

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 28th June
Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of God keeping his promises to Abraham.

You can find the story in your Bible in:

Genesis 22 v 1–18

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Abraham being tested by God. Increase our faith so that we can trust you in difficult and challenging times. Help us to be obedient to you, knowing that you know what is best for us.

We pray for all those in our world having to make difficult choices – those in government and the those working in schools, churches, shops and hospitals. Give them wisdom as they make their decisions.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac?

Abraham did not know that God was testing him, he would have really believed that God was asking him to kill his own son. It must have been a scary and worrying time – each step they took closer to the mountain must have filled him with dread, each thing they did to prepare for the sacrifice.

Abraham trusted in God and had faith – even though he didn’t understand why he was being asked to do it, he was obedient to God.

A question to answer together

What similarities can you find between this story and the story of Jesus?

This story is a picture of the sacrifice God himself would make in the New Testament, sending his son Jesus to die as an innocent sacrifice. We talk about Jesus as a sacrificial lamb.

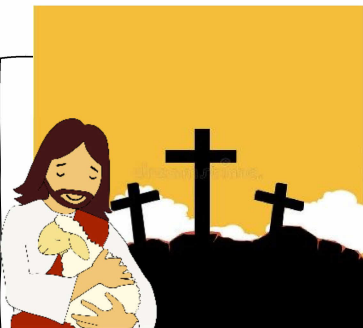
In the Old Testament young lambs were sacrificed as an offering to God so that the sins of the people might be forgiven. Jesus was the ultimate sacrificial lamb, he died once for the forgiveness of the sins of everybody.

Family Activity 1

You will need: Pens, paper, craft materials

Decorate your own sheep together – if you have cotton wool in the house you might like to stick this on to make your sheep super fluffy. You could use the inside of a toilet roll as a starting point for a 3D sheep or make one on paper. There are some ideas below. Once you have finished why not take it in turns to hide the sheep around your house or garden and play a game of “hide and sheep!”





A verse to remember

Romans 6 v 23

The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This verse from Romans is a great summary of the gospel, it is often used to explain the Good News about Jesus to others. Just as God provided a lamb to Abraham so that Isaac did not have to die, God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins and to take the punishment that should have been ours.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week?

Family Activity 2

God wanted to test Abraham's faith – the Bible tells us in Hebrews 11 all about faith, it even mentions the story of Abraham. Faith means believing in something even though we cannot see it. Abraham had to believe and trust in God.



Think about trust together, set up an obstacle course, blindfold somebody and then guide them through the course using just instructions or the sound of your voice.

You could talk about how it feels having to trust somebody else to guide you and link this back to the discussion questions about how Abraham felt.



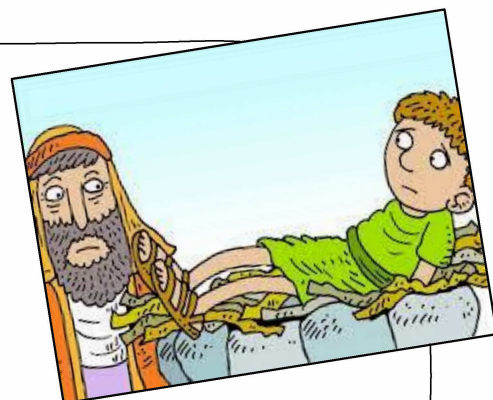
Active Prayer

Abraham trusted in God and was obedient to him even though what God was asking him to do was scary and challenging.

Our current situation as some lockdown restrictions lift might feel very similar, our actions and behaviours are being controlled by something we cannot see, and we are being asked to give up things we love and want to do.

Why not use the story of Abraham as a starting point to talk about trusting those with authority and demonstrating obedience even when this is challenging or upsetting to us? Write a list together of all those who you know are having to make difficult decisions about the things we do each day – leaders in government, schools, workplaces, shops and churches. Pray for them together asking God to help them make good decisions.

To help you think about what leadership is why not take it in turns to be the leader of the prayer time, call out one of the names and a prayer and everybody else must follow your lead and copy the prayer before saying Amen.



