

5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional invites you to slow down with Genesis 22 and the life of Abraham, letting God's Word search your faith with both honesty and hope. As you reflect, you'll see how God grows steadfast trust over time, calls us beyond "plan B" living, and points us to His ultimate provision in Jesus.

Day 1

Genesis 22:1-3

Genesis 22 begins with a clear but unsettling statement: God tested Abraham. The sermon reminded us that a test isn't given to harm us, but to reveal and confirm what we say we believe. Abraham's simple response—"Here I am"—shows an available heart: he is listening, present, and willing to receive God's direction even before he knows the cost.

Abraham's obedience is striking because it is immediate and practical: he rose early, prepared, and went. This is the essence of the sermon's definition of faith—believing what God has said and acting upon it. The question is not whether Abraham had feelings or questions, but whether he trusted God enough to take the next obedient step.

This passage also frames the deeper challenge: what happens when God's call touches what you love most? Abraham's journey exposes the difference between holding God as a part of life and trusting Him as Lord over all of life. Real faith does not deny the difficulty; it submits to God's voice and begins to walk.

- Where do you sense God inviting you to say, in a fresh way, "Here I am"?
- What is one next step of obedience you already know God has asked of you, even if it feels costly?
- When you picture God "testing" faith, what emotions or assumptions rise up in you, and why?
- What would "plan B" living look like in your current situation, and how might it keep you from trust?
- Pray a simple prayer of availability today: ask God to make you attentive, responsive, and willing.

Day 2

Hebrews 11:8-10

Abraham's story didn't start on Mount Moriah—it started decades earlier with a call to leave what was familiar. The sermon highlighted that Abraham came from a pagan household and a comfortable past, yet God met him and moved him forward. Faith often begins when God disrupts our sense of control and asks us to follow without seeing the full map.

Hebrews says Abraham went out “not knowing where he was going.” That kind of trust is not naïve optimism; it's a settled confidence in God's character. The life of faith is frequently lived in tents—temporary places, uncertain seasons, and unanswered questions—while learning that God is steady even when circumstances are not.

This day builds on the first: availability becomes movement. If yesterday was “Here I am,” today is “I will go.” God grows Abraham-like faith by teaching us to release the illusion that we need full clarity before we obey. Trust deepens when we learn that God's presence is better than our predictability.

- What is one “comfortable” thing (routine, identity, security) that might be keeping you from deeper obedience?
- Where are you demanding clarity from God before you'll move, and what would it look like to take one faithful step anyway?
- How has God used a past transition or uncertain season to grow your trust?
- What is one way you can practice “living in tents” spiritually—holding your plans with open hands this week?
- Write down one promise of God you can cling to when you don't know the full outcome.

Day 3

James 1:2-4

The sermon emphasized that Genesis 22 comes “after these things”—after years of walking with God, including failures, delays, and moments of fear. James helps us interpret that process: trials test faith, and tested faith produces steadfastness. God is not casually adding pain; He is patiently forming maturity that cannot be built any other way.

Abraham's earlier “plan B” moments—trying to force outcomes, manage risk, or protect himself—didn't disqualify him, but they did expose where trust needed to grow. Over time, God used waiting and disappointment to strengthen Abraham's

obedience. The point is not that strong faith never struggles; it's that real faith returns to God again and again and learns to stand firm.

If you feel like your faith should be further along by now, Abraham offers hope: God grows people over decades, not moments. Steadfastness is formed when you keep choosing God in the middle of unresolved tension. Your current trial may not be proof that God is absent; it may be evidence that God is at work.

- What trial or pressure is currently revealing what you most rely on—God, control, approval, comfort, or something else?
- Where have you seen “plan B” instincts show up in your life when you feel anxious or delayed?
- How might God be using this season to grow steadfastness rather than simply remove discomfort?
- What would returning to God today look like in one specific decision, conversation, or habit?
- Ask God for endurance: pray that your faith would become steadier, not just your circumstances easier.

Day 4

Genesis 22:7-8

Isaac's question pierces the story: “Where is the lamb?” The sermon highlighted Abraham's response as a milestone of mature faith: “God will provide.” Abraham doesn't claim to understand everything, and he doesn't pretend the cost is small. He anchors himself in what he knows about God—His faithfulness to keep promises.

This is where “plan B” living is confronted most directly. Abraham had learned that when God has spoken, manipulation is unnecessary and disobedience is too costly. Mature faith can walk up the mountain with wood on its back and still believe that God is not a liar. It trusts that the God who calls for surrender also remains responsible for provision.

This day builds on steadfastness by naming its fruit: trust that speaks. When fear asks, “How will this work out?” faith answers, “God will provide.” Even if you cannot see the solution, you can practice Abraham-like faith by refusing to make an idol out of your preferred outcome and by placing the unknown into God's hands.

