

Bible Studies in Genesis

Abraham and Isaac – the sacrifices we make

READ Genesis 22:1-19

1. Discuss any questions you have about this passage.
2. God sets out to test Abraham (verse 1).
 - a. What do you think he is testing? What does God say Abraham has demonstrated (verses 16, 18)?
 - b. How is this different to, or how will God learn anything that he hasn't already from, the beginning of his dealings with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-4? Hasn't Abraham's faith already been demonstrated?
3. What does God promise Abraham as the reward for his faith (verses 17-18)?
 - a. How is this new or different to what has already been promised (Genesis 12:2-3; 15:5-7; 17:1-8)? Does this feel a little like a politician making "new" election promises out of things that have already been planned for or put into place?
 - b. Are the promises of God to Abraham dependent on Abraham's achievements, or purely God's gracious gift?
 - c. How does this relate to the blessings God promises us?
4. God provides the ram to be sacrificed in Isaac's place (verse 13).
 - a. Where else in the Bible does God provide a similar substitutionary sacrifice?
 - b. Do you think Abraham knew what God was going to do (verse 8)?
 - c. What does Abraham say this incident demonstrates (verse 14)?
 - d. In what ways does God do the same thing for us (see Romans 8:32, for example)?
5. What sacrifices might we be asked to make for God (see, for example, Matthew 8:19-20; 10:38; 16:24; Luke 9:59-60; 14:25-33; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:7-8)?
 - a. Have you had to make any such sacrifices?
 - b. Can you think of any situations in our culture and society where a Christian has made, or might have to consider making, such sacrifices?
6. What situations do you face where you have to trust that God will provide, even though you can't see what the solution might be? How hard is that?