

# Called By Name: "Abraham!"

December 20, 2020

**Scriptures:** Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19

**Bottom Line:** God speaks valuable lessons to us in testing

God is not just a concept, or a way of living. He is a real being: powerful, relational, personal. God wants to speak to you and get your attention.

How does God speak to us in testing? What can we learn?

## **Lessons from Abraham's Test (Genesis 22)**

- We don't get to choose the timing of the test
- We don't get to choose the nature of the test
- We won't always understand why
- This story foreshadows God sending His own Son
- God asks us to give Him everything

## **Lessons from Keziah's Health Journey**

- Choosing to trust without understanding why
- God is in control
- Life is a gift
- God will send people to help when you ask
- Bad things don't last forever

## **Response**

Choose to trust and be vulnerable even in hard times - God is speaking.

# LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Have you been tested in your faith? What did you learn from that experience?
3. How have faith and obedience been connected for you?
4. What are some things that God might ask of us that seem counter-intuitive?

# DIGGING DEEPER

## **Bible Project Video: The Test**

Does God test people? Trace the repeated theme of testing in the Bible and see how God determines the loyalty and trust of his covenant partners.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-test>

## **Bible Project Podcast: Dismantling the Tree**

Listen in as Tim and Jon discuss Noah, Abraham, and their moments of decision at trees on high places. (Available on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, and Spotify)

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/dismantling-tree>