

The Sacrifice

GENESIS 22–23

FIRST DAY: Introduction

The Old Testament events, laws, rituals, history, and poetry can only be understood through the lens of Jesus Christ:

- *Then I said, “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me.”* Psalm 40:7
- *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.* Luke 24:27
- *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.* John 5:39
- *Then I said, “Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.”* Hebrews 10:7

When Jesus is placed in the volume of the book, the wisdom, majesty, and compassion of God is realized and everything makes sense.

Without Jesus, God’s testing of Abraham (to sacrifice his beloved son) seems cruel and arbitrary. However, when Jesus is inserted into the story, Abraham’s sacrifice becomes a foreshadowing of God’s own sacrifice. The story then comes alive with deep truths, tender compassions, and amazing insights.

The Old Testament can appear arbitrary, harsh, and inexplicable without Jesus at its center. In the same way, your life can seem arbitrary, harsh, and inexplicable until you place Jesus at the center. When Jesus is given center place, He infuses divine purpose, mercy, and compassion into every part of our lives.

Ask God to illuminate your life through the lens of Jesus Christ.

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 22:1–8

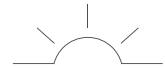
1. Genesis 22:1 begins, *Now it came to pass after these things. These things* referred to the long-awaited birth of Isaac (through Sarah), who was by now a young man and the heir to all God's promises. It was at this time *God tested Abraham*. The Hebrew word for *tested* is *nissah*, which means *to prove the value of*. What does this indicate to you about God's plans for Abraham and his son, Isaac?
 - a. How did Abraham respond to God's call? Genesis 22:1b
 - (1) What does this convey to you about Abraham?
 - b. Link this event with 1 Peter 1:6–7. What do you see?
2. Use Genesis 22:2 to note and comment on:
 - a. God's description of Isaac (verse 2a)
 - b. God's command concerning Isaac (verse 2b)

(1) Pastor Warren Wiersbe points out, *Isaac was Abraham's only son, and the future of the covenant rested in him. Isaac was a miracle child, the gift of God to Abraham and Sarah in response to their faith. Abraham and Sarah loved Isaac very much and had built their whole future around him.*²³ How does this magnify the seriousness of Abraham's test of faith?

c. This is the first mention of love in the Bible; significantly, it is the love of a father for his son. This also foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. Link this with Luke 3:22 and John 3:16 and share your thoughts.

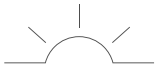
3. Record how Abraham responded to God's word in Genesis 22:3–4.

a. Connect the length of Abraham's journey (verse 4) with Matthew 17:23. What parallel do you see?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is believed that the *land of Moriah* is the same area the Temple was built (2 Chronicles 3:1) and at its peak, the place where Jesus was crucified.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God never intended for Abraham to offer Isaac. Abraham was a prophet, and prophets not only spoke prophetically, sometimes they lived prophetically, and sometimes they acted things out prophetically.

That's exactly what happened here: Abraham acted out the part of God the Father, and Isaac represented the Son, Jesus Christ.
—Pastor Brian Brodersen

4. Abraham told the *young men* who accompanied them to stay *with the donkey* while he and Isaac went to *worship* God. Notice that although Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac, he said, *We will come back to you* (Genesis 22:5). What does this suggest to you about what Abraham believed?

5. Read Genesis 22:6 and link it with John 19:17. What strikes you most about this scene?

6. As they walked *together*, Isaac asked his father a question. Use Genesis 22:7–8 to record and remark on:
 - a. Isaac's question

 - b. Abraham's response
 - (1) Although Abraham spoke of his immediate situation, this was a prophetic word concerning the Lamb that God would ultimately *provide for Himself*. Use the following Scriptures to note and comment further on this provision:
 - (a) John 1:29

 - (b) 1 Peter 1:18–19

7. What do you find most notable about this divine test?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 22:9–14

1. When they *came to the place* God indicated, Abraham prepared for the sacrifice. Use Genesis 22:9–10 to capture the intensity of this moment.

a. Read Hebrews 11:17–19a to understand and comment on Abraham’s perspective.

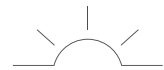
(1) What does this indicate about Abraham’s faith?

b. Isaac was a young man: strong enough to carry the wood, strong enough to have resisted had he chosen to, and also old enough to understand the principle of sacrifice. With this in mind, what does his willingness to be laid *on the altar* suggest to you?

(1) Link this with John 10:17–18 and share your thoughts.

