

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Winter Semester - Week 9

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*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the ones that are not, and let the conversation flow naturally.*

#### OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER(S)

- a) If someone gave you \$5000 to do something to your house / apartment, what would you do?
- b) What was your favourite thing about school growing up?

#### PASSAGE AND DISCUSSION

##### Read Genesis 22

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage?
- b) Throughout the journey of Abraham's walk with God there have been many ups and downs; at times he has displayed his lack of trust in God by trying to take control of his circumstances, and other times God has honoured him for his faith. In today's passage we see Abraham obey God in the most challenging matter for which he has ever had to trust God, which God prepared him for in earlier times. Looking at your life, can you see how God prepared you for key moments of trust and faith in your walk with Him?
- c) Why do you think Abraham was so willing to obey God in this extremely difficult task?
- d) Read **v1**. Does it make this story more palatable, when we see that God didn't intend for Isaac to die, but was just testing Abraham?
- e) Read **James 1:3-4, 12**. In the Bible, a 'test' was seen not as pass or fail, but to prove someone's character. Does knowing this change how you understand why God tested Abraham?
- f) How would you respond to someone who tried to use this text to question the love and / or character of God?
- g) Read **v5** and **Hebrews 11:19**. What is going on in Abraham's head, as he carries out the sacrifice of his son?
- h) Discuss the similarities between Abraham and God the Father, and between Isaac and Jesus. What is *not* similar?

- i) Read **v14**. Mount Moriah appears in **2 Chronicles 3:1** as the place that Solomon built the first temple, and some scholars believe that Jesus died on the cross on or near Mt. Moriah. How does Abraham naming this place “The Lord will Provide” foreshadow the things that God will accomplish on this mountain later on?
- j) Read **Ephesians 1:4**. What is the significance of the foreshadowing of the death and resurrection of Christ in the story of Abraham and his only son Isaac?
- k) What is the biggest difference between this passage and the story of the crucifixion?
- l) What does this passage tell us about the love of God? How does the story of Abraham’s sacrifice proclaim the love and mercy of God in Christ?
- m) Is there anything else that stood out to you as significant in the text and / or the message on Sunday?

### **TAKE IT HOME (OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESPONSE THIS WEEK)**

- a) Read one or more of the following passages this week, which are all gospel accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus; **Mark 15:15-47, John 19:16-42, Matthew 27:26-66, and Luke 23:24-56**. Take time to reflect on the significance of God sacrificing His only Son for you, worship and praise God for His love in your life.
- b) Write down the things that you hold dearest to yourself. Reflect on the fact that God loves you more than you love any of those things / people.

### **OPTIONAL IDEAS FOR PRAYER TIME**

- a) Praise and thank God in pop-corn style group prayer.
- b) Thank God for His intentionality - that He ordained our salvation before the world was created.