

# God of Our Fathers: Genesis

## Lesson 12: Testing of Abraham's Faith

### Lesson Introduction

- Have you ever had to make a decision you were uncomfortable about?
- What did you do to resolve the situation?

### Lesson Objectives

- Discuss the story of Abraham's near sacrifice of his son Isaac
- Evaluate Abraham's attempt to sacrifice his son in light of his faith
- Express understanding of who God is

### Background for the Scripture

In Genesis 22, God puts Abraham to an extreme test of faith. When Isaac had reached his early teens, God told Abraham to offer up his son as a burnt offering (Gen. 22:2). According to one commentary, the following questions probably emerged:

Even though Abraham had been accustomed to human sacrifices in his pagan life in Ur, how could this possibly fit into the plan of God? What was to happen to all the promises that depended on Isaac? (Walvoord.com , 2014).

At least one scholarly treatise has noted that this story of near sacrifice is important in Christianity, for it represents a "type" of the sacrifice of Christ (Metzger & Coogan, 1993, p. 325).

### Genesis 22:1-19 (KJV)

22 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

<sup>2</sup> And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

<sup>3</sup> And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

<sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

<sup>5</sup> And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

<sup>7</sup> And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

<sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup> And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

<sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

<sup>11</sup> And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

<sup>12</sup> And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

<sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

<sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

<sup>15</sup> And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

<sup>16</sup> And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

<sup>17</sup> That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

<sup>18</sup> And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

<sup>19</sup> So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

## **Examining the Scripture**

1. React to and evaluate the story of Abraham's near sacrifice of his son Isaac.
2. Why is this story significant?
3. Review what at least one Bible commentary has to say about this story.

## **Applying the Scripture**

1. Discuss Abraham's attempt to sacrifice his son in light of present-day values.
2. How might views of Abraham's attempt be viewed differently today?

## **Quest to Know God Activity**

1. What does this scriptural account reveal about God?
2. List two or three characteristics you discerned about God as you went through this lesson.
3. What statement can you make about the God of our fathers that you can pass down to future generations

