



# 01

GENESIS 22:1-14

## A CALL FOR SACRIFICE



### THIS WEEK'S focus

“You can do hard things.” This phrase has been used in everything from marketing slogans to book titles and even memes. Why? Because we all recognize that life is full of challenges, and we often need encouragement. This is especially true for followers of Jesus—God asks His followers to do some really hard things. Over and over in Scripture, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him won’t be easy and obedience will be costly. But that didn’t start with Jesus! As we’ll learn today, God’s instructions to Abraham are a great example of how costly our obedience to God can be. But it’s also a great example of how God provides exactly what we need to follow Him. All we need to do is trust.



### CENTRAL truth

When we trust in God, He gives us what we need to follow Him.



EXPLORE

# scripture

GENESIS 22:1-14

## GENESIS 22:1-3

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. 2 "Take your son," he said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell

you about." 3 So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about.

## GENESIS 22:4-8

4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.

7 Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father." And he replied, "Here I am, my son." Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together.

## GENESIS 22:9-14

9 When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He replied, "Here I am." 12 Then he said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything

to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me." 13 Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

# 01

GENESIS 22:1-14  
CONVERSATION

## questions

▶ READ GENESIS 22:1-3.

**.01** What does it mean to trust God? Why do you think Abraham had so much trust in God?

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**.02** What would be the hardest thing for you to give up right now if God asked you to give it up? Why?

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**.03** Why does God often ask us to do difficult things?

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**Q** GIVE AN ANSWER

Why would God tell Abraham to sacrifice his son? Wasn't God against human sacrifice? Yes—the Bible makes it clear that God is completely against human sacrifice (see Deut. 12:29-32; 18:9-13). God's intention was never for Abraham to actually sacrifice Isaac; this was a test of Abraham's faith and obedience. Did he truly believe God had the desire and power to keep His promises? Yes! Abraham trusted that God was going to build a nation through his descendants, starting with Isaac, and he believed that God could even bring Isaac back from death (see Heb. 11:9). This story also highlights just how difficult it would be for a father to sacrifice his son—to help us understand the depth of God's sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus.

▶ READ GENESIS 22:4-8.

**.04** In what ways did Abraham demonstrate his trust and faith in God?

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**.05** When have you seen someone in your life express incredible trust and faith in God? How has this person inspired you?

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**.06** What makes it difficult for us to trust God to provide for all our needs? How can Abraham's faith be an encouragement to us?

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▶ READ GENESIS 22:9-14.

**.07** What are some ways that this story points forward to God's sending Jesus as a sacrifice for our sin?

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**.08** What did Abraham mean by naming the place "The LORD Will Provide"?

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**THEOLOGY**

While the sacrificial system wasn't formalized until the time of Moses (as recorded in the book of Exodus), there are a few examples of sacrifices—specifically burnt sacrifices—to God in the book of Genesis. In most of these examples, a lamb—a young sheep—is one of the main animals to be used as a sacrifice. However, rams—adult male sheep—were also acceptable animals for sacrifice; God included a ram in the list of animals that He instructed Abraham to sacrifice when He established their covenant (see Gen. 15:9). Some scholars have also suggested that the ram was a more prized variety of sheep,<sup>1</sup> reminding us that God's provision is always better than what we can provide on our own.

**We have new animated videos!**  
Check out the video bundle for our study of Genesis at:  
[goexplorethebible.com/students](http://goexplorethebible.com/students).

<sup>1</sup> Robert D. Bergen, "Genesis," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax, (Nashville, TN: Holman, 2017), Logos Bible Software ed., 42.





# 01 GENESIS 22:1-14 NOW what?



## CENTRAL truth

When we trust in God, He gives us what we need to follow Him.

**.09** What are some areas of life where it's typically most difficult for us to trust God? Why?

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**.10** How can we take notice of all the ways—both big and small—in which God provides for us?

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**.11** How can we reassure one another of God's ability to provide?

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**.12** What are some ways we can worship God through sacrifices of our time, energy, and resources?

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# DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE GENESIS 22:8a

## 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# GENESIS 22:1-3

## DWELL

When God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, it wasn't because God was cruel and wanted to hurt Abraham or Isaac. When God tests us, His purpose is to grow our faith and help us become more like Jesus (see James 1:2-4). But that doesn't mean that Abraham didn't wonder what God was up to. It's natural to ask questions of God, especially when we don't understand what He's asking us to do. Even when we have questions, Abraham's example shows that we can confidently trust God—even when He asks us to do hard things.



