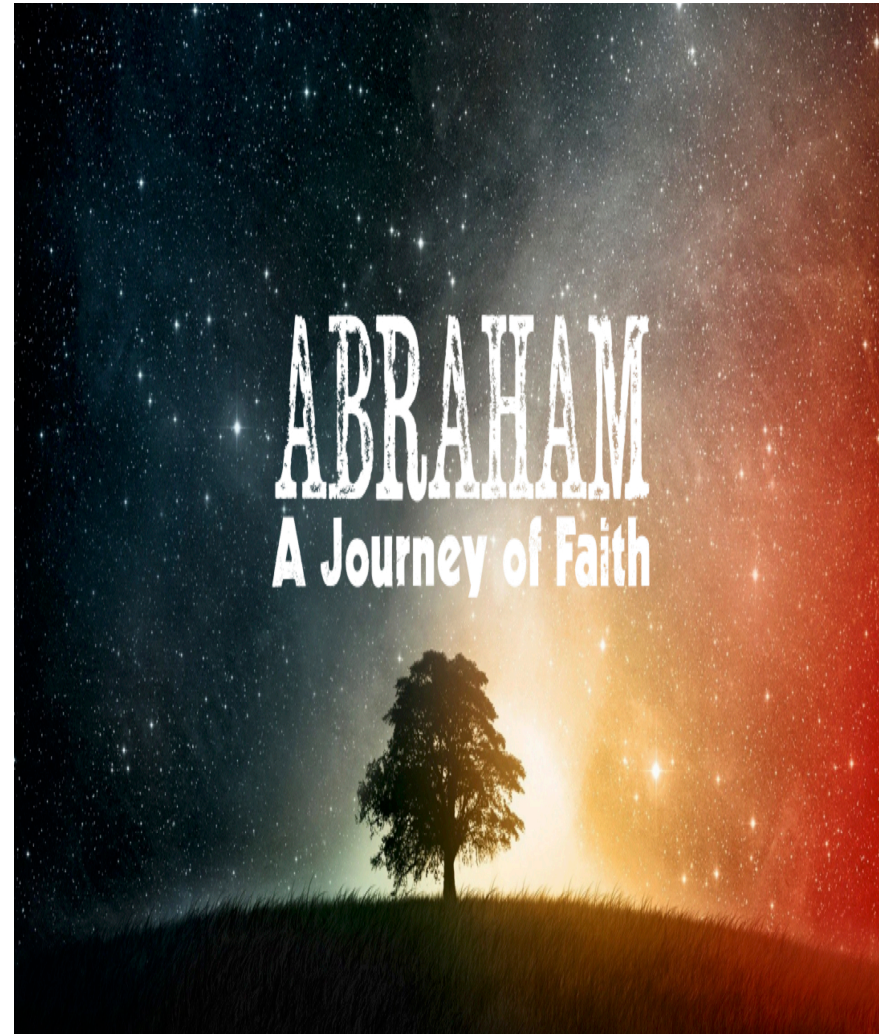


Matthew 19:28-30 *“Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*

Life Group/ Reflection Questions

- *Have you ever experienced a test of faith? How well did you do?*
- *Tests of faith often come in two forms: a trial to endure or a dream to let go of. Have you ever experienced one of these tests?*
- *Think about when you first trusted your life to Jesus. How has your faith grown? How have tests been a part of your growth process?*
- *If tests are not meant to break us, but to reveal what is already inside of us. What have your tests revealed to you? Read 1 Peter 1:6-7*
- *What is the difference between a test and a temptation? Read James 1:13-15*
- *How do you feel about God asking Abraham to sacrifice his son? How do you feel about times when God asks something of you that you don’t understand why God would ask such a thing?*
- *If God will never test us beyond our ability. What do the tests you experience say about God’s faith and trust in you? Read 1 Corinthians 10:13*
- *In the midst of a test of faith, obedience is always the right answer. What step of obedience might God be asking of you today?*
- *When God says, “Let Go” it is always so he can give us more. Is there anything in your life that you need to let go of to receive something God may be waiting to give you?*



Sunday, Nov. 16th 2014
Abraham: Genesis 22:1-19
“Abraham’s Final Test”

“Abraham’s Final Test”
Genesis 22:1-19

Genesis 21:1-7

21 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Lessons of Faith from Abraham

Faith isn’t measured by what we believe, It’s measured by what we do

- Hebrews 11:8-16

Faith is the path we take, not a magic potion that makes problems go away

Genuine Faith is a tested faith, because an untested faith is an unused faith

Tested By God? Life Lessons To Take Home

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

1. Your faith will be tested... count on it

Two Questions:

1. How could God ask such a thing?

- Romans 9:20-21, Isaiah 55:8-9

2. How could Abraham (I) do such a thing?

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

2. Test’s of Faith reveal what is already in us

- 1 Peter 1:6-7

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

3. We’ll never be tested beyond our ability

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. God will test us – But he’ll never tempt us

- James 1:13-15

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

5. The right answer is always obedience

6. When God says, “Let go,” it’s always so he can give us more