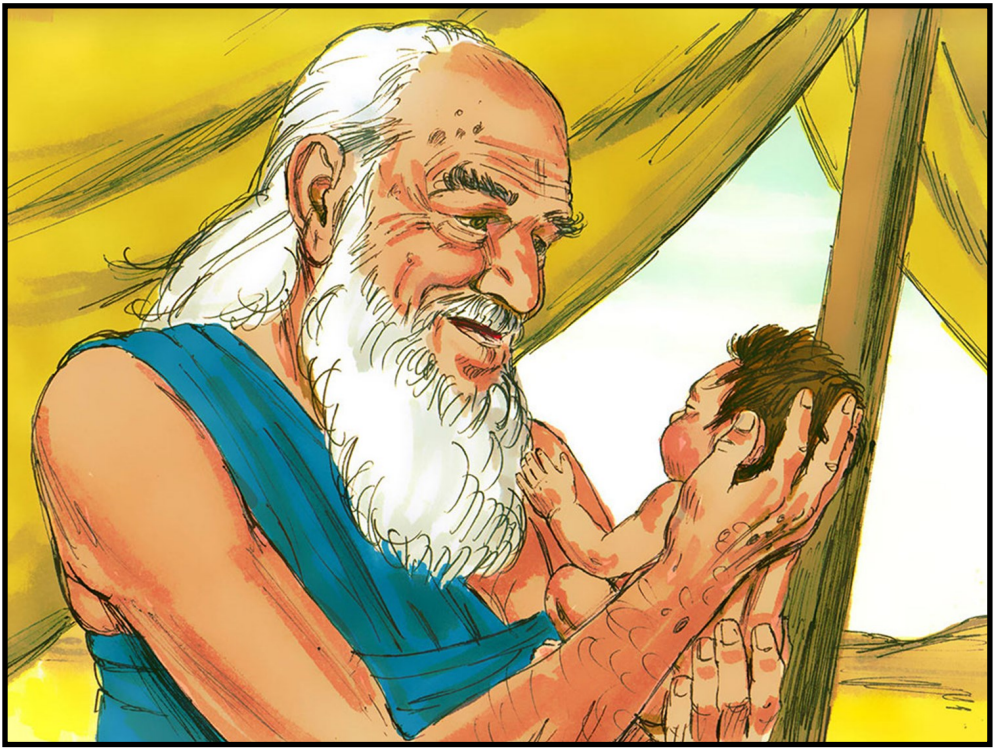
Abraham and Sarah became so desperate to start a family that Abraham had a baby with Sarah's servant Hagar. God promised Hagar that Ishmael's descendants would be a large nation too. But Ishmael was *not* the son promised by God. The promised child would be the son of *both* Abraham and Sarah.



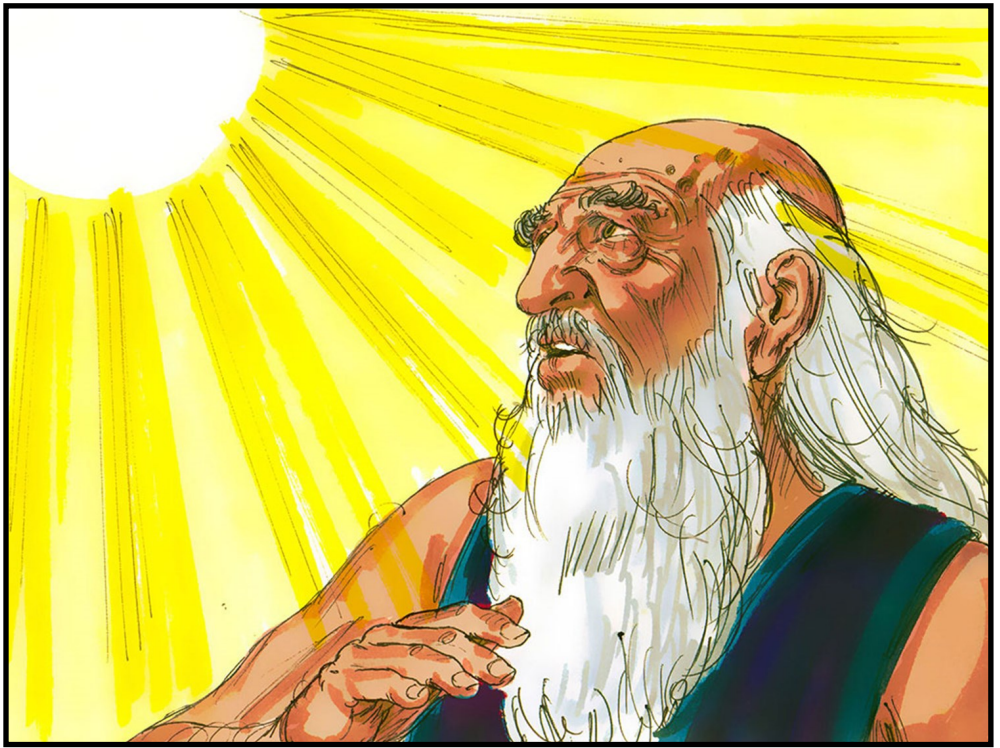
One time when three visitors were sent by God, they said, “In a year Sarah will have a baby boy.” When she overheard them say this, she laughed out loud at the thought of becoming a mother in her old age.



