

# HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 8.

FEBRUARY 25th, 1894.

1st QUARTER.

Trial of Abraham's Faith. Gen. 22: 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT: "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Heb. 11: 17.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 11-13. LESSON HYMNS, 58, 26, 144, 86.

PROVE THAT—Faith subdues difficulties. Matt. 21: 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation.

## DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH
Gen. 22: 1-13	Gen. 22: 14-19	Jas. 1: 1-12	1 Pet. 4: 12-19	Jas. 2: 17-23	Phil. 3: 7-14	Heb. 11: 13-19

To the Teacher—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.

**Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.**

## HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—More than twenty-five years had passed since our last lesson, during which Abraham's life had been, on the whole, peaceful and prosperous. He was recognized as a "mighty prince" by the peoples amongst whom he dwelt. Abimelech was his sworn friend, and Beersheba was his favorite residence. He seems also to have had a home at Hebron amongst the Hittites, by whom he was regarded with much respect. It was in the midst of this happiness that the message came with which our lesson opens.

LESSON PLAN. I. Faith Proved. vs. 1, 2. II. Faith Triumphant. vs. 3-10. III. Faith Rewarded. vs. 11-13.

I. FAITH PROVED. 1. God did prove Abraham (R. V.)—God does not "tempt" anyone in the sense of trying to make him commit sin. (Jas. 1: 12-14). Abraham's faith was tested, or tried (Heb. 11: 17). God wished to bring out for his own "praise and honor and glory" (1 Pet. 1: 7), the boundless confidence which his "friend" placed in his promises. It was never God's intention that Isaac should be slain. Said to him—in some way that made it perfectly clear, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that it was God that spoke. 2. Thine only—Isaac was the only one left after Ishmael was sent away. Moriah—Solomon's temple was afterwards built upon this mountain (2 Chr. 3: 1). How every word must have gone to Abraham's heart like a knife. God wished him to fully count the cost, before he decided to obey. Read John 3: 16, and tell the resemblance between Isaac and Christ. A burnt offering—Human sacrifices were common amongst the heathen in Abraham's time, and such a command would not seem so monstrous to him as it does to us. God wanted to try whether Abraham was willing to give up his dearest treasure if he asked it, and also whether he could still believe in the fulfilment of the promise. "In Isaac shall thy seed be called" (21: 12), even although Isaac should die. God asks the same faith from us—to be willing to give up all for him, and to trust his promises in spite of difficulties.

II. FAITH TRIUMPHANT. 3. Early in the morning—He obeyed promptly, and from the minute carefulness of his preparations we see that he must have pictured to his mind everything he would have to do in carrying out the command. He reached

Published weekly at 5 cents a year, for the Sabbath School Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., Convener, St. John, N. B.

the standard laid down by Christ, Matt. 10: 37. Read too, Mark 10: 29, 30. **On the third day**—The distance from Beersheba to Moriah, was about 45 miles. **5. Come again to you**—This was not spoken to deceive the men, nor was it the confused utterance of an agitated mind, but he really believed that they would both come back alive. See Heb. 11: 19. **6. Do you see any resemblance here again between Isaac and Christ?** Read John 19: 17. **8. Abraham believes that** "in some way or other the Lord will provide." He is not ready just yet to tell Isaac the whole truth. **9. Bound Isaac his son**—He was strong enough to have resisted if he had wished. He must have had faith as strong as his father's, and must have loved and trusted his father to a wonderful degree. What is required in the fifth commandment? Again point out the resemblance between Isaac and Christ (John 10: 17, 18). - **10. The sacrifice was virtually offered** (Jas. 2: 21; Heb. 11: 17). It is hard to realize what a terrible moment that was for Abraham, yet he did not flinch, although his heart was breaking.

**III. FAITH REWARDED. 11. The angel of the Lord**—When we read of God appearing after the fall, in some visible form, we are to understand that it was Jesus, before his birth at Bethlehem. It was Jesus who spoke to our first parents; made a covenant with Noah; called Abraham; wrestled with Jacob; spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, &c. (Acts 7: 38). **Now I know**—God here speaks "after the manner of men." He knew what was in Abraham's heart, but as a judge cannot sentence or acquit a prisoner from his private knowledge of facts, but must go by the evidence brought out in court, so God now proved that Abraham was worthy to be the "father of the faithful," and the fountain head of the blessings which were to come through faith. **13. God did provide the "lamb"** for the burnt offering. What a happy pair knelt before that altar. The sorrowful refrain "so they went both of them together," may now be changed into "so they praised God both of them together."

**To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—What did God tell Abraham to do? (3)
- 2.—How soon did he obey? (3)
- 3.—How far did he journey? (4)
- 4.—What question did Isaac ask, and what answer did Abraham give? (4)
- 5.—What did Abraham say that shewed that he expected to bring Isaac back alive? (4)
- 6.—In what respect did Isaac resemble Christ? (7)

Name.....

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because; I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church  
I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.