

Wanted: Overview

Day One

Daily Theme: Saddle Up

Promise Point: God is trustworthy.

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal. – Isaiah 26:4

Day Two

Daily Theme: Goldmine

Promise Point: God's plans are greater than mine.

Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

Day Three

Daily Theme: Branded

Promise Point: I am claimed and called by God.

Memory Verse: Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine. - Isaiah 43:1b (ESV)

Day Four

Daily Theme: Family Feudin'

Promise Point: My choices have consequences.

Memory Verse: Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. – Galatians 5:25

Day Five

Daily Theme: Round Pen

Promise Point: Obedience brings great reward.

Memory Verse: Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." – John 14:23

Day Six

Daily Theme: Spur On

Promise Point: God is faithful.

Memory Verse: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. - Psalm 100:5

Day Two Take Ten

Howdy! Welcome to camp! **What are you most excited about for this week? Is there anything you're a little nervous about?**

This week's theme is Wanted, and today's theme is Goldmine. **What is the greatest "treasure" in your life?**

As you know by now, we'll be talking about Abraham (aka Abram) all week. It's a major story, and we don't have enough time to get into all the details, so we'll take just a minute each day to look at other pieces that we won't get to in Small Group or at chapel. (Feel free to talk to any staff about these parts though, if you'd like!)

You heard yesterday that Abram left his homeland with his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, to set out for the land God had in mind. Read Genesis 13:5-7. **What was the problem with the two families staying together?**

Read Genesis 13:8. Think of a time when you were in conflict with a friend or family member. **Who came up with an answer? Was it a suggestion that was beneficial to everyone involved?** Here, Abram chooses peace instead of trying to figure out who's "right." **What is one way you can choose peace when there is trouble in your family/friendships?**

Read Genesis 13:9. Even though Abram, being the uncle, would've traditionally had the right to decide which land he wanted for his own family, he offers first choice to his nephew. **Why do you think he did this?**

Think about when you go to a restaurant when you're hungry and five different things on the menu look really good. **Does it matter which you choose? Or could it be that all five are "right" answers, if they fill your need for food? Do you ever get nervous about making the wrong decision when it comes to bigger situations in your life? Do you think there's only one right solution for every problem?**

Our story goes on with the two men splitting ways and settling in their own areas, and then God speaks to Abram (Gen. 13:14-17), repeating his promise that his offspring would inherit the land. Because of their ongoing relationship and his trust in God, Abram knew that – no matter which way Lot chose to go – God would still be with him.

In Joshua 1:9, just before Abraham's descendants take possession of the land God promised, Joshua is told: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Do you believe that God will be with you, no matter what? If so, how have you experienced this in your life?

Say a prayer asking God to be part of your choices and thanking Him for His great plans.

Promise Point: God's plans are greater than mine.

Today's Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
– Jeremiah 29:11

Day Two Object Lesson

Supplies:

- 5 large, 8 medium, 10 small, 15 tiny items, 1 cup of sand
(can be sports balls, apples, pinecones, and paperclips, but would be better with more theme-related items such as horseshoes, bandanas, sheriff's badges, and rocks spray painted to be "gold nuggets")

Set Up:

- Group like-sized items together in four separate piles, with the cup of sand in its own pile

Activity:

- Ask for five volunteers. Have the first count the large items, the second count the medium items, the third count the small items, and the fourth count the tiny items.
- Point the fifth toward the cup of sand. If they say "one" for the cup (or even if they don't), have them hold out their hands and pour the sand over/through them while asking them to count each grain.

Application:

- Genesis 22:17 – God told Abraham he would have descendants "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore."
- Obviously impossible, even just with this cup – what about on the beach? In a sand dune? In the desert?
- Also can't count stars, but God knows number AND names! (Psalm 147:4)
 - o Also knows count of sand
 - o Also knows count of hairs on your head (Matthew 10:30)
- Would take MANY generations to have that many descendants – we can't begin to see, understand, or imagine God's plans
 - o So much greater than ours!