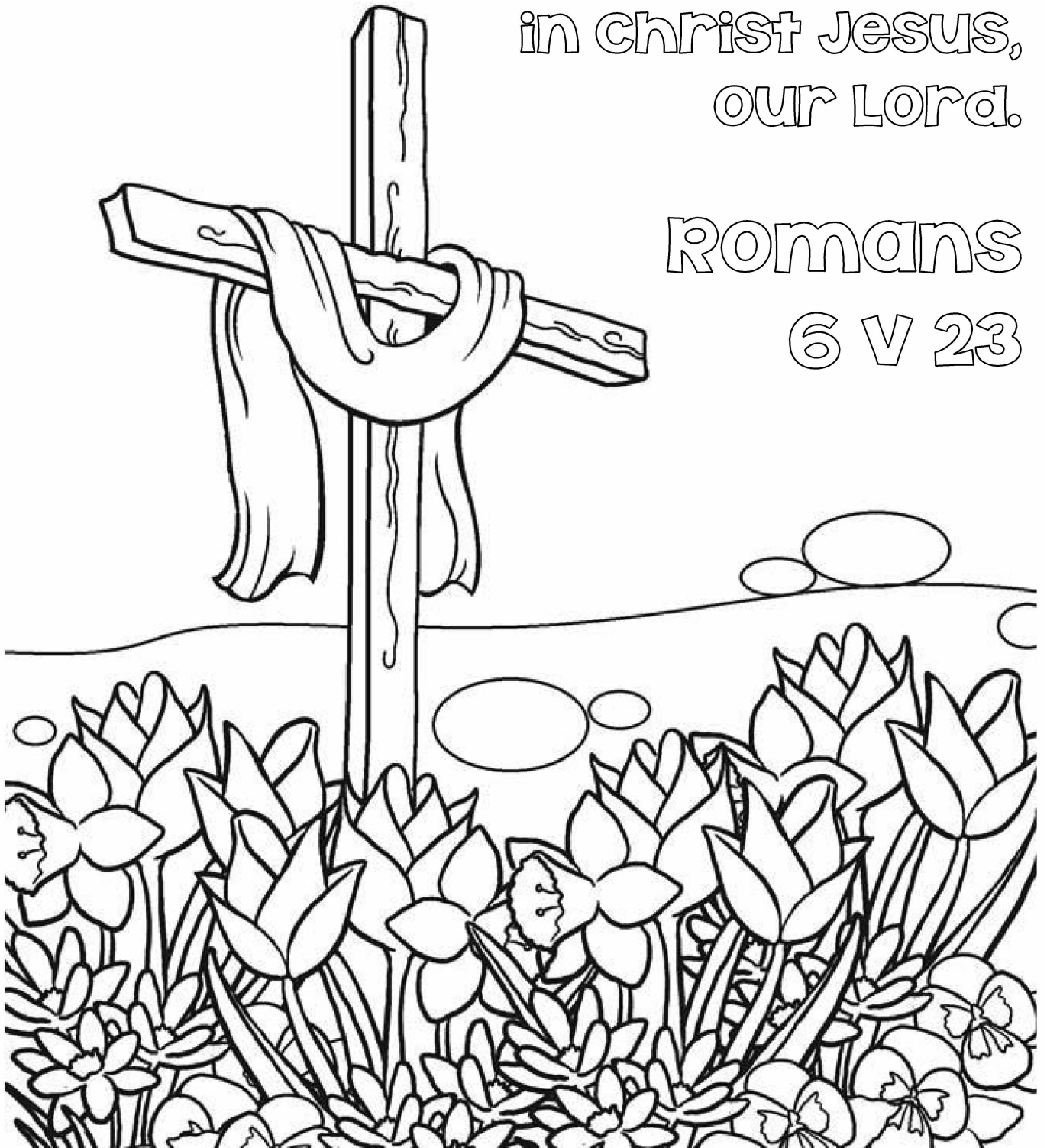
A colouring page you could print and colour together

The payment for sin is death.

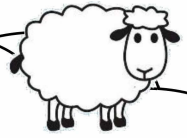
**BUT GOD GIVES US THE FREE
GIFT OF LIFE FOREVER
IN CHRIST JESUS,
OUR LORD.**

ROMANS

6 V 23



PUZZLE SHEET

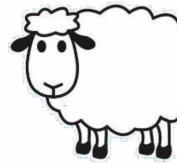
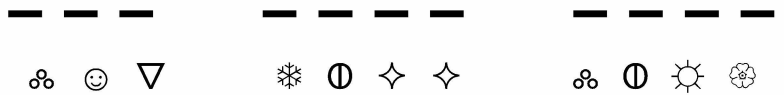
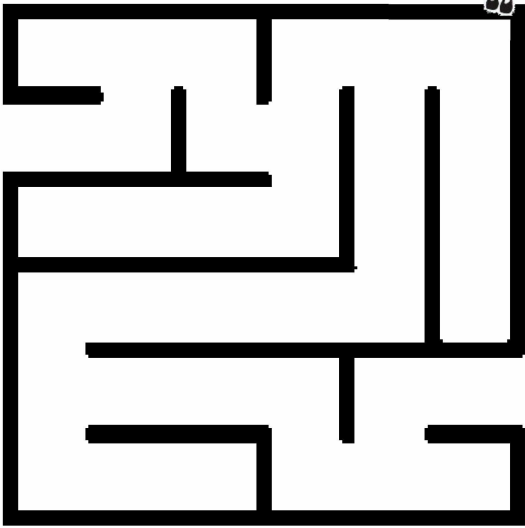


God sent a lamb to be sacrificed instead of Isaac, how many lambs can you find hidden on this page?

Abraham had to trust and obey God – can you complete this maze with your eyes closed?

Ask a family member to guide you and talk you through which way to go!

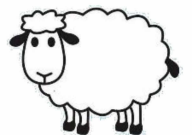
Can you decode the message to show what Abraham said to Isaac?



a	b	c	d	e	f
☺	☹	☹	▽	☼	🎯
g	h	i	j	k	l
☼	←	⊙	△	→	◇
m	n	o	p	q	r
▽	⊙	☺	⇒	☼	🎵
s	t	u	v	w	x
↑	🎵	+	☼	☼	🕯
y	z				
↓	☼				



Join the dots in order to reveal a picture.
Then colour the picture in.



There are 8 lambs hidden on the page.