

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 2/12/2023

Genesis 22 Sacrifice of Isaac

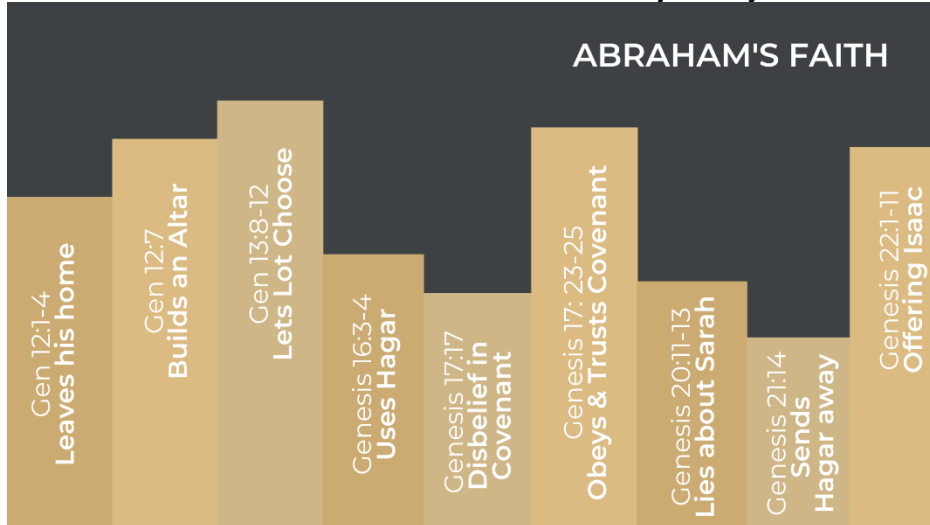
Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening question: Through the entire Covenant series we have said, “Through the entirety of Scripture, from Creation through Revelation, there is a common thread holding it all together and His name is Jesus” **Are you seeing Him? When have you and when haven’t you. Do you have any thoughts or questions about this?**

Highlights

- Genesis 22:1-2: Three questions:
 - Why is God testing Abraham?
 - Why a child sacrifice?
 - What is meant by ‘your only son’
- Why is God testing Abraham? **What are your thoughts on this?**
 - Abraham has been on a roller-coaster of faith journey with God.



- **Tell about a faith roller coaster you’ve been on. How was it when you were on the mountains and how was it when you were in the valleys?**
- God is testing Abraham, not because God needs to know how it’s going to turn out, but because God wants to make sure Abraham knows how this is going to turn out.
- You will be tested. And it is for your own good, your own growth.
- Why does God want Abraham to sacrifice his son?
 - Abraham would have been familiar with child sacrifice because he grew up in a pagan culture and God landed him in the Canaanite (also pagan) culture
 - It takes an over-the-top request on God’s part to really make it a test. It can’t be easy.
 - **Have you ever been tested by God in an extraordinary way?**
- What does God mean by ‘your only son’? Could be any/all of these or anything else:
 - Abraham sent his first son out in the desert to die, so Isaac is the only son left.
 - If Abraham (and Sarah) wouldn’t have tried to take things into their own hands and would have trusted God, Isaac *would* have been his only son.
 - Isaac is the only one through whom the covenant will be fulfilled (see Gen 21:12)
 - The Hebrew word translated as only is *yahid*, which can also mean unique or special. Isaac is the special son, the yahid son of God’s promise to Abraham.

- **What do you think?**
- The trip is 45 miles and Abraham is about 115-120 years old.
 - **Put yourself in the story. What are you talking about on the journey? What are you thinking?**
- Genesis 22:5 Abraham is trusting God. Even though he doesn't know how this is going to end, he believes God will keep his promise and Isaac will come back with him.
- Genesis 22:7-8 Abraham did not bring a lamb for the sacrifice. Again, trusting and relying on God. Something is changing in Abraham's heart.
 - **Tell about how God has changed your heart about something.**
- **Do you see Jesus?**
 - Sacrificial Lamb
 - The original Hebrew is more accurately translated, "God will present himself a lamb." Foreshadowing Jesus presenting himself as the lamb
 - Mt. Moriah – Temple (in Jerusalem) – Golgotha
 - Willingness of Isaac and of Jesus
- Genesis 22:10-12 God stopped Abraham when he made the decision to go through with it.
 - NOW I know...Abraham had passed the test
- Genesis 22:13-14 The LORD Will Provide – Jehovah Jireh
 - God is not a vending machine
 - Jireh or Yireh (Hebrew) means sees. Jehovah or Yahweh will see to it
 - When there is no other way, God sees to it. This is the way God provides.
 - By calling the mountain Jehovah Jireh, Abraham is proving his change of heart
 - Takes the focus off of himself and onto God
 - **Talk about when you have seen Jehovah Jireh in your life. When there was no other way, God saw to it.....**
 - Substitutionary Atonement: God provided the ram to take the place of Isaac.
 - When we were going to die in our sinful nature, God saw to it and provided Himself in Jesus, the only son, to take our place.
 - **God didn't have to pass a test. There is no substitute for Jesus. He is the substitute for us**
- Genesis 22:17-19 God restates/reconfirms the covenant, and Abraham makes the decision to stay in the Land God promised him

What do we learn about God and ourselves from Abraham and Isaac?

- Even when you are on a faith roller-coaster, God is still there with you and keeps His promises.
- Your faith will be tested, and it's for your own good/your own growth.
 - God knows how you will choose; He is seeing if YOU know!
- God is Jehovah Jireh: the LORD who provides; the LORD who sees to it
- When God tests you, you have a decision to make before, during and after
 - Before: Here I am (v.1)
 - During: ...he took the knife (v.10)
 - After: ...stayed in Beersheba (v. 19)

The Bottom Line

Where are you right now? On the roller-coaster of faith? In the middle of a test with a decision to make? Looking back after the test?

Prayer