Study 5: Trusting God

Read: Genesis 22:1–19
Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5–6

The Big Idea

Trusting God means believing He is faithful, even when we don't understand what He is doing.

Start Here

Have you ever had someone ask you to trust them without explaining why?

Maybe a parent told you to do something without giving you the full story. Maybe a coach made a decision you didn't understand. Or maybe you've been in a situation where you had to trust someone even though you weren't sure how things would turn out.

Trust can be difficult, especially when we don't understand what's happening.

Our relationship with God can sometimes feel the same way. It's easy to trust God when life is going well and His plans make sense to us. But what happens when following God seems difficult? What happens when His instructions don't line up with what we would choose for ourselves?

In Genesis 22, we see Abraham face one of the greatest tests of faith in Scripture.

Read Genesis 22:1–19

God asks Abraham to do something incredibly difficult: offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

This would have been almost impossible for Abraham to understand. Isaac was the son God had promised Abraham and Sarah. Through Isaac, God had promised to build a great nation.

Yet Abraham responds in obedience. As Abraham and Isaac travel toward the mountain, Isaac asks where the lamb for the sacrifice is. Abraham responds in Genesis 22:8: "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Abraham doesn't know exactly how God will provide, but he trusts that God will remain faithful.

At the last moment, the angel of the Lord stops Abraham. God provides a ram for the sacrifice, and Isaac is spared. Abraham names that place "The LORD Will Provide."

Abraham's faith wasn't based on understanding every detail of God's plan. It was based on knowing the character of the God he served.

Faith means trusting who God is, even when we don't understand what He is doing.

Talk About It

1. Why do you think it was so difficult for Abraham to obey God's command? What does his response teach us about faith?

2. When is it hardest for you to trust God? Think about situations involving your future, friendships, family, school, or circumstances you don't understand.

3. How can your decision to trust God influence the people around you?

Live It Out

One of the hardest parts of following Jesus is learning to trust Him when life doesn't go the way we planned.

Sometimes God calls us to do things that don't make sense to the world around us.

It might mean telling the truth when lying would be easier. It might mean maintaining your integrity when everyone else is cutting corners. It might mean remaining faithful in a promise or making a decision that isn't popular.

In those moments, we have to decide whether we trust our own understanding more than we trust God.

Take a few minutes and answer this question:

"What is one area of my life where I am struggling to trust God right now?"

It might be your future, a difficult situation at home, a friendship, or something you've been praying about without seeing an answer.

Share that area with one another and spend time praying about it.

Parents, this is a great opportunity to share a time when trusting God was difficult for you. Your teenager needs to see that faith isn't about having everything figured out. It's about continuing to trust God even when you don't.

Pray Together

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5–6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight."