



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Abraham's Test

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print it to study on your own or use it in a group to experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Abraham's Test

Prayer Focus

"Father God, quiet my mind and steady my heart. Help me lay down my assumptions, distractions, and defenses so I can receive Your truth with humility. As I hear Your Word today, let me see Your faithfulness and Your love revealed in Jesus. Shape my intentions, sharpen my understanding, and draw me closer to You. in Jesus name, Amen."

Key Truths

There is a cost to bringing the message of the Gospel to the world.

A covenant and a contract are very different. In a relational covenant, you surrender your rights; in a transactional contract, you protect them. God made a covenant with Abraham, giving him access to all that He had. The promises established through that covenant are for us as well—we are Abraham's seed. Healing is one of the blessings secured for us through that promise, along with every New Testament promise that is described for us as we are "in Christ."

God needed to know that Abraham would remain faithful to the covenant. He asked Abraham to offer his son. Today, we see something like this as atrocious. Unfortunately, culturally, this practice was very normal for people to offer their children as sacrifices to their deities. In a way, God is speaking a language that people would understand. The beautiful thing about this scenario is that God would not accept this sacrifice today, and He didn't then either. He asked this of Abraham as a mirror to what He Himself would do one day by actually giving His own Son to fulfill prophecy and save the world. It was a promise and a type of what was to come. Just as Abraham looked forward and saw the day that God promised, and just as Jesus looked forward through the cross and saw the redemption of the entire world, we can look forward through our own days in joyful anticipation of all that God has promised us.

We can be sure that God is sure to do what He says. We can be certain that we can come before God and receive exactly what He has promised us. We don't have to wish we were in a different time or location to be closer to God to receive from Him. He's already our loving Father who gives good gifts and exactly what we need. His blessing comes on us through Christ, and that promise cannot be broken.

Practical Application

The Bible says that if we are faithful with little, we will be faithful with much. This doesn't paint God as some sadistic overlord up in Heaven, dangling things before us to see if we really mean what we say. It's an announcement, foreshadowing, and a promise. As we prove ourselves faithful with what is asked of us, we're producing evidence that we will be faithful with more, and the more shows up. Our Father God longs to see His blessings in our lives, but He knows the true blessings will only show up as we are faithful because that is where the blessings are realized and grasped—in faithfulness.

Has God asked you to be faithful in something that you've neglected, forgotten, or abandoned? Maybe there's something you are remaining faithful in but have yet to see what He has promised. Just like Abraham looked forward, saw God's day, and was glad, we too can anticipate what we know is coming and rejoice.

Take time today to ask God to show you where you have been faithful thus far, asking Him to strengthen you to continue in that faithfulness and to show you a picture of the day He has promised you. There will be areas of unfaithfulness in our lives, as there have been with all heroes of the faith. But God says that He is faithful even when we are faithless. When we rely on Him, He will strengthen us where we feel weak. In our weakness, He is strong, and that's encouraging. Thank Him for it.

Reference Verses

- Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-18, 22:1-15
- Colossians 1:24
- Galatians 3:13-17, 3:29
- Luke 13:10-16
- Hebrews 4:16, 6:15-19
- Romans 3:20
- Psalms 136:1-3

Declarations:

- "I choose faithfulness today, whether or not I see the full picture. I trust God's character more than my own understanding."
- "I fix my eyes on Jesus, the fulfillment of every promise and the proof of God's love."
- "I believe that every promise God has made in Christ is for me, and He is faithful to fulfill it."
- "I will not hold back what God asks of me; my heart is open and willing."
- "I align my heart with God's purposes, not my comfort."
- "I believe that God provides what I need as I follow Him faithfully."
- "I walk in the blessing of the covenant God established—healing, wholeness, and belonging in Christ."

What's Next?

Here are three daily applications that you can use to help you walk in these truths:

1. Step Out in "Unknown" Faith

Abraham was called to leave his home for a land he hadn't seen yet. Faith isn't a place we visit; it's where we live.

- **The Practice:** Identify one area where you feel uncertain or "in the dark." Instead of demanding a map of the future, offer God your "yes" for the next immediate step. Remind yourself: *"I don't need to see everything to trust the One who sees all."*

2. Drive Away the "Vultures"

In Genesis, Abraham had to physically shoo away birds of prey to protect his sacrifice. In your daily life, "vultures" are the thoughts of doubt, fear, or condemnation that try to steal God's promises from your heart.

- **The Practice:** When a thought arises that contradicts God's Word (like "I'm not good enough" or "God has forgotten me"), consciously "push it back." Use your authority in Jesus' name to refocus on the truth that the covenant is based on His performance, not yours.

3. Anchor Your Soul in *Hesed* (Covenant Love)

The message highlights that God's *Hesed* - His loyal, covenant love - endures forever. He hasn't just promised to stay; He has sworn by Himself that He will never turn His heart away from you.

- **The Practice:** End your day by approaching the "Throne of Grace" with boldness. Don't come as a beggar, but as a covenant partner. Ask for "well-timed help" for tomorrow, and rest in the fact that because Jesus walked through the pieces, your standing with God is secure.