

Cultivate Genesis Study  
Chapter 22

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 22 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Genesis 22:1,2

God put Abraham's faith to the *test*. He did not *tempt* Abraham. Hebrews 11:17

The word tested in Hebrew is *nash*, it means to test or try and, most of the time it is translated "prove." In Chapter 12, God called on Abram to give up his past and trust in Him. Now in Chapter 22, he challenges Abraham to trust Him for his future. So far Abraham has **proven** faithful to God from Ur to Moriah the place of sacrifice. God is building Abraham's character; God is also building your character.

In what ways do you believe God is stretching you to develop your character right now?

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Read Zechariah 13:9, John 6:5-6, James 1:3, Psalm 11:5 and Psalm 66:10 about testing.

Then read James 1:13-14, Matthew 4:1, Hebrews 2:18 and Hebrews 4:15 about temptation.

1. What differences do these verses show about the two?

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Abraham was to be the Father of a great nation that will bring the Messiah. What if he loved Isaac more than God? What kind of example would that be?

In this life we are tested. When things get particularly bad, we may start to lose hope or think that God has abandoned us. Isn't that what 'the tempter' would like us to believe?

Instead of being 'tempted' when you are 'tested' be 'trusting'.

2. Search your Bible for the word 'trust' and write down 3 verses that speak to you.

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Vs 2 "He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.""

After Ishmael was cast out, Isaac was Abraham's only son. But, Isaac was also the only son that God promised. The son that would begin the descendants more numerous than the stars.

Genesis 15:5

"*whom you love*"- How interesting that this is the first mention of *love* in the Bible. It was not used in describing Adam and Eve, or for Eve's feelings for her sons, not even a description for Abraham's relationship with his beautiful wife, Sarah.

It was describing a father's love for his son, his only son. The same son who was a picture of the Christ. The Christ who was the only Son of God, whom God had to sacrifice on your behalf. We should never forget how much it pained the Father, to turn his back on His beloved Jesus, as all our sins were *transferred* on to Him, when He took our punishment on the cross.

Like Abraham, we can love, but incompletely. Because of our sin nature, human love is imperfect; and we cannot love as fully as God loves.

Do you need a reminder that God loves you with the same intensity that He loves Jesus? Who else do you know that needs to be reminded of that truth? Share it!

Yet, it was still a great testing for Abraham to be told to give up his son. Can you imagine being asked the same? How does your faith hold up when God asks much less of you?

Read Luke 16:10, Luke 6:46

"Loving God more than anyone or anything else is the very foundation of being a disciple. If you want to live your Christian life to its fullest, then love Jesus more than anyone or anything else".

-Greg Laurie

Now Read John 14:15

Read Genesis 22:5 Abraham told the servants, "We will return to you."

Abraham in the mist of such turmoil within himself said "We will **worship** then come back to you." This promise of Abraham speaks volumes. He was not lying to the men; he really believed that both he and Isaac would return. He knew that God always keeps His promises (Isaac was the son of promise.)

Read Hebrews 11:17-19

**Worship** is not just singing hymns, giving testimonies, going to church, listening to Bible studies, true worship is simply bowing down to God's will.

“We must bow down to His will and accept it with thanksgiving. Abraham and Isaac indeed *were* going to worship God. Not understanding, but believing, they were willing to do His will. This submission to God’s will in an ultimate act of worship pictures beautifully the work of Christ.” -Henry Morris

Read Matthew 26:39 and Hebrews 5:8 and John 19:30.

Scripture does not reveal how old Isaac was when he was taken on the three days journey to Moriah.

Since in Vs 6,7 Abraham laid the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac. He was not a small child. There had to be enough wood provided to burn the body to ashes. This would suggest he was older.

Isaac asking where the lamb for the sacrifice is, showed that he was old enough and accustomed to seeing his father make that kind of offering to the Lord.