2. As Abraham *took the knife to slay his son*, the Lord *called to him from heaven* (Genesis 22:11). From Genesis 22:12–14 cite and comment on:

a. God’s word to Abraham (verse 12)

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Abraham trusted God, even when he did not feel like it. There is not a line in this text about how Abraham felt, not because he didn't feel, but because he walked by faith, not feelings.²⁴
—Pastor David Guzik

(1) Pastor J. Vernon McGee says, *God spared Abraham's son, but God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up freely for us all.*²⁵ Connect this with Romans 8:32 and share what this means to you personally.

b. God's provision for Abraham (verse 13a)

c. Abraham's response (verses 13b–14)

(1) This was the first time in Scripture the name *Jehovah Jireh* (*The-LORD-Will-Provide*) was used. Considering the context, remark on the significance of this name of God.

(2) Share an area of your life in which you have experienced God as *Jehovah Jireh*.

3. Pastor David Guzik says, *Abraham didn't name the place in reference to what he experienced. He didn't name it Mount Trial or Mount Agony or Mount Obedience. Instead, he named the hill in reference to what God did; he named it Mount Provision. He named it knowing God would provide the ultimate sacrifice for salvation on that hill someday.*²⁶ What does this convey to you about the testing of your faith?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 22:15–24

1. After Abraham had offered the ram on the altar, the Lord *called to Abraham a second time*. Once again, He acknowledged that Abraham had not *withheld his only son* (Genesis 22:15–16). Why do you think the Lord pointed this out a second time?
 - a. By whom did God swear? See also Hebrews 6:13, 17–18.
 - (1) Why is this significant?

2. Use God's *blessing* on Abraham in Genesis 22:17–18 to record and remark on:
 - a. The number of Abraham's *descendants* (verse 17a)

 - b. The strength of Abraham's *descendants* (verse 17b)

 - c. The extent of the blessing on Abraham's *descendants* (verse 18a)
 - (1) Why would God do all of this for Abraham? (verse 18b)

- (a) How does this speak to you about the reward of obedience?
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- 3. The promises of God to Abraham would continue through Isaac's descendants. This would require Isaac to have a wife of promise. Genesis 22:19–24 showed how God was already at work preparing Isaac's bride—Rebekah. What does this convey to you about God's promises?

 - 4. What does your study today indicate to you about the way God views:
 - a. Faith

 - b. Obedience

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 23

- 1. Genesis 23 records the death and burial of Sarah. Her prominence is seen by the fact that she is the only woman to have the length of her life documented (Genesis 23:1). According to Genesis 23:2, how did Abraham react to Sarah's death?

- a. What does this convey to you about their relationship?
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2. After Sarah's death, Abraham *spoke to the sons of Heth*. What did he acknowledge about himself? Genesis 23:4a
 - a. Considering the fact that God had promised Abraham this land, why was his statement remarkable?
 - b. Link this with Hebrews 11:13–16 and share your thoughts.
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3. What did Abraham request from the sons of Heth? Genesis 23:4b
 - a. What does their response indicate about Abraham's witness among them? Genesis 23:5–6



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the ancient world, land was linked to one's forefathers and held in trust for one's family.

If Abraham had been gifted the land, it could have been reclaimed by the owner's family.

However, because Abraham bought the land, he now had a legal deed and possessed a portion of the Promised Land. His ownership would last in perpetuity.

4. Negotiations then began for the purchase of a plot of land. From Genesis 23:9–18, note and comment on Abraham's demeanor during this process.

5. According to Genesis 23:19–20, Abraham buried Sarah in the *cave* of Machpelah. Read Hebrews 11:11 and 1 Peter 3:5–6 and record the synopsis of Sarah's life found in Scripture.
 - a. What does this convey to you about the way God sees us?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Just as the promised birth of Isaac paralleled the birth of Jesus Christ, so too the offering of Isaac foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Fill in the chart to appreciate this comparison:

	ISAAC	JESUS	YOUR TAKEAWAY
<i>The father's love</i>	Genesis 22:2a	John 10:17	
<i>The third day</i>	Genesis 22:4	1 Corinthians 15:3–4	
<i>The wood carried</i>	Genesis 22:6a	John 19:17	
<i>The provision for sacrifice</i>	Genesis 22:8, 13–14	John 1:29	
<i>The willingness to be offered</i>	Genesis 22:9b–10	John 10:18	

- a. With this remarkable comparison in mind, read John 8:56 and Galatians 3:8. How do you see the gospel being *preached beforehand* to Abraham?

(1) What do you find most amazing about this?

2. How has your study this week showcased the importance of faith in Our Great Creator?