Powerfully Teaching
Your Children
Gospel Principles

Lesson Plan: “Obedience and Sacrifice”

Objectives:
- Emphasize the importance of obeying our Heavenly Father and our Earthly father
- Talk about the purpose of sacrifice.

Reinforces Principle of:
- Obedience
- Sacrifice

Each lesson contains 5 timed activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule. Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip
Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder
Story Time: Story
Activity Time: Object lesson or activity
Treat Time: Prayer and theme related recipe
Sing Together: Children’s Songbook #34 “He Sent His Son”
If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
http://www.lds.org/cm
(Note: Navigate to the Interactive Church Music Player where you can listen to and print Church hymns and children’s songs.)

Prayer:

Scripture Time: D&C 132:50

50. Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.

Video Clip: Watch chapter 11-12 from the animated Complete Learning System, Abraham & Isaac DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)
Lesson Summary: Trust and Obedience to their fathers.

The story of Abraham and Isaac is an excellent example of Abraham’s obedience to our Father in Heaven, but have you ever thought about Isaac’s example of obedience to his father?

“When they came to the prescribed place, Abraham built an altar and laid wood upon it. Then, the Bible says, ‘Abraham … bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.’ (Gen. 22:9.) What did Isaac think when Abraham did such a strange thing? The Bible mentions no struggle or objection. Isaac’s silence can only be explained in terms of his trust in and obedience to his father.” Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, Nov 1992 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Abraham’s command to sacrifice his son Isaac was “a similitude of God and his Only Begotten Son.” (Jacob 4:5.) Heavenly Father and Abraham both loved their sons and both were willing to sacrifice their sons. Heavenly Father let His son, Jesus Christ, die for us. Like Isaac, Jesus loved His father and obeyed Him.

What can we learn from Isaac and from Jesus Christ? (To be obedient to our father and to Heavenly Father.)

Promises and blessings.

“When we hear inspired counsel, we obey...What does it profit us if we listen to wise counsel and do not heed the words? President Gordon B. Hinckley has promised that ‘[Heavenly Father] will shower down blessings upon those who walk in obedience to His commandments.’” Joseph B. Wirthlin, Priesthood Session, 2007 General Conference. © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. For entire talk see “Life’s Lessons Learned.”

Heavenly Father made a promise to Abraham for his obedience. What promises have we been given if we are obedient? (Yes. Discuss the many promises Heavenly Father has given us.)

Because we love them.
Abraham and Jesus obeyed Heavenly Father because they loved Him, and Isaac obeyed Abraham because he loved him. Righteousness is doing what is right because it is right, but we should also be obedient to Heavenly Father and our earthly fathers because we love them.
Points to Ponder: Do you sometimes have a problem understanding why your father [or mother] tell you to do certain things? (Discuss answers.)

Abraham and Isaac didn’t understand why Heavenly Father asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but they were willing to obey, because they loved and trusted Him.

Do you love and trust your father [and mother] enough to obey them in righteousness?

“Sometimes we can’t understand why our parents tell us to do certain things. Righteous parents love their children and want what is best for them. We should obey our parents and do what they ask us to do. When we obey our parents, we are showing our love for them.” Lesson 39: Showing Love for Our Parents, Primary 3: Choose the Right B © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Do you love Heavenly Father enough to sacrifice for Him? (Discuss answers.)

What are you willing to sacrifice for your Heavenly Father? (Time and means. Discuss ways you can sacrifice your time and your means.)

Quote:

“Now is the time to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, which means accepting His invitation to ‘come, follow me.’ (Luke 18:22). This is the decision we made in our premortal lives. Now we must make it again here in mortality, every day, in every situation by taking the Savior’s name upon us, remembering His atoning sacrifice, and keeping His commandments.” Robert D. Hales, “To the Aaronic Priesthood: Preparing for the Decade of Decision,” Priesthood Session, 2007 General Conference.
“Who is one of your favorite scripture heroes and why?” Sister Talbot asked the primary children during sharing time.

Several children raised their hand, eager to give their answer. Sister Talbot had a pretty good idea who seven-year-old Isaac Miller would pick when she called on him.

“I like Isaac because he was willing to be the sacrifice for his dad,” Isaac answered.

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Isaac was very brave! Were you named for him?” Sister Talbot asked.

Isaac’s face beamed with pride as he nodded yes.

