



Sermon Discussion Guide for I AM Worship Church

Faith Under Fire

Pastor Mark Ogletree • Sunday, July 13th, 2025



We hope this material will continue to minister as the sermon was preached during our weekly worship service. When we receive God's Word at church, we need not only to hear the message, but we ought to walk it out in our daily lives. We should "be doers of the word, not only hearers." (James 1:22)

- Step 1: GET TOGETHER with your family or group.
- Step 2: REVIEW the key points and scriptures from the message.
- Step 3: SHARE with your group what God is saying to you through the message.
- Step 4: PRAY together, for each other and over each other to continue to walk this word out.

The Big Idea

When your faith is under fire, God is not trying to break you—He's refining you. Abraham's journey teaches us that faith is more than belief; it's active surrender, patient trust, and obedience in motion. From leaving the familiar to placing Isaac on the altar, Abraham's faith endured because he said "yes" to God even when it was hard. Your greatest blessings are often hidden behind your boldest steps of obedience. When life gets hot, your faith doesn't have to burn out—it can burn brighter.

Don't Miss This Point!

Read Genesis 22. Abraham responds to God's staggering request to sacrifice Isaac with "Here I am," a phrase that reflects surrendered readiness. Like a child eager to go without needing every detail, faith responds not with conditions but with obedience. Jesus said in **Matthew 18:3**, "Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom." When we stop trying to control everything and instead simply say, "Yes, Lord," we unlock peace, courage, and purpose—even in the fire.

Another Great Point!

Read Psalm 27:14. Abraham didn't delay when God gave him direction—he got up early and journeyed three days without full clarity. That's faith under fire: obeying without shortcuts. We're often tempted to settle for "good enough" instead of waiting for God's best. Abraham had learned this lesson the hard way when he rushed ahead with Hagar and birthed Ishmael instead of waiting for Isaac. But this time, he resisted the shortcut—and found God's ram in the thicket.

One Last Point!

Read James 1:2-4. The fire isn't punishment—it's preparation. The ram appears as Abraham completes his obedience. Trials produce endurance, and endurance leads to maturity. God doesn't waste your pain—He uses it to develop you. When you embrace the process, you open yourself up to the deeper work of God: joy that lasts, peace that surpasses understanding, and true identity in Christ.

Let's Be Doers!

Trust like a child, wait with patience, and embrace what God is doing in you. Journal what He's teaching you. Encourage someone else going through the fire. Let your pain become purpose. This week, when God nudges your heart, respond with "Here I am." That single "yes" may be the spark that reignites your faith and unlocks the blessing already stored in heavenly places for you (Ephesians 1:3).