



## Part 4: Final Exams

May 26 & 27, 2018

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### Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

<sup>12</sup> “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time

<sup>16</sup> and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

### Four Lessons from Genesis 22

1. God is God and we are not
2. God tests to reveal, not to ruin
3. God wants one response for you: obedience
4. God took his own test

### Next Steps

Like Abraham, you may be hearing God’s voice in your life, and you have the choice to obey or not. We have a few opportunities coming up that God may be whispering to you about (or shouting)! Consider these next steps:

**Stephen Ministry:** Maybe God is calling you to sacrifice some of your time and “care capacity” to walk alongside one other person experiencing a difficult season in life. Read in today’s program about upcoming Stephen Ministry information meetings.

**Marriage Workshop:** Whether your marriage is thriving, struggling, or anywhere in between, God may be telling you that he wants to help you make it better. Read about *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* in today’s program and register right away.

**Poverty Reconsidered Workshop:** If God has been stirring your heart around the topic of homelessness, don’t miss this workshop next Saturday, June 2. RSVP is required; details are in today’s program.

**Summer Service Projects:** Is God nudging you to look beyond your own needs to the needs of others? There are dozens of ways for small groups and individuals to serve our community partners this summer. Explore all the possibilities at [www.ctkserves.org](http://www.ctkserves.org).

### Small Group Questions

- 1) What is/was your approach for final exams? How did it work for you?
- 2) What’s the greatest life test you’ve faced? What did you learn?
- 3) Where do you find Jesus in this story of Abraham and Isaac?
- 4) In what way has God provided for you in the past months?
- 5) Can you find a way to celebrate and thank God for your recent tests and trials? Can you do that right now?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?