

Sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-19

Bible Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Bible Story

"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!'

'Here I am,' he replied.

"God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about'" (Genesis 22:1-2).

What a late night jolt! Can you imagine getting this disturbing message in the middle of the night? And what do you do? Do you follow through with it? Do you question whether or not the message was really from the Lord God? Do you talk with your wife, the child's mother, about it?

"Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 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.'

"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, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?'

'Yes, my son,' Abraham replied.

'The fire and the wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?'

"Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together" (Genesis 22:3-8).

It looks like Abraham was going to go through with it. He must have believed the message from the Lord God to be true and authentic. And it does not say if he talked this over with his wife, Sarah, before he left. He has the wood and the knife and the fire, and up the mountain they go. When Isaac asks where the lamb for the offering is, Abraham says that God will provide it. Interesting.

"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. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son" (Genesis 22:9-10).

Abraham really is going to go through with it! Isaac does not say a word! He lets his father bind him and then lay him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham then takes the knife and is about to slay his son...

"But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!'

'Here I am,' he replied.

'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'" (Genesis 22:11-12).

No way! Abraham was fully prepared to sacrifice his beloved son because the Lord God of the universe commanded him to. That must mean that Abraham really feared and trusted the Lord God. He really knew that what said and did was trustworthy and true. Perhaps Abraham thought that he would kill his son, but somehow God would bring him back to life. After all, there still was a promised son on the books.

"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. 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'" (Genesis 22:13-14).

The Lord God had indeed provided a burnt offering for Abraham and Isaac. What Abraham had said to his son about God providing an offering was true. The covenant still stood. Through Abraham and his many descendants "all the nations on earth will be blessed because [Abraham] obeyed [God]" (Genesis 22:18).

Life Application

Abraham's obedience of God went beyond any and all comprehension. The author of Hebrews says this:

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death" (Hebrews 11:17-19).

I don't know if God is going to ever ask you to do something like he asked Abraham—not killing anyone for sure. But maybe God is going to ask you to do something like:

- Be nice to someone who is always mean to you
- Forgive someone who did something wrong to you
- Giving something that is valuable to you to someone who needs it

When God asks you to do something for Him, it is usually not for Him. It is usually for you. The Lord God tests us in order for us to become more and more like Him. So the more God tests you and you succeed, the more you are on the fast track toward looking a whole lot like our God.

Review Questions

1. What did God ask Abraham to do with his son Isaac? Sacrifice his son as a burnt offering.
2. Did Abraham tell Isaac what was going to happen right away? Nope.
3. Why did Abraham go through with it? Why didn't he argue or reason with God? Because he trusted Him. He believed His promise of a son. Maybe he believed that God would bring Isaac back to life.
4. What did God provide after He stopped Abraham from killing his son? A ram.

Coloring Sheet

Next page



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