

SACRIFICE AS GIFT

IN THE Old Testament sacrifice is mentioned in several places. One of the greatest events was when Abraham believed that God was asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac

IT HAPPENED some time later that God put Abraham to the test.

'Abraham, Abraham ' he called. 'Here I am' he replied.

'Take your son, 'God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

Rising early next morning Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to the place God had pointed out to him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Then Abraham said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and come back to you.'

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then

the two of them set out together. Isaac spoke to his father Abraham, 'Father ' he said. 'Yes, my son' he replied. 'Look,' he said 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' Abraham answered, 'My son, God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' Then the two of them went on together.

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said, 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. *Genesis 22:1-19.*

To do

What were they thinking?

- 1 Read Genesis 22:1-9 again carefully
Try to enter into the scene.
Write what you imagine they were thinking.

Abraham? Sarah?
Isaac? The two servants?

Now imagine Abraham's thoughts
after the Angel spoke to him.

- 2 Imagine that you are either Abraham, Sarah or Isaac.
Write an account of your experience.