Promise Point: God's plans are greater than mine.

Today's Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

Day Two Small Group: Goldmine

****Helpful Hints****

When talking about God's great plans and how everything works out for good, please beware that some of these campers may be coming from terribly painful backgrounds. Assure them that the awful things in their lives are NOT part of God's plan for them (our loving God does NOT plan abuse, pain, or evil – they exist because this world is broken by sin), but that He can and does use these moments to give us strength and compassion for the future.

If possible, use the NIV translation when reading Deuteronomy 7:6 – "...God has chosen you...to be his people, his **treasured** possession." For older campers, point out that this passage is part of a speech that Moses gave to the Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land – the fulfillment of the covenant God made with Abraham!

Promise Point:

- ~ God's plans are greater than mine.

Memory Verse:

- ~ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

INTRODUCTION

- ~ Recap object lesson
 - o Sand, God knows details, His plans are greater
- ~ Recap yesterday
 - o Promise Point: God is trustworthy.
 - o Memory verse: Isaiah 25:4
- ~ Theme intro
 - o **What do you think of when you hear the word "Goldmine"?**
 - o **What is something you consider to be a treasure of great value?**

WILD WEST

- ~ Mining was a HUGE part of the settling of the West. Gold, silver, quartz, iron, and coal were all major industries with major appeal.
 - o **Can you think of any phrases from mining that we still use today?**
(*strike it rich, goldmine, hit the motherlode, pay dirt*)

- In January 1848, gold was discovered in California. Even though the owner of the property wished to keep the discovery secret, word of mouth and newspapers spread the story and by the end of the year, even the president (James Polk) was talking about it. Driven by dreams, many people packed up and headed West. In 1849 alone, 80,000 prospectors arrived in California in search of gold. *(Fun fact: this is how the San Francisco 49ers football team got their name)*
 - o **Have you ever had a secret about something so good you hoped no one would find out so that you wouldn't have to share? What happened?**
 - o **Have you ever had a secret about something so good you couldn't not share? Who did you tell?**
 - o Tell a story about a time when you were bursting with excitement about good news.
- In 1949, ten years after the California Gold Rush, the Comstock Lode was discovered in (what is now) western Nevada. Also known as the "Big Bonanza," mines in this claim produced more than 500 million dollars' worth of silver and gold ore in their first couple decades of operation. This is big money today – even more so in the late 1800s!
 - o **If you came into a ridiculous amount of money but you HAD TO give it away, what/who would you give it to?**
- The California Gold Rush started with a man just doing his job, checking the water flow at a sawmill.
 - o **Can you think of anything awesome that you discovered while doing something really normal?** *(new skill, new friend, new favorite recipe, secret hiding spot, great song)*

DISCUSSION

- Yesterday, we read about how Peter and his friends were doing just going about their daily work when their lives completely changed. Read/have a volunteer read Luke 5:1-11.
 - o **How is this account of Peter's call different than the one we read yesterday? Does this change how you might've reacted in this situation?** *(yesterday, Jesus just asked – today proved Himself first; Peter heard the sermon, saw the fish)*
 - o **How do you think Peter and the others felt when a carpenter gave them fishing advice? Did they really expect a different result when they threw the nets?**
 - o **Why do you think Peter reacted the way he did in verse 8? Do you think it had anything to do with his decision to follow Jesus?** *(we realize who we are when we realize who He is - recognized his own faults/limitations in the presence of the incredible things that God can do)*