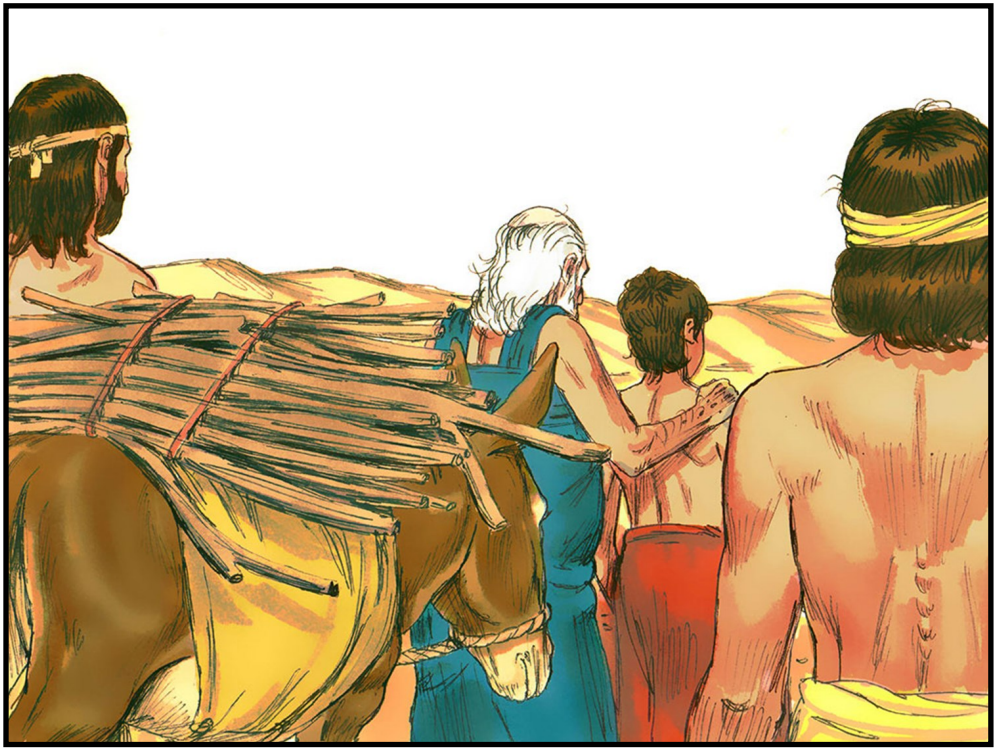
But God did a miracle! That next year, the LORD kept his promise and Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy. After 8 days, Abraham circumcised his son. He did this because he promised God that he would do so with all the sons in his family line. This was a sign to the generations to come that they belonged to God.