“Why do you think Isaac was willing to be sacrificed?” Sister Talbot continued.

Because he loved his Father and he knew his father needed to obey the Lord,” Isaac answered.

“Who else loved their father so much that they willingly sacrificed their life? I’ll give you a hint.” She continued, “His father is our Heavenly Father.”

“Jesus!” the children answered in unison.

After church the Miller family sat down to their Sunday dinner. “What did you learn in Primary today?” Mother asked the children. Isaac told the family about sharing time, and how making sacrifices for others shows Heavenly Father that we love Him.”

That night Isaac asked Heavenly Father to help him to sacrifice for others.

The next morning Isaac woke to the sound of sirens. An ambulance pulled into the driveway next door where Great Grandma Farr lived. Father followed the ambulance, in his car, to the hospital. He called home to report that she had broken her hip and needed surgery. “She’s awfully worried about her cat!”

During lunch, Mother explained the situation to the children. “Father needs someone to take care of Abby while Grandma recuperates.”

“Tell Dad that I’ll do it for him!” Isaac quickly responded.

“That’s very sweet of you, Isaac,” Mother said, “But I can’t ask you! It takes months to recuperate from hip surgery and you’ve been looking forward to your trip to stay with cousin Jacob all year!”

“I know Mom! That’s what makes it a sacrifice!”

by Margie Nauta Lee © 2007 Living Scriptures, Inc.
What you need:
A copy of the “I’ll Sacrifice for Him” activity for each of your children), scissors, glue, tape and heavy card stock.

Preparation
1. Print out the artwork.
2. Glue everything, but the fire pieces, to cardstock.
3. Cut out all pieces.
4. Cut along dotted lines.
5. Fold flaps on altar inward.
6. Fold altar along solid lines.
7. Tape sides to flaps to create a box shape (bottom will be open).

Activity:
1. Explain that to obey our Heavenly Father, we must often sacrifice. Heavenly Father requires us to sacrifice in a different way than in days of old. We sacrifice by giving up something to help someone else. Jesus made the greatest sacrifice. He suffered for our sins and then He gave His life for us.

1. Ask: Why should we offer sacrifices? (To show obedience to Heavenly Father; to show Heavenly Father that we love Him; to become better people; etc.)
2. Ask: How does sacrificing for others make us better people? (Discuss ideas.)
3. Give each family member a copy of the word strip.
   Ask: What are some of the ways we can show Heavenly Father that we love Him, through sacrifice? (Pay tithing and fast offerings, attend church meetings, honor and obey parents, reading scriptures, service projects, visiting the sick, teaching, genealogy, helping a brother or sister with their chores, weeding an elderly neighbors garden or mowing their lawn, writing to a missionary, etc.)
4. Have each person (younger children will need help) write or draw five things that they will do to “offer sacrifice” through the coming week.
5. Thread word strip through slits in altar. (Roll up extra inside altar.)
6. Roll the word strip until the “sacrifice” you are going to work on for the day is on the altar. Glue or tape a fire piece securely over each sacrifice as it is completed. Repeat each day until all “sacrifices” are completed.
I'll sacrifice for Him by
Prep Time: 5 minutes  
Bake Time: 30 minutes  
Cool Time: 30 minutes

**Butterscotch “Altars”**

2 cups brown sugar  
1/2 cup melted butter (1 stick)  
2 eggs  
2 cups flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. vanilla  
3 Tbs. powdered sugar (optional)  
Small bag of pretzel sticks

Add melted butter to sugar. Stir until well blended. Remove from stove and add eggs. Beat well. Add flour, salt, baking powder and vanilla. Pour into prepared 13” x 9” square pan. Bake in preheated oven at 325 degrees F. for 30 minutes. Dust with powdered sugar if desired. Cool in pan for 30 minutes. Cut into bite-size squares.

**Treat Time:** Stack the Butterscotch squares to build an altar. Place the pretzel sticks on top for firewood. Use the pretzel sticks to pick up the squares to eat. Recipe makes 4–6 altars, depending on how small you cut your squares.

To sacrifice is to give up something valuable or important for somebody else. Sacrifice is an important part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unlike animal sacrifices of old, today we offer our means, time, and a desire to repent in order to follow Jesus Christ. When we sacrifice it helps us remember Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice for all of Heavenly Father’s children who have lived and will live upon the earth.

**Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.**