- Even after the incredible catch, they (v. 11) “Pulled their boats up on shore [and] left everything” ...so...even the fish!
 - o **What does this say about God’s plans?** *(for a fisherman, the great haul would’ve been awesome – to leave it means that what Jesus offered was even better; see Promise Point)*
- These fishermen had no idea what they were getting into by following Jesus. Mining was not easy work, and there was no guarantee that there would be a payoff, still thousands of people took the chance.
 - o **What are some other difficult situations people face head-on for the chance at a better life?** *(moving for a new job, leaving abusive relationships, undergoing cancer treatments)*
- During the California Gold Rush, many fortunes were made. However, the first millionaire in the region was not a prospector at all! Samuel Brannan was a shop owner who realized that all the people coming from the east would need buckets, food, clothing, shovels, and other supplies, so he stocked his store instead of heading to the mines.
 - o **What are some examples of times when it’s easier to go with the crowd, but it’s better to do your own thing?**
 - o **What’s a great idea that you had that really paid off?**
- Read/have a volunteer read Luke 9:10-17.
 - o **What do you think the disciples expected Jesus to do when they realized it was dinner time?**
 - o **What might they’ve expected when they started handing the food out? What happened instead?**
- Tell a story of a time when you had super low expectations and God blew your mind by doing something amazing.
- God promised Abraham descendants “as numerous as the....sand on the seashore.” The first time we hear about any of this, though, Abraham was already 75 years old and his wife was 65! For years, they’d wanted a child, but they never could’ve imagined what God had in mind for them.
- God often shows up in ways that we could never imagine. He sees beyond the present moment and knows what has been put in motion for us far before we even consider the possibilities. In 1 Corinthians 2:9, we are reminded that “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- Read Romans 8:28 and Jeremiah 29:11-13.
 - o **How do these verses make you feel about God's plans for us?**
- Read/have a volunteer read Deuteronomy 7:6-8.
 - o **Why did God choose to deliver His people? (LOVE!)**
- One of the coolest things about God's incredible plan is that we have the chance (*opportunity, honor, privilege!*) to be part of it – not because we deserve to, but because He loves us. We can talk about gold and silver, but in God's eyes, WE are treasure worth giving up everything for...including His Son.

REFLECTION

****TO BE ANSWERED SILENTLY IN BOOKLETS****

- o Though some made lots of money, many of the 49ers left everything and gained nothing. **Is there anything you'd be willing to risk everything for, even if it didn't turn out how you hoped?**
- o As time went on, the people kept coming, but there was less gold left. Miners packed up and moved from claim to claim, hoping to get lucky in a new location. **What's something that started out great but turned out disappointing? How did you handle it? What would you change if you could go back to that time?**
- o **Do believe that God has a plan? Do you believe that you're part of it?**
- o **Do you believe that you are treasured, valued, and WANTED by God?**

WRAP UP

- Promise Point/Memory Verse
- Pray in thanksgiving for all the ways God's plans are greater than ours.

Day Two Chapel: Goldmine

Main Text: Genesis 15:1-18

- ~ God tells Abram his descendants will be like the stars. The covenant is sealed with a sacrifice.

Object Lesson:

- ~ Gold Pan

Promise Point:

- ~ God's plans are greater than mine.

Memory Verse:

- ~ "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11
-

OBJECT LESSON: Gold Pan

- ~ Give campers a one-minute rundown on how to use a gold pan (check YouTube for lessons)
- ~ A few small flecks could completely change a life
 - moments matter, you never know when God will show up through a person or an opportunity
 - Personal story, option A: tell about a time when God surprised you
- ~ Glimpses of glitter reveal major treasure
 - we only see tiny pieces of God's plan, but he has amazing things in store
 - Personal story, option B: tell about a moment when you knew God was working on something special, but you could only see a glimpse of what was in store
- ~ Paydirt = the mud/rocks that wash away to reveal gold
 - Things in our lives need to be "rinsed out" so that we can see the real treasure we're being offered
- ~ Fool's gold
 - Looks like gold, but worthless
 - what this world offers may look good, but can't compare to greatness of God's plans
 - Personal story, option C: tell about a time when you got caught up in something that seemed right, but God showed you that He had other plans

SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- Abram wonders about God's plan – even Bible characters aren't perfect!
 - Genesis 15:2 - Abram wonders who will be his heir since he and Sarai are childless
 - Already been told 3x will have offspring
 - Gen 12:2, 12:7, 13:15-16
 - 15:4 - God says it will be Abraham's own son
 - God's plan is still in motion, even when we can't see it
 - Easy to wonder, hard to wait
 - Tell a story from your own life about having doubts while waiting on God's timing
- God's plans look beyond what our eyes can see
 - v. 5 – count the stars if you can
 - Completely possible for God
 - Psalm 147:4 – number AND names!
 - Not even kind of possible for us
 - way too many!
 - *OR because it was daytime???*
 - v. 12 – *“as the sun was setting”*
 - *disputed if events on two different days or if the story is continuous*
 - *it's already impossible, even harder in the daylight*
 - *God asking Abraham for faith*
- God's plans ask for faith
 - v. 6 – Abram believed and God counted it as righteousness
 - Abram's righteousness comes from same place as ours – he believed God/had faith
 - Even in doubt, wonder
 - He was faithful, not flawless
 - We can be, too
 - Nehemiah 9:7-8 – “you found his heart faithful to you”
 - Hebrews 11:11 – “He who promised is faithful”
 - Matthew 13:44-46
 - Risk everything for treasure
 - Like miners/prospectors in West
 - Greatest treasure is the kingdom of heaven
 - What are you willing to risk?

- God's plans are bigger than us
 - Gen. 15:13-16 – prediction of journey of Israelites from Joseph through Moses
 - They will inherit the promise God gave to Abram
 - v. 17 – sealed covenant with smoking firepit and blazing torch
 - cloud/fire symbols of God's Presence in Exodus
 - Abram will never see/know
 - Throughout Bible, God identifies Himself as "the God of Abraham" and people are identified as "son of Abraham"
 - Started with one man, but generations carry on

WRAP UP

- God's plans are greater than ours – seeing beyond, reaching beyond
 - Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11
 - Abram wanted an heir, ends up with a nation!
- We only get glimpses, but worth risking everything for the treasure He offers

Day Five Take Ten

What do you call a happy cowboy? A jolly rancher.

Why did the cowboy buy a dachshund? He wanted to get a long, little doggie.

Where do cowboys cook their dinners? On the range.

Why did the cowboy get in trouble at school? He was always horsing around.

Laughter is one of the greatest gifts we've been given. **Who is the funniest person you know? How do you feel when you're around them? When was the last time you laughed until you cried or until your sides hurt? Have you ever been with a friend who got the giggles, which made you laugh, too?**

When Abraham heard Sarah would have a baby, he laughed (Genesis 17:17).

When Sarah heard she would have a baby, she laughed (Genesis 18:12).

And in Genesis 21, when Sarah has that baby, he is named Isaac – which means “he laughs.” Read Genesis 21:5-7. What is Sarah's reaction to Isaac's birth?

Read Psalm 126:1-3. Here, as those who were in Babylonian exile return to their families, how do the Israelites respond? With laughter! It's way more than a joke or silly face or ridiculous story. There's nothing funny about this moment. Rather, it's a reaction of great joy and celebration from people who have no other way to express themselves in that moment.

What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen – something that struck you as so awesome that you were pretty much speechless and just had to laugh?

From sunsets to babies to physical healing to impossible realities, our God is in the business of doing amazing things. And the MOST amazing thing He has done for us is that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and be raised to life eternal, a life we are invited to share with Him!

We'll be talking a lot about this today. Take a few minutes to pray about what Jesus did and what it means to you. If you have any questions, please talk to your cabin leader or favorite staff member!

If you already know Jesus personally as the Lord of your life, look back at Psalm 126. In verse two, upon hearing their laughter, other nations recognized the great things God had done. Take a few minutes to pray about how others may come to know Him because of the joy in your life.

Promise Point: Obedience brings great reward.

Today's Memory Verse: Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them.” – John 14:23

Day Five Object Lesson

Option:

- *If possible, instead of using this object lesson for today, consider using a real horse for a lesson on the topics of obedience and surrender*

Supplies:

- Lead rope, big cabin leader/staff member

Set Up:

- Brief staff member on the plan.
- Be aware of physical safety during this activity!

