



WEEK 9: NEXT LEVEL OBEDIENCE

In Genesis 22, Abraham was called to face his next level of faith: God asked to him sacrifice his son, Isaac! This pivotal moment in Abraham's life made him face perhaps both the most grueling and eye-opening time of his life. Let's learn what obedience does to our own faith from this awesome story of Abraham.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 22

OBSERVATION

- Child sacrifice was a common practice by many ancient peoples. The Canaanites during Abraham's time worshipped their god Molech through child sacrifices. To be clear, God has always been against such practices (Leviticus 18:21).
- What is the point of testing in general?
- In Genesis 22:1 Scripture makes it clear that God desired to test Abraham. What was the purpose of the test for Abraham? (Cross-reference: Genesis 22:12; 22:15-18; Hebrews 11:17-19)
- Take a few moments and try to enter into the mind of Abraham after receiving the command from God to sacrifice Isaac.
 - How long was the journey to Mount Moriah?
 - What's the significance of this long journey?
 - What is he thinking about?
 - How might he have wrestled with God in prayer after receiving this command?
- How old do you think was Isaac at this point?
- Whose benefit was that test ultimately for: Abraham or God?
- With the sacrifice of Isaac, God is asking Abraham to give up everything – not just his son, but the promises of the covenant as well. All Abraham will have left is God Himself. Is that enough?

APPLICATION

- When the test was over, God provided a ram as a sacrifice in Isaac's stead. This foreshadows the true and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary. In reality, we deserve to die, but God provided a Lamb (His Son) to take our place. How does the love of God expressed at the Cross encourage you when life is tough and you are weak? (Romans 8:32)
- Read Genesis 22:5. What is the significance of Abraham's statement "we will worship, then we will come back to you"? Read Hebrews 11:19.
- In verse 14 Abraham names the place "The LORD will provide". In what specific ways has God provided for you in order for you to get to your next level of faith?
- What would take for you to be able to say "God you are enough. Even if all else fades away, if I have you, I have enough."? Is your faith in God Himself that strong?
- Have you ever sacrifice something important to achieve what you want– time, effort, money, relationships, etc. – in the end was the sacrifice worth it?
- Your next level of faith will require a sacrifice of something significant. What level of faith is God calling you to and what might you need to give up so you can level up?

PRAYER

GENESIS 22

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."