



Genesis 22  
The Testing of Abraham  
From Sermon 1.24.21

Read *Genesis 22:1-14*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Abraham is one of the most important, significant people in Scripture. God has promised him that he'll be the Father of a great nation. It seems impossible, but Abraham is more than 100 years old, when he fathers a son. Then, God tests him by asking him to sacrifice Isaac—the child of promise. This section is packed full of meaning, symbolism, and lesson. God will test our faith.

1. What surely went through Abraham's heart and mind at this request? Various personal answers. But, likely: question and confusion, fear, bargaining, grief, ...

2. From our "Gift of Trials" series: What are four reasons we go through trials? How do you see each of these in this account of Abraham?

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Abraham's Trial</u>
• To See a <u>Miracle</u>	<i>John 9:1-3</i>	Isaac born late. God stopped him
• To Rely on a Faithful God	<i>2 Corinthians 1:8-10</i>	<u>He knew God would resurrect Isaac</u>
• To Produce <u>Christ-like Character</u>	<i>James 1:2-3</i>	Abraham's love for God & Faith
• To Prepare us for Ministry	<i>2 Corinthians 1:3-4</i>	<u>He would pass on God's faithfulness, provision, &amp; promise to his son</u>

3. The rich symbolism in Abraham's account is hard to miss. What was pointed out on Sunday?

- Isaac is the Only Son (the son of promise)—See *John 3:16*
- The Demonstration of Love—See *Romans 5:8*
- The Use of Mount Moriah—See *2 Chronicles 3:1 & Luke 23:33*
- The Substitutionary Ram—See *John 1:29*

4. What do we tend to cherish more than God? Various personal answers

4a. What if God asked you to give it up/offer it to Him tomorrow? Various personal answers  
See also *Matthew 10:37-39*

5. How is a story and legacy like Abraham's helpful for the days we live in? Various personal answers

6. Read *James 2:21-26*. Was Abraham saved here, by this act of obedience? No, He was already saved

6a. How do we explain, then, James' reference to Abraham's faith vs. that of Paul's in Romans 4?

Two Different Events Pertaining to Two Different Aspects of Faith. Paul's Reference: Events Decades Earlier/Pertaining to the Promise of a Son from Sarah. James' Reference: This Event (Chapter 22) = A "Said" Faith vs. Genuine Working Faith