Activity:

- Ask for a volunteer. Pick the smallest one.
- Ask the (small) volunteer to push the (big) cabin leader to the other side of the [lesson area]. (*Cabin leader should resist.*)
- Clip lead rope to cabin leader, and give rope to volunteer, making a big deal about how it will help. Ask volunteer to pull cabin leader to the other side. (*Cabin leader should resist.*)
- Have cabin leader and volunteer introduce themselves to each other, tell each other where they're from, if they have any siblings, what their favorite food is.
- Give the volunteer the end of the rope again and have them ask the cabin leader to walk to the other side. (*Cabin leader should comply.*)

Application:

- The average horse weighs 1000-1250lbs. Most riders weigh less than 20% of that. And yet, every day, lead ropes are attached to halters and horses follow like dogs on a leash – Why?! How?!
 - o Have to choose to obey
 - Surrender their own will in favor of will of handler
 - Just like us & Jesus!
 - o Have to trust handler
 - Cabin leader moved after getting to know camper
 - Just like us & Jesus!

Promise Point: Obedience brings great reward.

Today's Memory Verse: Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them." – John 14:23

Day Five Small Group: Round Pen

****Helpful Hints****

Some campers may have no idea what saddles, bridles, or halters are. Some may've taken lessons for years or may even own their own horse(s). Explain as necessary, but keep it moving. The analogy is important, not the details.

Obedience does bring reward, indeed, but beware that we do not push any sort of idea that God is just some "cosmic vending machine" where we put in what we have to and He gives out what we want. This is NOT the spirit of the day. God's rewards may come in the form of deepened faith because of desperate troubles or opportunities to serve in difficult situations, not just glorious riches.

Also, though our choices absolutely have consequences, and disobedience does lead to pain, be incredibly clear that God absolutely loved us "while we were still sinners" (*Romans 5:8*) and not because of any good deeds we do (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).

Today at chapel, the speaker will present the Gospel message and offer an opportunity to respond. Please be in prayer for your campers and for wisdom in what to say to those who have doubts or questions.

Promise Point:

- Obedience brings great reward.

Memory Verse:

- Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them." – John 14:23

INTRODUCTION

- Recap object lesson
 - o Lead rope
- Recap yesterday
 - o Promise Point: My choices have consequences.
 - o Verse: Galatians 5:25
- Theme intro
 - o **What do you think of when you hear the term "Round Pen"?**
 - o **How do you feel when you hear the words "obey" and "obedience"?**
 - o **If you were offered a "great reward," what would you hope that it was?**

WILD WEST

- Horses had a huge role in the Wild West.
 - o **What are some of the jobs horses were used for?**

- To be useful, horses must be trained. Often, the term “broken” is associated with this process. However, it’s not about breaking a horse’s body or spirit, but rather teaching trust and cooperation and preparing them to work with halters, saddles, bridles, and people.
 - **What are some other seemingly negative terms or phrases that people have adopted as something to be proud of?** (*weird, nerd, “like a girl,” etc.*)
- Many western movies and TV shows include a scene where an unwilling horse is saddled, is mounted, and proceeds to buck until either the horse or the rider gives up.
 - **Is there anything in your life that you felt like you were forced to learn, even though you weren’t really into it? Have your feelings changed since you began?**
- Today’s theme is “Round Pen.” A round pen is really just a corral with no corners, used as a sort of classroom for horse and handler to learn from each other as they figure out how to work together. The round pen is where the horse learns how to do a task, how to react in varied situations, and how to trust the trainer.
 - Tell a personal story about a season of learning – a place/time where there was no escape and few options except to trust God and grow into what He was asking you to do.
- Much of horse training has to do with pressure, either physically or mentally. When the horse responds to what is being asked, the pressure is released.
 - **Have you ever felt the “weight” of the Holy Spirit asking you to do something? What happened when you listened?**
- Work in the round pen often begins with large motions and obvious body language on behalf of the trainer in an effort to communicate their wishes. As time goes on and the horse responds, the signals become softer and subtler.
 - **Why do you think the communication eases up as trust grows? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?** (*curfew, dating, dog training, dance class*)