You can learn more about the process of burnt offerings in Leviticus 1:1-9

Genesis 22:8, *“Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.”*

Read John 1:29 Luke 22:7, 1Peter 1:17-19, Revelation 5:6, Revelation 17:17

3. How do these verses show that Isaac was a picture of Jesus; and how He fulfilled Abraham’s prophecy in Genesis 22:8?

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4. In Genesis 22:9, considering the supposed age of Isaac as a young man, and Abraham’s old age; should we believe that Isaac laid down willingly, to be bound? How would that further point to him being a picture of Christ? What verses can you find that show Jesus willingly laid down His life?

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May the Lord give us strength to submit completely and fully to the will of our Father in heaven as an act of worship. Isaac willingly went with his father; God did not force His Son to die on the cross. “God Himself will provide the lamb.”

Pray for God to give you opportunities to share with others the Lamb that God provided for the whole world.

Read John 10:17,18.

Unbelievers might be angry at God's "cruelty" when Abraham and Isaac are on Mt Moriah. How frequently this happens when people are ignorant of Scripture and the lessons it teaches us. If just a verse or two is read in a chapter how easily a person can take it out of context and twist it to fit their agenda.

Using what you have learned, write out how you could explain the beauty of this illustration [and what it points to] to an unbeliever/skeptic.

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Read Genesis 22:10-12

The Angel of the Lord (Jesus) called out "Abraham, Abraham", in an urgent manner. Knowing that Abraham was obedient in his heart, He stops him from the final action. Isaac was spared.

Vs13-14 *"Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."*

From Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

"It was not God's intention that Isaac should actually be sacrificed, yet nobler blood than that of animals, in due time, was to be shed for sin, even the blood of the only begotten Son of God.

...Christ was sacrificed in our stead, as this ram instead of Isaac, and his death was our discharge. And observe, that the temple, the place of sacrifice, was afterwards built upon this same mount Moriah; and Calvary, where Christ was crucified, was near.

The Lord provided the offering "in the place of his son/ instead of his son"

Back in Genesis 3:21, God made the first substitutional atonement, when He provided animal skins to cover Adam and Eve, after their disobedience.

Here, God is making the substitutional atonement, providing the ram to take the place of Isaac in the sacrifice.

In Leviticus 16, the Lord commands Moses to the observance of the Day of Atonement.

All of these were temporary solutions until Jesus came and became the genuine substitutional atonement for all. 1John 2:2, 1John 4:10.

5. What is the definition of atonement or propitiation?

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Genesis 22:15-19

Vs 17, 18

Is there anything the Lord is asking you to give up?

Look up verses on obey and choose one that speaks to you. \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 18 the word obeyed is used for the first time in Scripture. Obedience is the evidence of faith.

Barnes Notes

“An oath with God is a solemn pledging of himself in all the unchangeableness of his faithfulness and truth, to the fulfillment of his promise. The multitude of his seed has a double parallel in the stars of heaven and the sands of the ocean. They are to possess the gate of their enemies; that is, to be masters and rulers of their cities and territories. The great promise, "and blessed in thy seed shall be all the nations of the earth," “

Genesis 22:19

Pastor Chuck Smith noted, “Where was Isaac? It says, Abraham returned to his young men and they rose up and went to Beersheba. But then, what about Isaac? Where's Isaac? It's interesting it doesn't say Isaac, does it? In fact, it's interesting that you're not going to read anymore about Isaac for awhile. And it's interesting that the next time you'll read about Isaac is when the servant is bringing his bride to him. (In Genesis 24:63-67) He is out in the field meditating and he rises up and goes out to meet his bride. Even as Jesus after His sacrifice ascended into heaven and He's just waiting now for the Holy Spirit to bring His bride. And He's waiting actually, as the Bible said, until His enemies are made His footstool, until all things are brought in subjection, until the Holy Spirit brings His bride.”

Genesis 22:20-24

We are given a brief genealogy of Abraham's brother, Nahor, (Read Genesis 11:29) to give us some background on his granddaughter Rebekah, who will become Isaac's bride.

Nahor may have been blessed with a large family, but Abraham's son will be the blessing of all the nations of the earth.