

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM

8. Abraham's Faith & Obedience

(Leader's Notes)



Introduction

God had promised Abraham a son. He waited 25 years for that promise to be fulfilled, so when Isaac was finally born he must have been very precious to both Abraham and Sarah. Abraham's faith had been tested, but there was still another test, which he was about to face.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

A. GOD'S COMMAND

- ✧ What did God command Abraham to do, and how did he respond?
(God commanded him to take his son to a certain mountain in the region of Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering there.)
- ✧ What were the factors that must have made it difficult for Abraham to obey God's command? Discuss.
(Abraham had waited a long time for a son, so Isaac must have been very precious to him. He had hoped that through Isaac he would be the father of many generations. The place the Lord told him to go to was a 3 day journey.)



Put yourself in Abraham's situation. How would you have responded? Has God ever asked you to do something you have found difficult? Share your experience.

- ✧ What expectation did Abraham have that gave him the courage to obey God? Hebrews 11:17-19
(He believed that God would fulfil the promise he had given, so even if Isaac died he would come back to life.)

B. ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE

- ✧ Describe what happened when they reached the place of sacrifice in your own words.
- ✧ What is the significance of the ram taking the place of Isaac as the sacrifice?
(The ram took the place of Isaac as the sacrifice, which was a picture of what God the Father was going to do for all mankind. God's son, Jesus Christ, would become the Lamb to be offered as a sacrifice for us.)



Why do you think God tested Abraham and let him go through this?
(There different answers that can be given to this question. One reason why God tested Abraham may have been to see if he still loved God more than anyone or anything else.)

C. GOD'S PROMISE

- ✧ What did God promise after this time of testing? V15-18
(God reaffirmed all the promises that he had made to Abraham.)
- ✧ It was difficult for Abraham to obey God but his obedience brought great blessing. Earlier you may have shared a time when God asked you to do something difficult. What was the outcome of your obedience?

Conclusion

Just as God tested Abraham's faith, he will allow our faith to be tested too. God had a marvelous plan for Abraham's life. He was to become the 'father of faith' and the one through whom the lineage of Jesus Christ would come. The long wait for a son and the challenge to offer him as a sacrifice, was preparation for all God had planned for Abraham. The same is true in our lives. God has a plan and purpose for us too. Trust him! Let's learn from Abraham's life and respond in the way he did – with faith and obedience to God.