

“A Father’s Love”

Genesis 22:1-19

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Teaching Aim: To examine how Abraham responded to an unexpectedly painful test from God. To realize God already knew how Abraham would respond to this challenge, it was Abraham who needed to find out if he was more dedicated to God or to his son. To challenge every follower of Jesus Christ to test themselves and see what is most important in their life. To challenge every father to be fully committed to God and to be the kind of father that God wants him to be.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: God’s test to see what is most important in Abraham’s life (Gen. 22:1-10)

1. Abraham had waited 25 years for the birth of Isaac after God promised him a son. Since that time, Abraham had the pleasure of watching his son grow and become the son that he had always desired. What unexpected test did God bring to Abraham in **verse 2**? What additional information can we learn about this request from **verse 1**? Where is Mount Moriah located today? What famous building was built on that spot?
2. What can we learn about Abraham’s character and love for the LORD in **verse 2**? Do you think Abraham loved his son any less than he did the day before? How would you have responded in a similar situation? Why do you think Abraham cut the wood for the offering himself and saddled his own donkey instead of having his servants do these menial tasks (**vs. 3**)? Do you get fidgety when you are stressed out?
3. How many days did it take for Abraham to travel from Beersheba (**vs. 19**) to Mount Moriah in the north (**vs. 4**)? Did Abraham take his servants all the way with him (**vs. 5**)? If not, why not? According to **verse 6**, what was Abraham’s plan? Did Abraham say, “*I will come back to you,*” or did he say, “*we will come back to you?*” Why is this important? According to **Heb. 11:17-19**, what was Abraham’s reasoning behind his willingness to sacrifice his own son to God?
4. What can we learn about Isaac’s age from the chore his father gave him to do in **verse 6**? What was Isaac carrying? What other Son carried His own wood as He prepared to be offered as a sacrifice for sin our sins? (See **Mark 15:15-22**) What two items did Abraham bring with him (**vs. 6b**)? How would you feel if you were in Abraham’s shoes?

5. According to **verse 7**, what was going through Isaac's mind? What kind of animal was he looking for? Abraham knew what he was supposed to do. What can we learn about his character and faith in God from **verse 8**? According to **verse 8b**, was young Isaac satisfied with the answer?
6. Mount Moriah is believed to be the mountain in Jerusalem where the temple mount sits today. What is the first thing Abraham did upon arriving at Mount Moriah (**vs. 9**)? Note: Many believe the rock located inside Islam's Dome of the Rock on the temple mount is the very rock that Abraham prepared to offer Isaac on, the Muslims believe it was Ishmael who was brought there. What did Abraham do in **verse 9b**? How do you think Isaac reacted? Did he cooperate or fight back?
7. What do we find Abraham preparing to do in **verse 10**? What can we learn about Abraham's love for God from this verse?

Part II: God provides a substitute for Abraham pointing to the ultimate sacrifice for sin—Jesus Christ (Gen. 22:11-19)

1. What did the Angel of the LORD say to Abraham as readied himself to sacrifice his son on the altar (**vs. 11**)? Why? What would your response have been if the Angel of the LORD had told you to put the knife down? How quickly do you think Abraham did so?
2. According to **verse 12**, what was the purpose of this unusual test? Who was the one who really needed to know whether God was most important or His son? Are you completely committed to God or are there other things more important in your life to you?
3. What kind of animal did God supernaturally provide to be sacrificed as a substitute for Isaac (**vs. 13**)? Was this "*the lamb*" that God had promised Abraham in **verse 8**? When would God provide the promised "*Lamb*?" (See **John 1:29b**)

4. What did Abraham name this place of this event in remembrance of God's provision (**vs. 14**)
What are some comparisons that you see in this story that demonstrate Isaac was a type of Christ? Note: "*A type*" is an Old Testament foreshadow of something to be fulfilled in the New Testament.

5. According to **verses 15-18**, what did the Angel of the LORD promise Abraham? What important covenant was this an affirmation of? What makes this covenant so important?
Question: Are you faithful in fulfilling the mission God has called you to no matter what? If not, what is keeping you from doing so?

6. What can we learn about Abraham's love for God from the story in **Genesis 22**? How does this event in Abraham's life relate to your own life today? What items or activities in your life have become more important to you than your relationship with God?

Part III: Father's and their unique responsibility before God

1. Abraham is known as "*the father of the faithful*," (meaning the spiritual father of all believers both Jew and Gentiles alike) but he was also blessed to be the father of his own children. Was Abraham a perfect father or did he make many mistakes like any normal father? Can you think of a mistake that Abraham made with long lasting ramifications? (See **Gen. 16:1-16**) Can you think of any other mistakes? Who is the only perfect Father?

2. God has ordained fathers to be the spiritual leaders of their families. (See **Eph. 5:15-6:4; Col. 3:12-21**) Why do you think so many fathers don't pick up this responsibility? What are some things that we can do as a church to better disciple young fathers in their role? Are you willing to be part of the solution? If so, how can you help?

3. Why do you think that Father's Day is so difficult for many people? If you are a father, have you ever made mistakes in raising up your children? If so, what were they? If you had the chance to parent again, what would you do differently? What are some lessons learned over the years? How would you advise other young men?

4. Some of our fathers were great examples of godly living, others were not. What are some positive attributes that you witnessed in your own father?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Note: If you did not have a good experience with your earthly father, those experiences don't have to define who you are as a person for the rest of your life. It is important to remember that today is the first day of the rest of your life, you can blaze a new direction for the family God has blessed you with starting today. Are you willing to do it?

5. What are some practical steps that Christian fathers can take to become the kind of men that God wants them to be and to become the spiritual leaders of their households?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Abraham is known as "*the father of the faithful*," meaning both believing Jews and believing Gentiles.
- God may "*test*" us, but He never "*tempts*" us to do evil.
- Abraham waited 25 years for the son of promise and raised him into his upper teens before God put Abraham to the test found in **Genesis chapter 22**.
- The test was not for God's sake, He is omniscient; the test was for Abraham to find out who was most important in his life.
- Abraham had so much trust in God's promise that he believed if God called to take his son's life that God could also raise Isaac from the dead.
- Although God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac was a picture of what God the Father would have to do with His only begotten Son (Jesus) on the cross, in that case, there was no one to shout "*Stop, it had to be done!*"
- Although the "*father of the faithful*," Abraham made his fair share of mistakes as a father.
- Only God the Father is the perfect Father, all others are a work in progress.