



Connect

On a piece of paper, write down 5 of your favorite people. Why are these 5 your favorite? Do you know the names of all 5? Whenever we think about people we love, it's usually people whose names we know. It's difficult to say you love someone but not know that person's name.

It's the same thing for other people. Usually the people who know us and love us, call us by name. They don't call us "hey" or "psst". Do you know who else knows your name even though there are many many people in the world? God. Yes! Even with over 7 billion people in the world (and not including those who have passed on), God knows your name! You want to know why? Because you are important to Him, He loves you, and He has good plans for you.

This whole month, we are going to look at people from the Bible whom God called out to by name. He called out to them by repeating their names twice! We will see that He had a special purpose for each one of them.

Let's read this week's story about Abraham.

Read the Word

Genesis 22:9-14

9 When they came to the place where God told them to go, Abraham built an altar. He carefully laid the wood on the altar. Then he tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached for his knife to kill his son.

11 But the angel of the Lord stopped him. The angel called from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "Yes?"

12 The angel said, "Don't kill your son or hurt him in any way. Now I can see that you do respect and obey God. I see that you are ready to kill your son, your only son, for me."

13 Then Abraham noticed a ram whose horns were caught in a bush. So Abraham went and took the ram. He offered it, instead of his son, as a sacrifice to God. 14 So Abraham gave that place a name, "The Lord Provides." Even today people say, "On the mountain of the Lord, he will give us what we need."

God knew Abraham and had a purpose for him. Long before he had a son, God promised him that he would have many descendants. And God fulfilled his promise when years later, in his old age, Abraham had a son. But God gave Abraham a difficult test - he asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, whom he loved very much!

Abraham immediately obeyed God! He loved God so much that He was willing to do anything God commanded him to do. It was more important for Abraham to obey God than to have the descendants that God promised him. It shows us two things: 1) He loved God more than his son; and 2) He obeyed God out of his love for Him.



**Parent to Kid/s:
2-6 years old**

- Why do you obey your parents? Do you believe obeying your parents shows them you love them?
- Do you love God?

7-12 years old

- Why is it sometimes difficult to obey your parents?
- Do you love God? Do you find it difficult to obey Him? Why or why not?

Kid/s to Parent:

- How can you know what God is asking you to do so you can obey God?
- Have you ever struggled with obeying God? What happened?

God has a purpose for each one of us. Long before we were born, He already knew us. We are not random creatures before His eyes. He knows each one of us by name. Yes! God knows your name! He loves you and wants you to love Him, trust Him and obey Him too! It may not be easy or convenient, just like it was not easy for Abraham, but we can obey nonetheless because we trust Him.



Dear God, thank You for knowing who we are. You know what we can and cannot do and You have good plans for us. We know that everything that we have comes from You and everything that comes from You is good. Please give us the heart to always listen to You and obey You because You love us and know what is best for us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Did you know that:

- When God called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, He knew that one day He would have to do the very same thing? Many years later, God had to sacrifice Jesus on the cross to pay for our sins. The only difference was there was no "ram" to take Jesus' place. Jesus was the lamb sacrificed on the cross for us in order that our sins can be forgiven and we can enjoy a relationship with Him!
- In fact, many scholars said that the moment with Isaac and Abraham happened in that same mountain where Cavalry was located - the very place where Jesus was sacrificed by dying on the cross! That gives us an idea that our God really fulfills His promise in great detail!