DISCUSSION

- **What is your least favorite rule to obey?**
- **What are some rules that are really easy to obey?**
- **Do you think obedience is important? Why or why not?**

- Read/have a volunteer read John 13:1-17.
 - **What is Peter's response to Jesus washing his feet?**
 - **What is Jesus' response to Peter?**
 - **What would you have done?**
 - **What did Jesus want the disciples to learn?** (*vv. 14-15*)
 - Tell a story about a time in your life when you had to settle down and surrender so that Jesus could teach you something.

- Just like Abraham and Sarah yesterday, Peter had trouble when he couldn't see the big picture of what God was doing. To an observer, round pen training can look like a lot of running in circles, but there's more going on than meets the eye.

- Peter – who didn't understand why Jesus should wash his feet, who didn't trust Jesus while walking on water (*Matthew 14:30*), who cut off a man's ear in panic and anger as Jesus got arrested (*John 18:10*), who one moment declared Jesus as the Christ (*Matthew 16:16*) and another moment denied even knowing Him (*Luke 22:57*) – had quite a wild spirit.
 - **Can you relate? Why or how? Do you find it hard to surrender?**

- And yet, Peter goes on to be one of the biggest influences in the Christian world! He delivers a sermon that wins 3,000 souls (*Acts 2:41*), he performs miracles (*Acts 3:6*), he even writes parts of the Bible! In Acts 4, we see (*just one of the times when*) Peter is arrested because of his boldness in telling people about Jesus.
 - **What does this say about Peter's time "in the round pen"?** (*well trained, lots of trust in master, but not at all "broken" – surrender doesn't mean giving up our gifts or who we are!*)

- Read/have a volunteer read Philippians 2:5-8.
 - Even Jesus had to "humble himself" and "become obedient" – **how does that make you feel?**

- **Is it ever okay to be disobedient?**
 - Tell a story of a time that you did something you weren't supposed to because it was the right thing to do.
 - Read Acts 5:40-42. Here, the authorities tell the apostles not to speak of Jesus anymore, then we see they "never stopped teaching and proclaiming."
 - **Why?** (*see Acts 5:29*)

- Today's Promise Point is "Obedience brings great reward." Obviously, we're talking about obedience to God here.
 - **What kind of reward are we talking about?**

- Read/have a volunteer read Philippians 2:9-11.
 - o **What was one of the results of Jesus' obedience?**
- Another result (and the greatest reward!!) of Jesus' obedience is the opportunity to receive the eternal life Jesus bought for us by His death on the cross.
 - o **Does anyone have any questions on what this means or how this can be?**
 - o Memory verse

REFLECTION

****TO BE ANSWERED SILENTLY IN BOOKLETS****

- o **Do you ever feel like you're "in the round pen" with Jesus? What is He asking you to surrender? What do you need in order to trust Him?**
- o Peter was stubborn and impulsive at times, but God used him in incredible ways. **Is there anything about you that you get frustrated with? How can God use this for His own glory?**
- o **Do you find it difficult to choose between being obedient to God and being obedient to humans?**

WRAP UP

Promise Point/Memory Verse

Pray for the process we are ALL part of as we each learn to surrender our will and put our trust in God.

Day Five Chapel: Round Pen

Main Text: Genesis 22:1-18

- Abraham is called to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac is saved at the last minute

Object Lesson:

- Barbed wire

Promise Point:

- Obedience brings great reward.

Memory Verse:

- Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them." – John 14:23

OBJECT LESSON: Barbed Wire

- Invented by Joseph Glidden in 1874
 - o large areas could now be fenced cheaply (vs wooden rails)
 - o cattle enclosed in ranches, less open range, fewer cowboys needed
- Obedience avoids pain
 - o Sets boundaries
 - keeps herd together
 - temptation
 - training (round pen)
 - o Protects from danger
 - rustlers, bears, getting lost
 - sin
- Use later as "crown of thorns" during salvation message?

SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- Extreme trust
 - o Abraham trusted God
 - Genesis 22:2 – HARD ask!
 - Many would refuse right away!
 - "your only son, Isaac"
 - Ishmael had been banished, out of the picture, Isaac was the child of the covenant
 - Hebrews 11:17-19
 - Gen. 22:7-8 – God will provide the lamb
 - v. 13 – He did!
 - o Isaac trusted Abraham
 - Lead rope (see *object lesson*) – Isaac let himself be led
 - vv. 9-10 – Abraham bound Isaac and laid him on altar

- Isaac could've fought back/run away
 - Abraham was 100+ yrs old (*Gen. 21:5*), Isaac was at least old enough to go on three day trip (*22:4*) and carry firewood (*22:6*)
 - *Some traditions say Isaac was 25, others say 37*

- Obedience in action

- Genesis 22:1 – “God tested Abraham”
 - Hint to us that He wasn't going to go through with it?
- v. 3 - “Early the next morning...”
 - got up
 - no reluctance
 - not the first time Abra(ha)m obeyed
 - left Haran immediately (*Gen. 12:1,4*)
 - circumcised “that very day” (*Gen. 17:4*)
 - well trained - spent time in the round pen, trusted master (see *Small Group*)
 - How do we react when asked to do something hard/scary? Do we get up early and jump into action?
 - Personal story: tell about a time when God (or your mom?) told you to do something difficult or something that you didn't want to do – how did you react?
 - saddled donkey, took servants and son
 - would've had to also prepare food/water/camping gear for four people for three days (*22:4 “on the third day”*)
 - cut wood for the burnt offering
 - of his SON! Can you imagine?!
 - could've had servants do it
 - set out for place God told him about
 - went on a journey he didn't want to go on
 - also the site of Solomon's temple, where many sacrifices would've occurred (*2 Chron. 3:1*)
- Genesis 22:11-12
 - Heard the voice!
 - We can get so caught up in our own grief or our own mission and follow through that we can't stop/don't see what God is offering
- Promise Point
 - vv. 15-18

GOSPEL & RESPONSE

- New Testament Parallels

- Gen. 22:2 – only son, sacrifice
 - John 3:16
- Gen. 22:3 – Abraham prepared for/set out on a journey he didn't want to take
 - Luke 9:51
- Gen. 22:6 – Abraham put wood on Isaac to carry up the mountain to be sacrificed
 - John 19:17
 - Obedience to father
 - Luke 22:42
 - Philippians 2:8
- Gen. 22:13
 - ram's horns stuck in the thicket
 - head wrapped in thorns – Mark 15:17
 - lamb sacrificed in Isaac's place
 - Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed in ours
 - John 1:29

- Gospel Message

- We are all sinners, separated from God
- The only way to God is through the perfect reconciling sacrifice of Jesus
- When we confess Christ as Lord, we are forgiven, redeemed, saved
- We are WANTED by God
 - He has pursued us since Genesis 3 (*Gen. 3:8-9 – God came looking for them – He already knew what had happened*)
 - To the point of becoming one of us (*John 1:14*)
 - Luke 19:1-10
 - v. 10 – Son of Man came to seek and save
 - v. 9 – Zacchaeus called “son of Abraham”
 - even though excommunicated from temple/society (*because of his job - Matthew 18:17: “cut off”*)
 - by being a man of faith
 - like Abraham, righteousness comes from believing God
 - (*see Day Two chapel*)
 - Gen. 15:6
 - James 2:23

- Response
 - Genesis 22:1, 11 – God calls name, Abraham responds “here I am”
 - What about you?
 - Ready to obey?
 - Ready to surrender?

WRAP UP

- Promise Point/Memory Verse: John 14:23
 - Act in obedience out of love
 - Reward: Father will love, Father & Son will come to, make home with
 - Presence of God WITH and IN us – the greatest reward we could want!!
- Remind campers to talk to any staff at any time with further questions