



## Sermon Discussion Guide

07.23.23 Message | Joel Bates | Genesis 22

### Key Scripture:

*After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."*

*And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.*

*Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.*



## Message Highlights:

- Abraham follows God by faith
  - God shows Abraham the land of “legacy”
  - God makes big promises and fulfills them
  - God tests Abraham’s faith
  - Abraham is obedient to God
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## CONVERSATION STARTER

Have you ever been challenged to do something that was way outside your comfort zone or would potentially cause you to make a fool of yourself? Explain.

## DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God’s word?

## THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

What is the overall purpose of this text?

- What does this passage say about God’s character?
- What does this passage tell us about how we are to approach a relationship with God?
- Do you see a foreshadowing in this passage of future atonement? Explain.
- What does this passage tell us about Abraham’s relationship with God and his dependence on God?

## THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

Undeniably, this text is one of the more challenging components of God’s character to grasp. Genesis 22 is about relationship, obedience and trust beyond our capacity to understand.

- How does this passage challenge the status quo in your own life? How does it shape your understanding of a deeper trust in Jesus?
- When God called Abraham to sacrifice what he held most dear, it stretched him to his limits. In what ways might God be prompting you to offer up what you treasure most in your life? For what purpose would God do this?
- Contemplate and discuss how this passage emphasizes the importance of trusting God’s provision in your life.



**THINK ENGAGE** (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

One of the challenges of serving in partnership with the church is trusting others and embracing a form of sacrificial love.

- How does this passage speak to the way we should approach engaging in Christian community?
- How does it speak to the church's need for dependence upon the Lord?

**THINK EXPAND** (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

According to this passage, how are we to approach being missional in everyday life?

- How does this look in light of obedience?
- How does this look in light of a deeper trust?
- How does this look in light of sacrifice?

**THINK KINGDOM** (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

One of the church's goals is to make a Kingdom impact in the community we serve. To do so, we have a Biblical responsibility to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit through leadership.

- How do the themes of trusting the Lord and sacrificial love encourage us to trust the leadership that God has given us and serve alongside them in order to make a Kingdom difference?