

THE WAY CHURCH

TRUE Worship

Sermon Notes — Sunday, June 14, 2026

Speaker	Pastor Jonathan M. Leath	Text	Genesis 22:1–14
Key Verse	Genesis 22:5	Location	The Way Church

KEY SCRIPTURE

"Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.'"

— Genesis 22:5

SUPPORTING TEXTS

2 Samuel 24:24 · Romans 12:1-2 · 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 · Proverbs 3:13-15 · Hebrews 11:17-19 · Psalm 51:15-17 · Romans 3:23 · 1 John 2:15-17 · Philippians 3:3 · John 4:23-24

OPENING

Worship is not just *why* we gather — worship is a commandment.

America has an idolatry problem. John Calvin observed: *"Our Hearts are Idol Factories."* When Abraham said, *"the lad and I will go yonder and worship,"* he was not speaking of convenience, comfort, or appearance — but a costly act of devotion requiring trust in God's character and submission to God's Word.

1. TRUE WORSHIP WILL ALWAYS COST YOU SOMETHING

Genesis 22 opens with a shocking command: "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."

— Genesis 22:1

God does not ask for something cheap, casual, or leftover — He asks for what Abraham loves most. Worship becomes visible when obedience costs something.

"Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing."

— 2 Samuel 24:24

God provides the substitute — the ram in the thicket — pointing us forward to the greater sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That is why Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). **Worship is not merely what we sing. Worship is what we surrender.**

2. WORSHIP MUST BE GOD-CENTERED

Abraham did not go up the mountain to *get* something from God; he went to *honor* God. When worship becomes about my preferences, my tastes, my mood, or my experience, the focus has already shifted away

from the Lord.

Whatever we desire most will shape what we worship. If we desire comfort most, we worship comfort. If we desire approval most, we worship approval. If we desire God most, our worship is ordered rightly. (Proverbs 3:13-15)

3. GOD WILL OFTEN CHALLENGE US IN THE AREA OF WHAT WE IDOLIZE

God was not merely testing Abraham's willingness to give up an object; He was testing whether Abraham loved the *gift* more than the *Giver*. The things we treasure most can become the things that compete most for our hearts — family, career, reputation, success, ministry, money.

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac... accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead."

— Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham worshiped not because he could see the outcome, but because he trusted the One who gave the command. What is the 'Isaac' in your life?

4. WORSHIP COMES FROM A SURRENDERED HEART

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

— Psalm 51:16-17

God rejects sacrifice without repentance, sacrifice without humility, sacrifice without heart-level surrender. He is not looking for ritual without reality. We do not approach God because we are worthy in ourselves — we approach Him only through His mercy and the atoning work of Christ (Romans 3:23; Philippians 3:3).

5. WORSHIP IS SPIRIT AND TRUTH

"The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

— John 4:23-24

Worship is not only emotional, and it is not only intellectual — it is **both**. It is heartfelt *and* biblical. It is inward *and* faithful. It is not a performance designed to impress people; it is a response to the God who has revealed Himself. (1 John 2:15)

The question is not simply, *"Did we have church?"* The question is: **"Did we worship God?"**

CONCLUSION: JEHOVAH JIREH — THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Genesis 22 ends with God providing the ram. Abraham names the place **Jehovah Jireh** — *"The LORD will provide."* This is not just a story about Abraham. It is a revelation of God's heart.

God provides what He requires. God gives the sacrifice. God meets His people in obedience. And God is glorified when His people trust Him enough to lay down what they love most.

God said, *"Do not lay your hand on the boy... for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."* — Genesis 22:12. Abraham trusted God with the most precious

thing to him. Hebrews 11:17 reveals that Abraham believed if he sacrificed Isaac, God would resurrect him from the dead.

While Abraham climbed one side of Mt. Moriah with fire, wood, and his son — simultaneously, God was leading a ram up the other side to the altar. **God had already prepared the provision.**

Isaac asked, *"Where is the sacrifice?"* Abraham answered, *"God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."* (Genesis 22:7-8). Whenever we truly worship God, God provides everything we need.

If we are going to worship God rightly, we must come with sacrifice, with surrender, with reverence, with faith, and with a broken and contrite heart.

True worship is not merely what we bring to God — it is what we lay down before Him.

Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. — John 4:23-24

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