

Frisco First Baptist Church

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

GENESIS 22:1-12

6/28/2026

MAIN POINT

Like Abraham, God wants us to lay down the things that are most important to us and trust Him, even when it's hard for us to understand.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How easy is it for you to trust someone when they make an open-ended request?

Have you ever regretted saying yes to a request? What about saying no? What happened?

Throughout Abraham's life, God challenged him with many open-ended commands and promises: to go to a land that He would show him, but would not tell him where; to promise that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, but would not tell him when. And then in our passage today, He gives another open-ended command, one that would put Abraham's trust in the Lord to the test. God wanted Abraham to trust Him unconditionally. And He wants the same from us.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 22:1-4.

In verse 1, it says God was testing Abraham. What about him was being tested?

Read Deuteronomy 8:2. Why is it important for God to know what is in His people's hearts?

How has God tested your heart in the past? What happened?

God tests the hearts of His people not because He doesn't know the state of our being, but because we need to know. Testing helps us build greater trust in the Lord, to become people who are always in a "yes" position. God wants His people to be men and women who are always ready to surrender all to Him, even when it's hard.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 22:5-12.

What are a few things we learn about Abraham's faith in this passage?

Why does God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?

How difficult would it have been for Abraham to make a three-day journey, knowing what God had asked Him to do?

God had called Abraham to sacrifice the thing he loved most: Isaac, his beloved son. The child of the promise. But Abraham had extraordinary faith in God.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Read Hebrews 11:17-18. Why does Abraham have such extraordinary faith in God?

God wants us to be people who are always in a "yes" position—He wants us to trust Him, to lay everything down, even when it doesn't make sense. This is why Abraham's story is still told today. When we see the faith of Abraham, that he was not willing to withhold his son when God commanded, we're reminded of how God has also done the same. He has not spared His own Son for us. He gave Jesus to die for us, so we could be saved. And if God is not willing to withhold the One He loves most, there is nothing that we, as people who are loved and saved by Him, can hold back when He commands.

What is God calling each of you to lay down? Be specific.

What are some ways we can encourage one another to trust the Lord and surrender to Him unconditionally?

PRAYER

Thank God for the example of Abraham and this picture of God's own extravagant love in sacrificing His Son to save us. Pray that God would give us the faith to believe that His plans are better than ours, even when it's hard for us to see or understand.

COMMENTARY

GENESIS 22:1-18

22:1-2. Abraham's ultimate test of obedience to God is described in 22:1-19. God used this event to affirm the sterling character of Abraham's faith by giving him the incredibly difficult task of sacrificing his son Isaac. Pagans in Canaan during the OT period regularly practiced child sacrifice by making them pass through the fire (2Ki 16:3) to give them as food to their gods (Ezek 23:37). With this command God was asking Abraham to demonstrate that he was as committed to the Lord God as pagans were to their gods.

22:3-4. Confirmation of Abraham's amazing trust in God is found first in the fact that he was up before sunrise (early in the morning) the next day to begin the journey. His diligence in going to the place God had told him about contrasts sharply with Jonah's actions (Jnh 1:3). Traveling from Beer-sheba, it was not until the third day that Abraham reached the Jerusalem area.

22:5-8. Evidence that Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead (Heb 11:17-18) is found in his comment, we'll come back. Abraham carried the most dangerous elements of the sacrifice—the fire and the sacrificial knife—himself, perhaps as a sign of his protective love for Isaac. Ignorant of God's command and surprised that his father would forget the most important element in an animal sacrifice, Isaac asked Abraham where the lamb was. Abraham's faith-filled response was that God Himself would provide the lamb ("sheep").

22:9-14. Abraham followed the standard procedure for a burnt offering involving a living being. In describing his preparation, the Bible emphasizes only Abraham's systematic acts of obedience, omitting any mention of Abraham's or Isaac's feelings. Just before the knife was put to Isaac's neck, the Angel of the Lord spared him. The patriarch had passed the test, providing experiential evidence that he feared God more than he loved his only son. Exactly as Abraham had predicted (v. 8), God had miraculously provided a sheep—and the most prized variety, a ram. To memorialize the event Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide.

22:15-18. As the Angel of the Lord who had the Lord's authority, the divine emissary delivered a second message (v. 12), this one in the first person. Because Abraham had passed the "priorities test" by obeying God and not withholding his only son, the Lord would indeed bless him with offspring, victory, land, and goodwill.