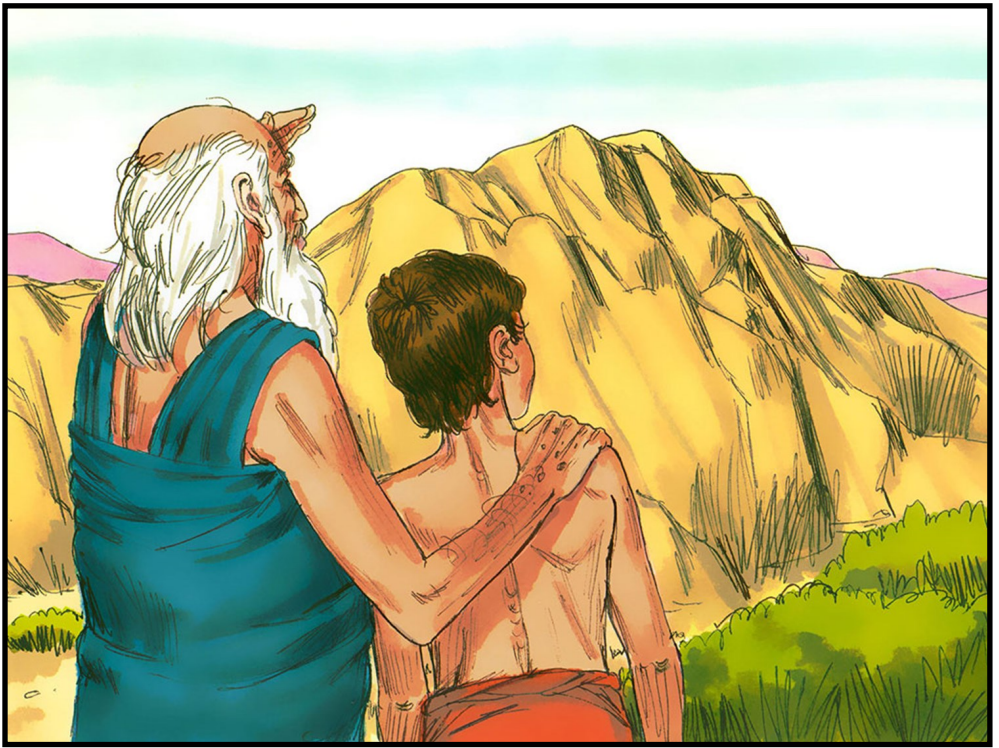
Abraham was now 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. He named his son Isaac which means “he laughs.” He named him this because he and Sarah laughed at the thought of being parents in their old age. They said, “Everyone who hears about this will laugh too.”



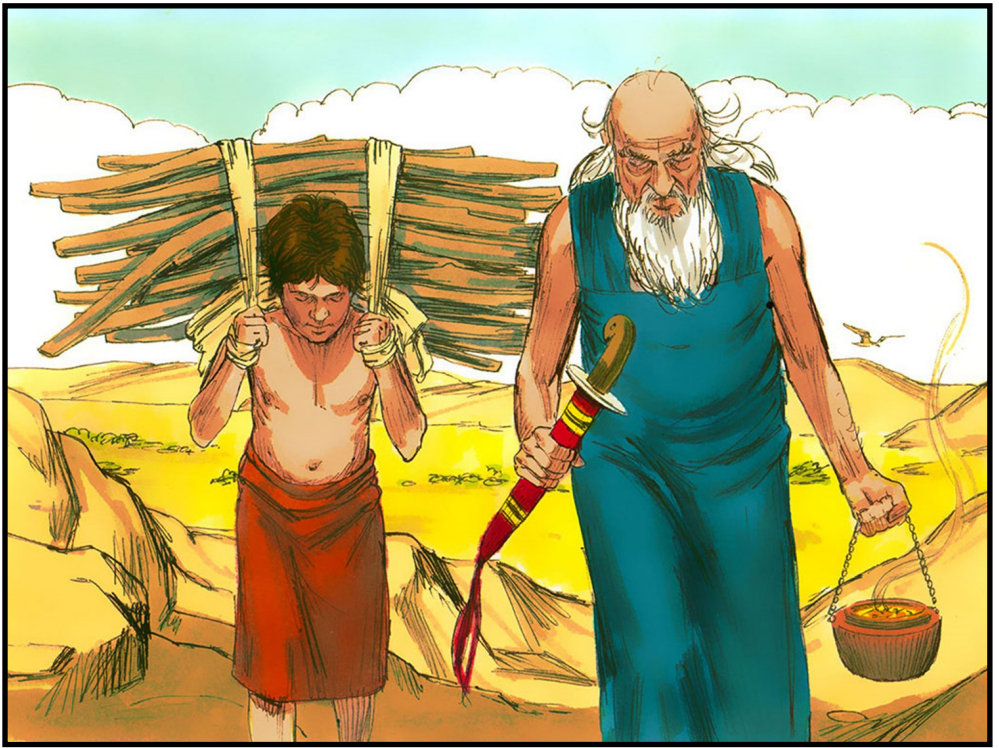
One day, God decided to test Abraham. He said, “Take your only son, Isaac, the one that you love, to the mountain I will show you. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering to me.”



