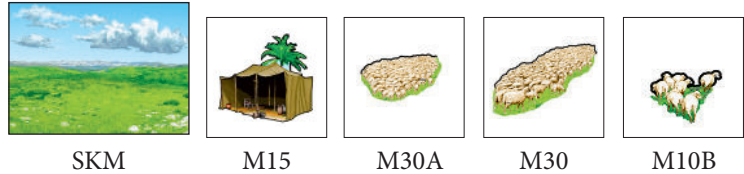


Story 3. God Tests Abraham

Genesis 22:1-19



Backgrounds/Overlays (For scene one/in order used)



SKM

M15

M30A

M30

M10B

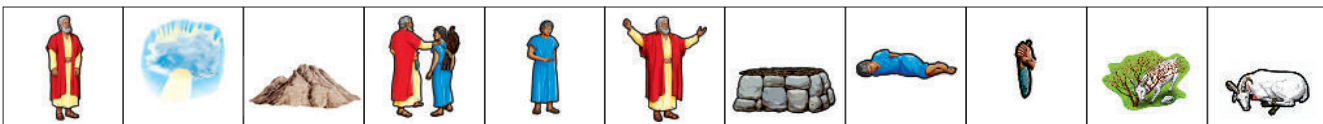
Backgrounds/Overlays (scene two/three)



RD

RK

Figures (in order used)



B2

M1

M14

B6

B7

B3

M6

B8

B3A

B30

M6B

As this story begins, more than two thousand years have passed since our first parents sinned against God and were forced to leave the Garden of Eden. In fact, the world that Adam and Eve knew did not even exist anymore. As Adam and Eve's children multiplied and filled the earth, they rebelled against God and filled the earth with so much evil and violence that God destroyed His entire creation with a worldwide flood.

But Noah, one of Adam's descendants, found grace in God's eyes. And in an act of mercy, God instructed Noah to build an ark to save not only his family, but one pair of all of the animals God had created.

Abraham was a descendant of Shem, one of Noah's three sons. When Abraham was seventy-five years old, God asked him to leave his family and go to the land of Canaan. God promised Abraham three things.

- Land—God promised to give Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.
- Seed—God promised that Abraham's descendants would be as many as the stars of the sky and the sand of the seashore.
- And a Blessing—God promised that Abraham's descendants would be God's chosen people and One of Abraham's descendants would one day bring the Blessing of God to all the families of the earth.

Both the promised Seed and future Blessing all depended on Abraham having a son. But Sarah, Abraham's wife could not have children. In an act of desperation, Sarah gave her servant Hagar to Abraham as a second wife. Abraham's son Ishmael was born not long after, but God had other plans.







About fourteen years later, God miraculously gave Abraham a son through Sarah when Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety. Sometime after the birth of Isaac, God instructed Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar away stating, "it is through Isaac that your seed will be named."

As this narrative begins, Abraham is living in peace and prosperity near the city of Beersheba in the south of Canaan. Abraham has also just entered into a covenant of peace with his Philistine neighbors.

God's demand that Abraham offer Isaac as a burnt offering must have been impossible to reconcile with the covenant promises he had already received from God. And a burnt offering is exactly what it implies. The offering was not only slaughtered, but burned to ashes. Centuries after Abraham's death, the Bible records that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son because he believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead to fulfill the covenant promises. With that in mind, here is what actually happened.



After these things God put Abraham to the test and said to him,  "Abraham!"

And Abraham replied, "Here I am!" God said, "Get your son, your only son—Isaac—whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. When you get there, offer Isaac as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will show you." **(Remove)**      **(Add)** 

So Abraham got up early the next morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men and his son Isaac to go with him. Abraham cut the wood for the burnt offering and left and went to the place God had told him about.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 




Then Abraham said to his young men, "You stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going over there—we will worship and then we will return."


So, Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. Abraham carried the fire and the knife. And Abraham and Isaac continued on together.









Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And Abraham replied, "Yes, my son? I'm here." And Isaac said, "Look, we have fire and wood—but where's the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide His own lamb for the burnt offering—my son." So, they continued on together.



(Remove)    **(Add)**  

When they came to the place God had told him about,  Abraham built an altar—laid the wood in order on top—bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar—  on top of the wood.  Then Abraham reached out his hand and picked up the knife to slay his son.

But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven,  "Abraham, Abraham!" And Abraham said, "I'm here!" And Jehovah said, "Don't touch the boy—don't do anything to him—because you have just proven the depth of your regard for Me—since you didn't refuse to offer your son to Me—your only son."

 And Abraham opened his eyes and looked, and there—right behind him—was a ram—caught by his horns in a thicket. **(Remove)**  **(Add)**    So, Abraham went and took the ram and offered it to the Lord as a burnt offering in place of his son Isaac. So Abraham named that place, ‘Jehovah-jireh’ and we still say it—even today. “On the mountain of Jehovah—God will provide.”

Then the Angel of the Lord called out to Abraham from heaven a second time,  “I swear by Myself—I Jehovah—say this—since you did this—because you didn’t refuse to offer your son—your only son to Me—I will certainly bless you!

I will multiply the number of your descendants until they are like the stars in the heavens—like the sand on the seashore. Your offspring shall take possession of the city gates of their enemies and through your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed...all because you obeyed my voice.” **(Remove)**  

So Abraham and Isaac returned to where the young men waited, and they got up and all of them journeyed back to Beersheba together. And Abraham continued living at Beersheba.