

A Word from Kathy

What do you do when

- you face a great test of faith?
- your obedience is more difficult than ever before?
- what you are being asked to do may be misunderstood by others and could cause you a loss that is far outside of your comfort zone?
- your obedience feels like going backwards not forward?

These questions do not have multiple choice answers. For the child of God there is only one right choice, obey! That is why we must do all we can to have such an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father today and every day; in order to recognize His voice, to know it is He who is instructing us. He is faithful. He is trustworthy. He loves us.

Once we have a clear word from God there is no other choice for a child of God but obedience. The chorus of an old hymn goes... "Trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Observation

Before we start observing this chapter I would like to try and clarify something; God is not putting Abraham to this test to trip him up or watch him fail. Nor is he testing to see how he will respond, since God knows Abraham better than Abraham knows himself. God created him. God loves Abraham, Sarah and Isaac. He has proven that to them by His faithful care, provision and protection. This is part of God's refining process. Difficult circumstances serve to refine us. The definition of "refine" is to purify; to separate the common from the precious, to cleanse from all fleshly or evil affections and desires, to make pure, to separate from what is coarse, rude or improper. Jesus was "tempted" in the wilderness, but not tempted to sin but to prove so everyone could see that he could stand spotless and blameless. Let's keep all this in mind as we look at Genesis 22 this week.

James 1:12-13 ***Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.***

1. The word test in Genesis 22:1 can be a bit misleading. This word in the original Hebrew was **Hacah** which means **put to the proof**.

What does God want brought into the light and who do you believe he wants to see it?

2. God gives Abraham very specific instructions in verse 2, list them.
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3. When did Abraham move in obedience to God's direction? Vs. 3
4. This was no small journey to get to the region of Moriah. How long did it take them?
5. When they arrived what did Abraham tell his servants that proved he knew that God was able to continue His will and blessing through Isaac? Vs. 5
6. Read Hebrews 11:17-19, to what extent was Abraham assured that God would go to fulfill His promises?
7. Abraham takes the wood, the fire and a knife for this offering. The preparations are complete except for one thing, what is it?
8. What had the delay of the birth of Isaac taught Abraham about God's timing?
Look back at Gen. 21:2
9. What does Abraham tell Isaac concerning the lamb for the sacrifice?
10. The scripture did not say how old Isaac was at this time. Is there anything here that would give you an idea or a range of his age?
11. Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood and bound Isaac and laid him on top. What did he do next?
12. God protected Isaac and provided a ram. Why did Abraham and Isaac not see the ram when they arrived at the place?
What can be learned about God's provision?
13. Now that you have observed the entire test of Abraham, write a sentence or two stating the purpose of the test as you see it.
14. Make a list of the promises God spoke to Abraham in Gen. 22:15-18.
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15. Do you remember Milcah from Gen. 11:27-29?

From Gen. 22:20-23, write a list below Milcah & her husband and their 8 sons and 1 granddaughter. This list will be very important soon.

Milcah & _____

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Interpretation

16. Abraham did not discuss his journey to Mt. Moriah with anyone before going. Specifically who do you notice he did not discuss it with?

Why do you believe he would not discuss it?

17. Was Isaac really “his only son”? vs. 16 (Yes, this is a bit of a trick question. Think, why would God refer to Isaac in this way)

18. What do you suppose Abraham was doing as they made their way? Do you think he was vacillating back and forth as he walked; am I doing the right thing? Was that really what God said? Or do you believe he was thanking God that Isaac was His promised son and that God was able to continue to carry out His will in spite of any human circumstance.

Application

19. In what way is God testing your commitment to Him?

20. Do you think your husband has ever feared discussing with you a step of faith that God has told him to make?

21. How will what we have studied about Abraham’s test of faith help us when we are afraid to trust God with what is most precious to us; a possession, a dream, or a person?

22. If you consider Isaac's possible age, what does that tell you about his submission to his father? Do your children trust your walk of faith?
23. Try to think of an example of them obeying because they trusted your faith.
24. God provided the ram at the exact time it was needed. Abraham was a rich man; he could have brought his own ram for the sacrifice if that was the issue. How does that dispel the myth that we hear all around us today that "God wants you to be rich"? This is not a stretch of the principle taught here but it may take some thinking.
25. In Genesis 22:14 we see Abraham called the place "The LORD Will Provide". That is God's name **Jehovah- Jireh**. Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, he has provided a substitute sacrifice for us. Who is our substitute? Look up John 1:29
26. If God can provide for our great need of a Savior, and Abraham's great need for a sacrifice that day, why do we ever worry about what we need? If someone told you they put \$30 billion in your bank account would you worry about your water bill? God's resources are unlimited! He has your best interest at heart; He loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Practice this week resting in the truth you know about the God you serve. Be prepared to share an example with your small group or with someone else if you are doing this study on your own.

Ephesians 3:14-21 New Living Translation

When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,

15 *the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.*

16 *I pray that from his glorious, **unlimited resources** he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.*

17 *And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him.*

May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.

18 *And may you have the power to understand,*

as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.

19 *May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it.*

Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

20 *Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us,*

he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

21 *May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen.*