

SURRENDER TO ME
AND MULTIPLY
GENESIS 22:1-18



CONNECT

What is the one thing you care about the most?

WORD

Genesis 22:1-3, 10-12, 15-18 (ESV) - ¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him...¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me..."¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

WHAT**What does the Bible say?**

Here we have one of the most challenging and amazing passages of scripture in the Bible. After decades of waiting on God's promises, Abraham has finally seen the promise fulfilled. He has his son! Everything is falling into place. Isaac is growing into a fine young man. Most scholars agree that he is about 15 years old at the time of this passage. Abraham is coming near to the end of his life, but he knows that God will continue his family line and fulfill his promise to multiply his descendants through his son.

Then, the unthinkable happens. God calls to Abraham and tells him that he will have to sacrifice Isaac to prove his obedience and reveal his faith. This test is profoundly unfair. Most of us wouldn't even consider doing something like that. But Abraham's whole life has been about being tested and having his faith strengthened through trials and failures. He has been prepared for this test. Think about it, God could have given Abraham a son immediately and then whisked him away to the Promised Land the minute he agreed to follow him. Instead he had to wait 30-40 years for his son wandering along this circuitous journey fraught with dangers, heartbreaks and setbacks. But God did things the way that he did them because God was not just trying to take Abraham somewhere, he was trying to make Abraham into someone. What God was doing in Abraham was just as important as what he was doing through Abraham. And all of this faith building worked. Abraham powerfully demonstrates his willingness to give up everything to God including the thing that was most important to him.

Most of us know the rest of the story. Abraham sets out and along the way he repeatedly demonstrates his faith that God will keep his promise to him. He even tells his servants that he and Isaac will both be coming back from the mountain. Isaac also demonstrates his faith both in his father and in God. Abraham has done an excellent job of instilling faith in his son. After all, if Isaac was strong enough to carry the wood up the mountain he was certainly strong enough to overpower his frail old father and refuse to allow himself to be sacrificed but he makes no effort to resist.

Then in a beautiful moment filled with symbolism, the Angel of the Lord stops Abraham from killing Isaac and provides a ram as an alternative sacrifice. He reiterates his promise to Abraham and commends his faith and tells him that his faith will be multiplied to bless all the nations of the earth. This substitutionary sacrifice is echoed in the New Testament as God provides his own son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins.

SO WHAT

What is the relevance to my life?

- What really stood out to you in today's message and lesson? What would you like to discuss further with the group?
- In this passage we see the culmination of all of the work that God has been doing to build faith in Abraham's life. We see that what God was doing within Abraham was at least as important as what God was using Abraham to do. God desires not just to take us to heaven. He wants to put the kingdom of heaven into us. How has God used testing and trials in your life to bring you closer to him and change you from the inside out?

- Isaac was the only thing that could possibly have rivaled God in Abraham's affections. Not surprisingly, this was the very thing that God required Abraham to be willing to give up in order to reveal his faith. What aspect of your life is your Isaac? What does God want you to be willing to sacrifice for his service?
- Abraham was willing to give up the son that he had waited for his entire life. Isaac was very literally his future and his hope, yet he was willing to give that up for God's service. When God asks you to give up something much less important like your time or your money, how will you respond?

NOW WHAT How do I apply the word to my life?



How does this lesson change the way you think about sacrifice? Why did God choose this moment to bring this lesson to you?



What has God laid on your heart with this lesson? How does understanding Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac change the way you feel about God and allowing him to multiply you for his service?



What does God want you to do differently this week as a result of this lesson? What specific plan will you put in place to sacrifice for God's service? What will you give up to God so it can be multiplied for him?

How can we help you and hold you accountable? How can we pray for you? What can we do to show our love for you this week? Who do you know that needs to hear this lesson?

4 Who can you share it with?