

## Digging Deeper

Not long after the birth of Isaac, Abraham was told to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Though Isaac was spared, the parallels between Christ and Isaac are astounding. Indeed Isaac was a “type” of Christ foreshadowing what was to come. We read, “The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning one person, who is Christ” (Gal 3:16). Let us look at the similarities. “Father” Abraham was about to show his love to God by offering his “one and only son” (Gen 22:2; Heb 11:17) as a sacrifice but, “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9). Isaac carried his own wood on his back (Gen 22:6) and Christ, “Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)” (John 19:17). Genesis 22:6 shows Isaac and his father went on together as did God the Father and God the Son. Isaac willingly went up the hill and Christ says, “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again” (John 10:17).

Note in Genesis 22:4 it took three days to get to the mountain just as Christ was dead three days and rose again thereafter, this must also foreshadow the resurrection. Both took long journeys away from home. Isaac spoke up to his father (22:7), just as Jesus spoke up to His Father many times in prayer (Luke 4:42; 6:12; Matt 26:36). Isaac was the promised son as was Jesus the promised Messiah. Isaac was bound (v. 9) as was Jesus (Matt 27:2). Isaac was conceived and born miraculously as was Jesus (Luke 1:35). Isaac was given a name by God before birth (Gen 17:19) as was Christ (Matt 1:21).

On the way up the hill, Isaac asks his father where the sacrifice is. Abraham responds with, “God will provide.” What a deep truth lies within this statement. Though the LORD does provide a ram in place of Isaac (22:13), the Lamb that WILL BE provided was yet to come. Christ was our Passover Lamb which is why when John saw Jesus coming he said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). These are just a few examples of the many times Christ is found in the Old Testament. What a beautiful picture of God’s love for us that was provided near that very mountain.

# Devotional Guide

*For Individuals and Families (Issue #6)*

## THE JOURNEY TO MOUNT MORIAH

AS FOR ABRAHAM AND SARAH, THEY WERE NOW PERSUADED THAT GOD COULD INDEED DO WHAT MEN THINK IMPOSSIBLE. BUT HAD THEY TRULY LEARNED TO TRUST HIM? GOD PUT A SPECIAL TEST BEFORE ABRAHAM TO FIND OUT. GOD TOLD ABRAHAM TO TAKE ISAAC TO THE HEIGHTS OF A MOUNTAIN CALLED MT. MORIAH, BUILD AN ALTAR, AND SACRIFICE HIM TO GOD.

AMAZINGLY, ABRAHAM’S TRUST IN GOD HAD BECOME SO STRONG THAT HE SET OUT IMMEDIATELY TO OBEY. EVEN THOUGH THE COMMAND WAS ILLOGICAL AND MORALLY TROUBLING, ABRAHAM WAS READY TO SUBMIT TO IT. THE NEW TESTAMENT, COMMENTING ON THIS EVENT, SUGGESTS THAT ABRAHAM HAD REASONED OUT IN HIS MIND WHAT GOD WOULD DO. ABRAHAM BELIEVED THAT GOD WOULD RAISE THE BOY BACK TO LIFE (HEBREWS 11:17-19).

BUT AS ABRAHAM AND ISAAC APPROACHED MT. MORIAH, GOD HAD A PLAN OF HIS OWN. JUST AS ABRAHAM WAS ABOUT TO PLUNGE THE KNIFE INTO ISAAC’S CHEST, GOD FROZE THE MUSCLES OF ABRAHAM’S ARM. HE PRAISED ABRAHAM FOR HIS FAITH AND POINTED HIM TO A RAM, SNARLED IN SOME BRAMBLES, WHICH COULD BE SACRIFICED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ISAAC.

THE STORY OF ISAAC IS A GREAT LESSON ABOUT THE NATURE OF FAITH. TO FOLLOW GOD, WE MAY SOMETIMES FACE SITUATIONS IN WHICH HE ASKS US TO RESPOND IN WAYS THAT SEEM UNREASONABLE. GOD INVITES US TO TRUST HIM AND TO DISCOVER HOW IT IS TO LIVE THIS WAY.

**Journey Through the Bible  
Journey to a Better Family**

**Mile Marker  
Genesis 22**

## DISCUSSION

God commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering to test him (verse 1). What do the following Scriptures teach us about the testing of God?

2 Chronicles 32:31 – (God may test us to see what's in our hearts)

Exodus 20:20 – (God tests us so that we will fear or obey Him and not sin against Him)

Deuteronomy 8:2 – (Our obedience to God's commands is an indication of what is in our hearts)

Although God may test us, we learn from the Epistle of James, He does not tempt us. When we're tempted it's because of our own evil or sinful desires (Read James 2:13-14).

Can you share a time when you think God was testing you? How did you respond and what did it teach you about God or about yourself?

In Genesis chapter 22, verse 2, we find the first occurrence of the word 'love' in the Bible. Note that it is in the context of the love of a father for his son. The first uses of the word love in the Gospels are similar in context.

Read Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22; John 3:16.

How does this review of the first uses of love in the Old and New Testaments help understand the love of God?

**Genesis 22 is the last occurrence of God speaking to Abraham.**

**(22:15-18)**

**He swears by Himself and tells Abraham that because he has not withheld his only son from Him and obeyed His command, He will do four things. Three of the promises are restatements from 12:2; 12:3; and 15:5. God provides a new or fourth promise in verse 17.**

**Talk about the four promises and discuss: Which of the four things is a new promise to Abraham?**

## GOALS THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

### MONDAY

- Read THE BIG STORY from page #1
- Start on “Discussion” from page #2

### TUESDAY

- Complete “DISCUSSION” from page #2

### WEDNESDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

### THURSDAY

- Read and work on MEMORY VERSES

### FRIDAY

- Use DIGGING DEEPER from page #4 as a guide for discussion.

## MEMORY VERSES

John 1:29

Matthew 1:2

Galatians 4:28

Hebrews 11:11

Hebrews 11:17-19

James 2:20-24