- What question are you asking God right now that sounds like “Where is the lamb?” (provision, timing, healing, direction)?
- In what area do you feel tempted to force an outcome instead of trusting God's provision?

- How can you replace anxious self-talk with one simple faith statement: “God will provide”?
- What is one thing you need to lay down because you’ve treated it as non-negotiable?
- Take five minutes today to list past moments when God provided for you in ways you didn’t expect.

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:21

Genesis 22 points beyond itself. The sermon drew the line clearly: a father, an only son, love, sacrifice, Mount Moriah—yet God stops Abraham and provides a substitute. The story reveals God’s holiness and mercy, and it also foreshadows the day when God would not withhold His own Son. Where Abraham is spared from finishing the sacrifice, God goes through with it for our salvation.

This is the heart of the gospel: Jesus is the true Lamb who takes away sin, and His sacrifice is not an example of human striving but God’s gracious provision. Faith is not earning righteousness; it is receiving God’s gift and living in response. Because Christ became sin for us, we can be counted righteous—free to obey not to be loved, but because we are loved.

This final day calls for a whole-life response: surrender without withholding. If God has given His beloved Son for you, then nothing you offer Him is a loss without hope. Abraham-like faith ultimately rests here—God is trustworthy, God provides, and God’s love is proven at the cross.

- What does it change in your daily life to know God did not withhold His Son from you?
- Where are you still withholding something from God (a relationship, a habit, a future plan, a hidden fear)?
- How can your obedience this week become a response to grace rather than an attempt to earn God’s approval?
- Who needs to hear a message of God’s provision and forgiveness from you, and how will you reach out?
- Pray a prayer of surrender: name one specific area and entrust it to God, asking for courage to trust and obey.

Sermon Blog

When Faith Grows Up: Lessons from Abraham's Journey

This past Sunday, we walked through one of the most profound—and challenging—stories in all of Scripture: Abraham's test in Genesis 22. If you've ever struggled to understand why God would ask Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, you're not alone. Yet, as we unpacked this passage together, we discovered a faith that wasn't born in a moment, but forged over decades—a faith that points us not just to Abraham's story, but to the heart of God and the hope we have in Christ.

A Faith That Grows Through the Years

Abraham's journey wasn't a straight line of success. He started as Abram, a man from a pagan family in Ur, with little knowledge of the true God. God called him out, gave him promises that seemed impossible, and patiently grew Abraham's faith through both victories and failures. As the sermon reminded us, "Genesis 12 Abraham is not the same as Genesis 22 Abraham." Decades of waiting, doubting, and even trying his own "plan B's" (remember Hagar and Ishmael?) brought Abraham to a deeper trust. Real faith isn't instant. It's grown through the "testing of your faith" (James 1:2-3), through seasons of both doubt and obedience.

Obedience When It Costs Everything

When God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, it wasn't just about a test for test's sake. Abraham had waited 100 years for this son, the child of promise. Through Isaac, God would fulfill His word. And yet, God asks Abraham to lay down the very thing he loved most. The sermon highlighted something powerful: "Abraham-like faith would say, 'I don't care what it will cost me.'" True faith acts. It moves beyond mental agreement and steps forward in obedience, even when we can't see the outcome.

No More "Plan B" Living

Many of us can relate to Abraham's earlier years—holding onto backup plans, trying to help God keep His promises on our terms. But as Abraham's faith matured, he learned that God's word is enough. "I'm tired of my plan Bs," the sermon challenged. "Abraham learned that I don't need a plan B when God has spoken a promise." How many times do we hedge our trust, holding back what's most precious? God calls us to surrender—not just our sins, but our dreams, our futures, our very hearts.

God's Provision Points to the Cross

One of the sermon's most moving insights is how Abraham's story points us straight to Jesus. On Mount Moriah, as Abraham raised the knife, God intervened—not to affirm child sacrifice, but to show He is utterly different from the false gods of Abraham's world. God provided a ram, a substitute, for Isaac. This act foreshadows the moment when, on another hill in Jerusalem, God would not withhold His own Son. Jesus carried the wood of the cross, became the true Lamb, and "He who did not spare His own Son...will He not also graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Where Is God Growing Your Faith?

This story isn't just about Abraham—it's about us. The question isn't whether we have perfect faith, but whether we are letting God grow our faith through the ups and downs of life. Are we willing to obey, even when it costs us? Are we willing to lay down our "plan Bs" and trust that God will provide?

The sermon closed with a challenge: "Lord, may we trust and obey you this morning in what you've shown us and taught us from your word. Like the old song says, 'Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus.'"

May we be people whose faith grows deeper every year, who trust God's promises even when we can't see, and who point the world to the God who did not spare His own Son for us.

Reflect:

What is God asking you to lay down in faith this week? Where do you need to trust His promises and act, even if you can't see the outcome?

Let's be people of Abraham-like faith: faith that grows, that obeys, and that points others to Jesus, our true Lamb.