

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

How to Study Narrative

Lesson #6 (Answers to Homework)

I. HOME WORK

Let's say you are going to teach **Genesis 22:1-19**. Using your newly acquired Bible study skills for studying narrative, answer the questions below.

- A. What is the theme of Genesis? **Beginnings and the sovereignty of God in the making of the nation Israel.**
- B. How does **Gen. 22:1-19** fit into the theme of the book? **Abraham is the first of four main people God used to form the nation of Israel. He is the father of the nation Israel, and it was promised to Abraham, that through his seed, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Abraham's wife Sarah was barren, but God miraculously gave them Isaac in their old age. Isaac was the son of promise, however in Gen. 22:1-19 God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his own son. God provides a Ram, Isaac the son of promise is spared, Abraham demonstrates an extreme amount of faith in God.**
- C. Explain in a **short paragraph** how you might teach this section of Scripture in the following ways:
 1. Summary method (summarize the whole story and emphasize key doctrines/principles/application). **I would summarize the story, reading key portions in each section, pointing out key issues as the story unfolded, and developing those doctrines and showing their application.**
 2. Doctrinal spring board method (Find one key portion of the narrative, a verse or a phrase that relates to the overall meaning of the text. Then explain what you would do to emphasize that key portion of the narrative and turn it into a study/sermon). **Gen. 22:1 "Now it came about after these things that the Lord tested Abraham." Or Gen. 22:8 "God will provide for himself a lamb for the burnt offering, my son." After selecting a key verse I would then study up on the key doctrine or concept in the verse, define it, point to it in the story, find key cross references, and make application.**
 3. Illustration method (Find a part of the narrative that you think would make a good example, positive or negative. Write a short summary statement of the narrative as a whole and how the meaning of the narrative fits in to the overall theme of Genesis. This is what you would tell them before you look at the example found in the text.). **Gen. 22:20 "Abraham took the knife, and stretched out his hand, to slay his son." Here is an incredible act of faith, faith that surely caused Abraham have to war against great emotion and love for his son. Yet love for the Lord and faith in the Lord was greater than love for his sin and trust in his limited knowledge and experience. He**

did not know how God was going to keep his promise and still have Isaac be the son of promise, but the author of Hebrews tells us that Abraham believed God was going to raise Isaac from the dead, even though Abraham had never seen or heard of a resurrection before!

Summary: Abraham receives a revelation from God at night. God tells Abraham to sacrifice his son in the mountains of Moriah in a place that God would show Abraham. The next morning Abraham takes Isaac and some servants and heads out for Moriah. As they get to the mountains, Abraham has the servants stay behind and has Isaac, who is a teenager, carry wood for a sacrifice. Isaac wonders how they can offer a sacrifice since all they have is wood. Abraham replies that the Lord will provide a sacrifice and they head up to the mountain. Isaac helps his father arrange the wood and then Abraham binds Isaac and lays him on the wood, raises his knife to slay him. The pain, the anguish this must have caused Abraham and Isaac can hardly be imagined. Just before Abraham strikes the death blow, an Angel intervenes, tells Abraham not to sacrifice Isaac, and God provides a Ram that has its horns caught in a bush. Abraham sacrifices the substitute in place of Isaac, and then the Lord blesses Abraham and restates the covenant he made with Abraham previously.

- D. If taken by itself, is the story found in **Gen. 22:1-19** clear and practical? What lesson/s (those that fit the theme) can be learned from this passage? **Yes. The story is clear and practical. Trusting God, obeying God, believing the impossible, not letting emotions guide you, not letting practical experience and reason guide you, knowing that God provides a sufficient sacrifice in Jesus Christ.**
- E. If you were teaching this passage, what major truths or doctrines could you focus on? **Faith, obedience, trust, fear, substitution, promise, blessing.**
- F. Try and find at least five cross references from the New Testament which you might refer people to when teaching this the main theme of this text that would help explain the text's theological significance. **(verses on substitution)**
1. Rom. 5:6-8 -- For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 2. Rom. 8:31-32 -- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?
 3. II Cor. 5:21 -- He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 4. Heb. 9:28 -- so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to

those who eagerly await Him.

5. I Pet. 3:18 -- For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

- G. Write out a vivid, engaging description that attempts to rope your listeners into the text right before Abraham lifts the knife to sacrifice Isaac (maybe a paragraph or two). Use a sanctified imagination, what is reasonable to assume, by putting yourself in Abraham and/or Isaac's place. Abraham was sweating profusely after tying up his son and laying him on the wood. His jaw was clenched, his knuckles showing white around the hilt of the knife. He could not look at Isaac's eyes, which were full of terror and beading up with tears.

Isaac was pleading, "Father, no father, why are you doing this?!" But Abraham could not answer; it was as if a vice were clamping down on his throat. But one thing he had learned through the trials and testings in his life, he must obey God. He must have faith that God somehow would fulfill his promise. Isaac would be his heir. And then it dawned on him that maybe God was going to raise Isaac from the dead. With brutal determination he lifted up the knife, wanting to get the gruesome deed over with as quick as possible, when he heard a thundering voice from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham half in a trance, murmured, "Here I am."

The voice from heaven replied, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."