

Abraham: Life of Faith

Week 11 – Genesis 22:1-18

Ice Breaker Question:

Can you think of a very positive experience you had with preparing for and taking a test? What were some things you learned from the experience?

Going Deeper from Sunday

Sermon Synopsis

Genesis 22 in many ways represents the climax in the life of Abraham. The long awaited promise has been fulfilled in the birth of Isaac. And now God tests Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham obeys God, and just before his knife comes down on his son, the angel of the Lord stops him and provides a ram. Then the angel says, in language which foreshadows God's offering of his only son, Jesus, because "you have not withheld your son, your only son from me...all nations will be blessed through you,"

Key Application

Abraham showed his conviction that it was God who provides all things, and thus he too was willing to offer back to God even his son. God wants us to be able to walk in the freedom that comes from knowing that all we have has been provided by God as well.

Follow-up Questions

Read Genesis 22 and try to imagine with Abraham and Isaac each must have been thinking on their journey up the mountain?

How does that contrast with what they must have been feeling on the way down the mountain? What did Abraham's learn about God and himself from passing this test?

A key word in the chapter is "provide" (v. 8, 14) which in Hebrew is the same word as "to see," like in Genesis 16 and Hagar "you are the God who sees." The difference here is that it is in the future tense (i.e. God will see). How do we experience God "seeing" us as being the same as God "providing" for us?

Can you understand why this idea would be important in enabling Abraham to obey God and offer up his son?

Can you understand why God wants us to see Him as our provider? How do you think having a firm conviction of God being the provider of everything in your life (vs. you getting it for yourself) could change the way we relate to our family, our belongings, our jobs etc.?

Seeing Jesus

How do you feel yourself react emotionally to the idea that God asked Abraham to offer up his son as a sacrifice? Do you find it helpful in understanding what it must have been like for God to offer up Jesus?

How many connections can you see between this chapter and the gospel?

Some things you can look for:

In what ways is Abraham like God the father?

In what ways is Isaac like Jesus?

What inferences or hints towards God's ultimate fulfillment can you find?

Romans 8:31-32: *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

What connections do you find from this verse to Genesis 22?

What are the promises these verses encourage us to rest in? How are you doing at resting in that promise?

Where are you finding it most difficult to believe God will provide? Do you wrestle with differing opinions with God on what you need?

Spend some time praying together for God to build up our trust in his provision.