The next day he loaded his donkey with some wood for the burnt offering. He also took with him 2 of his servants and his son Isaac. They set out toward the place that God told him to go.



They travelled for 3 days. Finally, Abraham saw in the distance the mountain where they were to go. He told his 2 servants to wait for him while he and Isaac went up to the mountain to “worship God.”



He took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on Isaac's back to carry. Abraham carried the fire and the knife that they needed for the sacrifice.

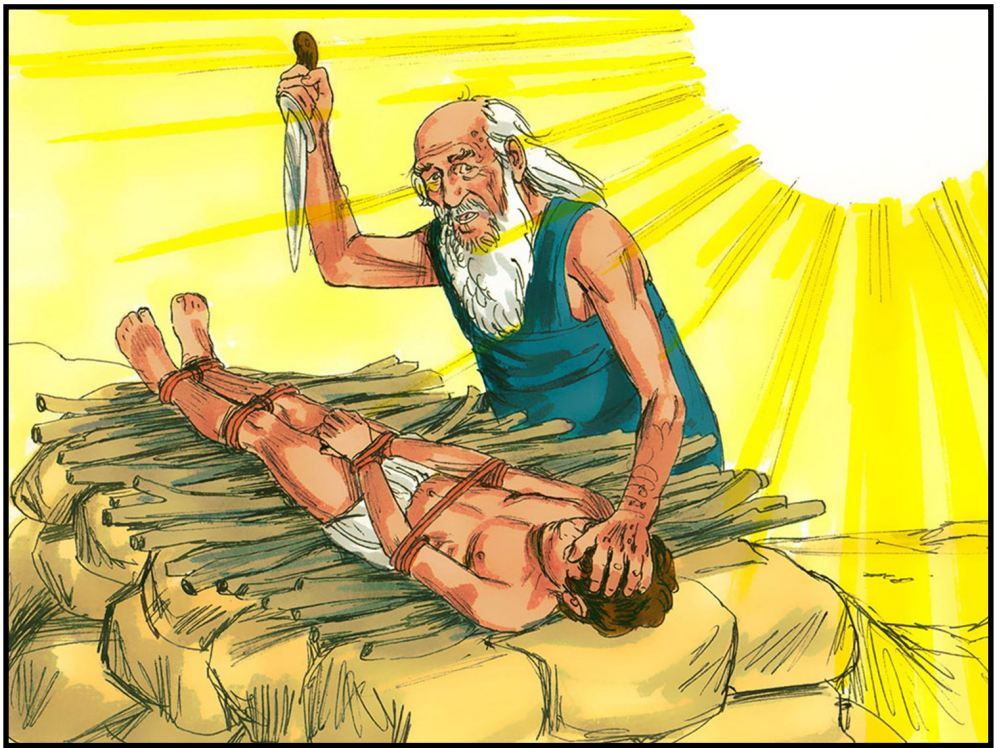


As they were walking up the mountain, Isaac looked over at his father and said, “Father, the fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb that we are supposed to use for the burnt offering?”

Abraham replied, “God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”



When they reached the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it.



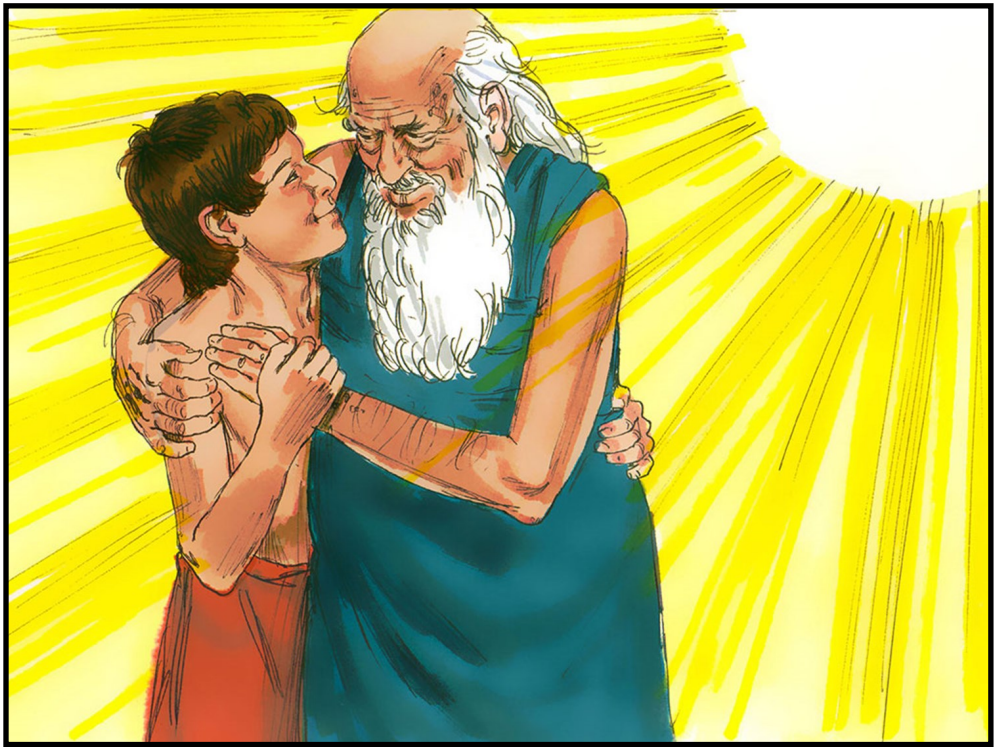
He tied up Isaac and put him on the wood of the altar. Just as he reached out his hand with the knife, God stopped him and said, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” Abraham replied.

