

The Offering of Isaac

Hebrews 11:17-19

Isaac the Child of Promise

- The promises of God to Abraham were passed to his son

The Shocking Command

- First commanded to leave his land, Abraham is now commanded to leave his son
- Some commands only make sense when judged by God's character, promises, and outcomes only He can see

The Purposes of God

- Reminding us faith is refined when obedience is costly
- Displaying His role as our provider
- Supplying a powerful preview and stunning reflection
 - A preview of the testing of Jesus
 - A foreshadowing of Christ's sacrificial work
 - A preview of Jesus' victorious resurrection
- Pointing past this story to one more radical and wonderful

For Life Group Discussion

Hebrews 11:17-19

1. Have you come across stories in the Bible that shock or confuse? If so, what did you do? How would you advise a new Bible reader when they encounter these stories in scripture?
2. Read Gen 12:1-3 and 17:15-19. What does it mean that God will establish His covenant with Isaac? How important is it to know this backstory before you read Genesis 22 and Heb 11?
3. Read Mat 16:24-25. How does losing your life for Jesus' sake help you find it? How does this paradoxical command clash with current cultural values? How does the world tell us to "find our life"?
4. Read Gen 22:1-18 and Hebrews 11:17-19
 - In Hebrews Abraham is commended for this radical demonstration of faith. How does his previous experience with God prepare him? What has your previous experience with God been like?
 - Can you think of a time when God refined your faith through costly obedience? Describe your experience.
 - How do you see the work of Jesus reflected in these passages, both in His preparation for the cross, the cross itself, and the resurrection?
5. Does the story of God sending His own beloved Son to die on our behalf still shock and amaze you? Why or why not? If not, what can you do to rekindle your wonder?