

Lesson 4

Sermon Review: A is for Abraham



Read Genesis 12:1–3 and 15:1–21

1. God makes stunning promises to Abraham in 12:1–3 and then again expanded in 15:1–20. What did Abram do to receive such a blessing?
2. What is the purpose of God blessing Abram and making his descendent as numerous as the stars of the sky? Why might Abram have a difficult time believing this?
3. Read Genesis 15:6. Why does God consider Abraham’s faith as the basis for a right relationship with him rather than his good deeds? Highlight, underline, and asterisk this verse in your Bible!
4. Describe a situation where you had to leave a circumstance, place, or relationship. How was your relationship with God challenged, grown or strengthened through the experience of leaving?
5. Read Hebrews 11: 8-12. The author of Hebrews describes the faith of Abraham. How does Abraham exercise faith? How would you define faith based on the example of Abraham and Sarai?

The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1–14)

Read Genesis 22:1-14

6. The first line of this story tells us what this story is all about, that “God tested Abram.” What is the purpose of a test? Who does a test benefit, the one who gives it or the one who takes it?
7. How many times is the father-son relationship mentioned in this story? Why do you think the author seems to emphasize this relationship so much?

8. Observe and record the places in this passage where Abraham's faith is displayed in spite of difficult or challenging circumstances.
9. Abraham answers Isaac's question about the missing lamb in verse 8, saying that "God will provide for himself the lamb." What does this reveal about Abraham's faith?
10. Verse 10 says that Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son, chilling words. Did Abraham intend to go through with it?
11. This passage is wrought with intense emotion between a father and his son. Why is the relationship between Abraham and Isaac particularly important?
12. Look for the glimmer of the gospel in Abraham's offering up his son Isaac, a story that foreshadows God's offering up His beloved Son (John 3:16). In Genesis 22 record where you find the following three elements: a son that is beloved, the climax of the story, and a substitute that saves.
13. Abraham was told to go to the land of Moriah (the place of God's seeing), twice "lifting up his eyes" towards the provisions of God. How is Abraham's passing the test related to seeing through God's eyes and not his own? What danger are we in when we see with our own eyes and not those of God?
14. The man and woman failed the test in the garden, as did others including Abraham himself prior this test with Isaac. Noteworthy is that Abraham does not credit himself for passing the test. He says that God is the one who provides (see verses 8 and 14). What does that mean for us when we consider our own faith in Jesus Christ?

Read John 1:14 and Romans 8:32

15. Jesus passed every test of obedience to the Father in his earthly life, even to the point of death on the cross. How do these two New Testament verses contribute to our understanding of this story about Abraham and Isaac? What it is that the Lord will provide?