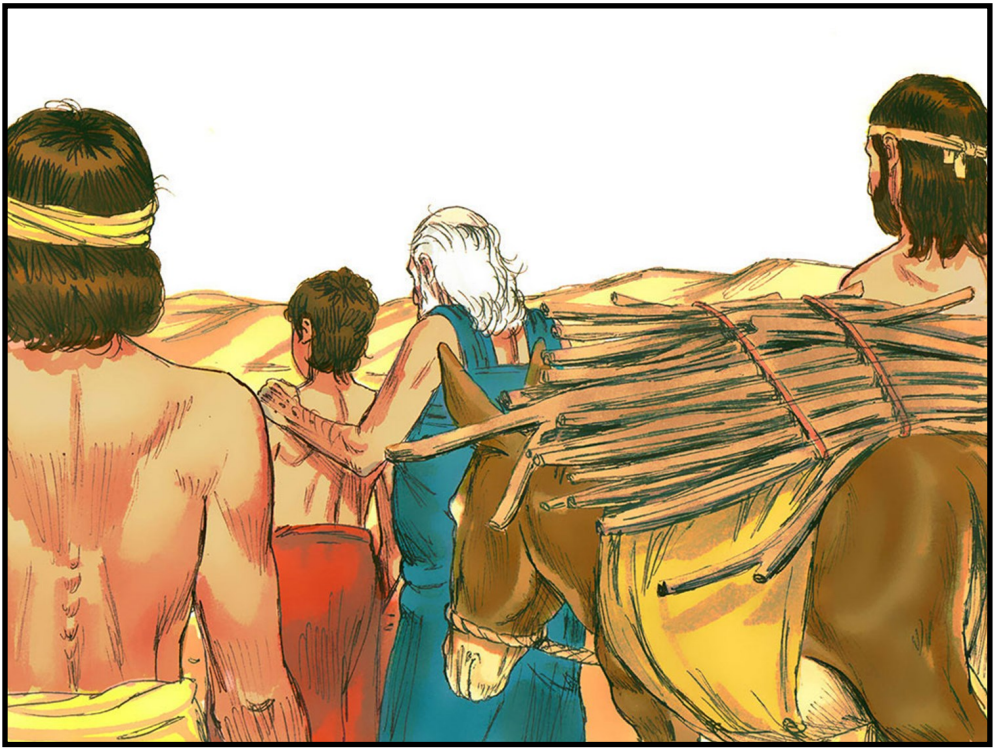
God said, “Do not lay a hand on your son. Now I know that you honor me with all your heart because you have not kept your only son from me.”



Abraham looked up and saw that a ram was caught by the horns in some bushes. He took the ram and offered *it* as the burnt offering instead of Isaac. Abraham later named the mountain “The LORD will provide” since God provided a ram in the place of Isaac.



God spoke to Abraham a second time saying, “Because you have not kept back your only son from me, I will bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the sea shore. Through your descendants all nations on earth will be blessed because you obeyed me.”



After they completed the sacrifice, Abraham and Isaac returned to the servants that were waiting on them. They left that place and set off toward Beersheba where they lived.

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kids

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