

“The Sacrifice of Isaac”
Genesis 22:1-24
For the week of March 21, 2021

The Test

Read Genesis 22:1-8. What was Abraham's test? What did God command Abraham to do?

What's in a Name?

Now read Genesis 17:5. In the Old Testament, names were often given for their meaning. What does “Abraham” mean? Was Abraham encouraged by this change of name? Why or why not?

Just for fun: What does your first name mean? Share with your group!

Obey?

Abraham may have been confused, even shocked that God was asking him to do this. Why? Read Genesis 17:15-21; 22:2.

How willing was Abraham to obey God's command? Remember, Abraham has already sent Ishmael away. How would God fulfill His promises with both Isaac and Ishmael gone? How do you see Abraham take deliberate steps of faith to obey God (Genesis 22:3)?

If you were in Abraham's “shoes,” how would you respond to this? Why?

“The Lord will provide”

Read Genesis 22:9-14. In dramatic fashion, just as Abraham is about to slay his son, God intervenes. What name does Abraham give to the place? Share one example in your life where God provided, especially in an unexpected way. How did this life event impact your faith?

Testing & Faith

Read James 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7. How do you benefit from testing? Share a time in your life when your faith has been tested. What did you learn about God during this time?

Here is something to think about as you read this account: Isaac was not a small child, but rather a young man. What faith did Isaac demonstrate once he knew his father's intention to harm him (Genesis 22:9)? What was God's purpose in this test (Genesis 22:12)?

Read Genesis 22:13-19. What stopped Abraham from carrying out his son's sacrifice? What was provided instead? We often hear the phrase “to step out in faith.” Obviously, this a great example. How is faith increased when faced with a difficult situation, or a trial? Discuss in your group.

Read Hebrews 11:17-19. How was Abraham's faith increased from the incident with Isaac?

Isaac and Jesus

In what ways does the sacrifice of Isaac look forward to the sacrifice of Jesus?

- Genesis 22:2, 12
- John 3:16
- Romans 8:32

God's Promise & Provision

Looking through where we have been so far in Genesis, fill in the chart below. Write at least one promise and how God provided.

Person

Promise

Provision

Abraham

Sarah

Isaac

Hagar

Ishmael

From this look at these characters, what did you discover about God? How does this impact you today?

Read Romans 4:20-21. Abraham was at times not unlike us today, forgetful of how faithful and trustworthy God is to the promises He has made. What can you do to strengthen your faith in the promises of God like Abraham did?

Nahor's Sons

Read Genesis 22:20-24. With Isaac's future secure, this narrative shows us an important pedigree of his future wife Rebekah. Why do you think the author took the time to show us Nahor's family lineage, specifically Rebekah?

Pray

Are you being tested today? Are you asking God for a way out or listening for the way it may teach you to deepen your dependency on Him? Pray for the following:

- For each other and the tests being faced.
- For faith to obey in all circumstances, holding nothing back.

Finally, give thanks and praise for His provisions in your life!