

1. It is not clear how old Isaac was in Gen 22. He might have been a man and not a child. But that doesn't blunt the horror of what God asked Abraham to do. How could God not just condone but command something so heinous as child sacrifice (Gen 22)? More to the point: what are we supposed to do with troubling questions like these in Scripture?
2. The four examples of the faith of the patriarchs are uneven: some are clear examples of trusting in God's promises, and some are not so clear. Especially, how do we handle Jacob blessing his sons when his preference (that he prioritize his favorite Esau) was taken away by subterfuge (Jacob and Rebekah's ruse)?

[illegible]

1. What are some of the means God used to sustain your hope in those dark days (His Word, His people, the inner comfort of the Spirit)?
2. What did you need to hear from your Christian brothers and sisters during those dark days?
3. What did you *not* need to hear from them?
4. How can you best serve brothers and sisters whose hope is fading?