Summarize these verses in your own words.



What would it take for you to demonstrate this same type of obedience to God?

## MEMORIZE

Write Genesis 22:8a on an index card or sticky note and attach it to your bathroom mirror. Say the verse aloud each day, emphasizing a few different words each time.

## PRAY

Talk to God about your desire to grow in faith and obedience to Him. Ask Him to give you a stronger desire to faithfully obey His leading.

day 2

# GENESIS 22:4-8

## DWELL

Long before God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, God had already recognized Abraham as a man of great faith. In Genesis 15:6, when his name was still Abram, we read that “Abram believed the LORD and he credited to him as righteousness.” He believed in God, trusted God, then faithfully and obediently followed God. So, while you might be amazed at his demonstration of great faith, you shouldn’t be surprised. God can always be trusted—in the good times as well as the hard times. You can develop that same type of relationship with God by getting to know Him each day.



What did Abraham mean by “worship”?  
When you hear the word “worship,” what comes to mind?



How can your personal worship of God draw you into a closer relationship with Him?

## MEMORIZE

Save Genesis 22:8a as a wallpaper or screensaver on your phone or computer. Read it aloud each time you see it.

## PRAY

Sing one of your favorite worship songs to God as an act of personal praise. Then read Psalm 62:1-5 aloud as a prayer.

day 3

# GENESIS 22:9-12

## DWELL

God tested Abraham by asking him to bind and sacrifice his son. Did Abraham truly love God more than anything—or anyone—else? What about you—do you love God more than anything else? Is there anything that is getting in the way of your relationship with Him? As we grow in faith, we will discover that there are things we need to willingly bind and remove from our lives because they get between us and God. For you, this could be social media, certain forms of entertainment, or something else entirely. Only you know what is keeping you from growing in your relationship with Jesus. Perhaps it’s time to stop and take a hard look.



How did God respond to Abraham’s act of faithful obedience?



Why didn’t God ask Abraham to sacrifice something else? Why Isaac?

## MEMORIZE

Say the book, chapter, and verse number for Genesis 22:8a out loud several times. Then read aloud just the first few words of the verse. Do this a few times a day and see if you can memorize more each time.

## PRAY

Thank God for His love for you and praise Him for being a God who loves. Then, take some time to describe your love for God by telling Him why you love Him.

day 4

# GENESIS 22:13-14

## DWELL

*Jehovah Jireh*—the Lord who Provides. This one of many titles God is given in the Bible, and it's a great one to memorize. Abraham experienced the provision of God in a supernatural way, but more often, we will experience God's provision in the basic, daily things of life. Did you enjoy eating yesterday? Did you recognize and thank God for His provision for food? Or rest? Or friends? While you're at it, have there been any times when God has provided for you or your family in a supernatural way? God provides for His children, but we often fail to recognize His provision.

↑ What does it mean for God to be our Provider?

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↪ How might God be using you to provide something for your friends, family, or community?

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## MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 22:8a on a piece of paper. Circle three to five key words in the verse and consider their importance. Focus on those words and see how much of the verse you can speak from memory.

## PRAY

Pray to God, calling on Him as *Jehovah Jireh* and thanking Him for His provision in your life. Ask God to help you see His work of provision for you and your family this week.

day 5

# ROMANS 4:18-23

## DWELL

Abraham displayed incredible faith in the promises of God. He believed God would indeed build a great nation through his family tree—even though he didn't understand how that might happen since he had no children at the time. These verses tell us that Abraham's faith did not weaken or waver—he trusted in God's promise and knew He could do what He promised. Paul says we need that same type of faith as we believe God sent His Son, Jesus, as payment for our sin and then raised Him from the dead.

↻ What are some examples of how Abraham's faith wasn't weakened or wavering?

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→ Make a list of things that you are fully convinced that God is able to do, and keep it in your Bible.

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## MEMORIZE

Read Genesis 22:8a several times. Then start by trying to memorize the first two or three words. Once you have those words memorized, add a few more words at a time until you can say the whole verse.

## PRAY

Ask God to point out any areas of your life that are not demonstrating your faith in God nor reflecting your relationship with Him. Tell Him about your desire to reflect Him to others.