

Isaac

Apply Within

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
- What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
- How did the story challenge or encourage you?
- What is the greatest sacrifice that you or someone in your family has ever made?
- After thinking about this story, what do you think that God desires from us?

Family Times

At Crosslink we want to build strong families of faith. Scriptures teach us that there are some natural rhythms of life. Deuteronomy 6:7 gives us this prescription for training our children: *"Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* (HCSB) Here are some ideas of the way you can communicate this week's Big Idea to your children [grandchildren]:

Morning Time - At first glance this may be an intimidating story to talk to your kids about. I mean why would God ask Abraham to kill his only son? Just remember that God never intended for Abraham to kill his son, but he wanted to see his obedience and faith. Take a few minutes in the morning talking about how God He provided for Abraham a ram in place of Isaac. Then take a few minutes to talk about how God has provided for them. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all that God has provided for you. This will help you kids to see that "every good and perfect gift comes from above." Introduce this week's memory verse.

Drive Time - While traveling in your car it is a good time to talk to your children about spiritual matters. Jesus often used object lessons to drive home a point to His followers. So this week spend time pointing out as you are driving the things that God has provided for you. In fact get your kids started and then sit back and let them point out things God has provided for them. [Car to get to school, school, teachers, etc]

Meal Time - Plan to share at one meal time around the "Story of God" for this week. This week is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for His provision. This story is not primarily about Abraham's faith or obedience, but it's more about how God is faithful to His children to provide for them! God's timing is perfect! Make a list of all the times God "came through" for you or a family member. Then take the time to celebrate and thank Him in prayer. This is also a great time to talk to your kids about always giving thanks over their food, no matter where they might be.

Bed Time - As you tuck your kids into bed each night reflect on the day. Talk about ways they saw God provide for them. Go over the **Family Memory Verse** for the week and then pray with them. Pray they will see the provision of almighty God in their lives, and they would always give Him thanks.

This Weeks Family Memory Verse

"So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide..." Genesis 22:14a

Jacob and Esau

Apply Within

- What did you notice from the story for the first time?
- What questions do you have about the story? What do you wonder about?
- How did the story challenge or encourage you?
- Where in your life has God blessed you?
- Why do you think that God uses people to bless others?
- Why do you think that God allows things to happen that do not make sense to us?

Family Times

At Crosslink we want to build strong families of faith. Scriptures teach us that there are some natural rhythms of life. Deuteronomy 6:7 gives us this prescription for training our children: *"Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* (HCSB) Here are some ideas of the way you can communicate this week's Big Idea to your children [grandchildren]:

Morning Time - This is a great story for parents with multiple kids, because of the "sibling rivalry." However, that is really not what the story is about. This story focuses on how in God's grace He often chooses people who are the least likely to do great things for Him. Read the story to your kids from Genesis 25:19-34. Talk to them about how in that culture the oldest received all the rights, but God used the youngest to do great things instead of Esau. You may have a child that feels insignificant, or has low self esteem. This is a great time to talk about how God chose the least to do great things. Pray with them.

Drive Time - While traveling in your car it is a good time to talk to your children about spiritual matters. Jesus often used object lessons to drive home a point to His followers. Talk to your children about kids they may know who are picked on, or seem alone at their school. Encourage them to think about what God would want them to do. Focus on His grace and how God reached out to the least in His infinite love and mercy.

Meal Time - Plan to share at one meal time around the "Story of God" for this week. This week Jacob and Esau is a great story to share at meal time. Here's a creative idea. Plan the night you will talk about this story with your family. Coordinate the meal to be some sort of "soup" or "stew" as this will play right into the story. Then try to share the story with them in a conversational way. Close out the time in prayer.

Bed Time - As you tuck your kids into bed each night reflect on the day. Spend time in prayer with children, talking about how their day went. Then spend time going over the memory verse.

This Weeks Family Memory Verse

"When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb." Genesis 25:24