

## **The Offering of Isaac, Gen 22:1-19**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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." <sup>15</sup> And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**Key Point:** When you love God supremely, nothing can become an idol.

## **TALK IT OVER**

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What's the most stressful test (school, work, or life) you've ever faced?

**Reflect, Think, & Share:** Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- What stands out most to you in this passage? Why?
- Why is it significant that we are told in the beginning that this was a test? How does that shape our understanding compared with Abrahams?
- In Genesis 22:5, what do you think led Abraham to make a statement like this? (see Hebrews 11:17-19)
- What details do you observe about Isaac in this passage?
- What does Genesis 22 teach us about love? Worship? (v.5)
- What does it mean to fear God according to this passage? (v.12)
- What are some good things in our lives that can compete with our Love for God?
- Have you ever experienced a situation where obedience to God threatened something important to you? What did that reveal about your heart?
- "What you cling to is often what God asks you to release." Is there anything in your life right now that you sense God may be asking you to surrender?
- Where is the fulfillment of God providing a lamb? (John 1:29)
- See Revelation 9:8-15 (esp. v. 9) As the lamb of God what did Jesus death on the cross provide for us?

**Start doing:** Are there things you are holding so tightly that you are not trusting God with them? Surrender it to God, trusting that He is your true provider and greatest treasure. **Name it**, (What am I clinging to?) **Release it** (Am I willing to give this to God?) **Trust Him** (Do I believe God is better than what I'm holding onto?)

**Prayer:** Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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