

The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament: **Week 3 – Abraham & Isaac: More Than Obedience**

Genesis 22:1–14

Opening Prayer:

Faithful God, as we gather today, open our hearts and minds to Your Word. Help us see beyond the familiar details of this story and discover more of Your character and Your grace. Teach us to trust You more deeply and help us recognize the ways You provide for us, especially through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Theme:

When we first read Genesis 22, it appears to be a story about Abraham's obedience. But at its heart, it is a story about God's provision. Abraham learned that God could be trusted even when he did not understand what God was doing. Ultimately, this story points beyond Abraham and Isaac to Jesus Christ—the Lamb God provides for the salvation of the world.

Secular Quote:

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Starter Question:

Tell about a time when you faced uncertainty and had to trust someone else without knowing how everything would turn out. What made that trust difficult—or possible?

Digging Deeper Questions

- What emotions do you experience when you read Genesis 22? Why do you think this story can be challenging for modern readers?
- Abraham had waited many years for Isaac. How might that make God's request even more difficult?
- When Isaac asks, "Where is the lamb?" what do you think Abraham is feeling in that moment?
- Abraham tells Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb." How does that statement shape the meaning of the entire story?
- Why do you think God provided a substitute rather than allowing Isaac to be sacrificed?
- In what ways does the ram in the thicket point forward to Jesus?
- Read John 1:29. How does John the Baptist's declaration, "Behold, the Lamb of God," connect with Genesis 22?
- The sermon suggested that we are often more like Isaac than Abraham. What does that mean to you?
- Have you ever experienced God's provision in a way that you did not recognize until later? Share that story with the group.

- What area of your life currently requires trust in God's character even when you do not understand His plan?

Actionable of the Week:

This week, spend a few minutes each day reflecting on the phrase:

"The Lord Will Provide."

As worries, fears, or uncertainties arise, pause and ask:

- What am I trying to carry on my own?
- Where have I already seen God's faithfulness?
- How might God be inviting me to trust Him today?

Consider keeping a journal of moments when you notice God's provision—through people, opportunities, encouragement, strength, or unexpected blessings.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being the God who provides. When life feels uncertain and we cannot see what lies ahead, help us remember Your faithfulness. Give us the courage to trust You one step at a time and remind us that Your greatest provision is found in Jesus Christ, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. As we leave this place, help us walk in faith and confidence that You are with us. Amen.

Daily Scripture Guide:
The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament
Week 3 — Abraham & Isaac: More Than Obedience
Based on Genesis 22:1–14 and this Sunday's message

Monday

Genesis 22:1–14

Read the entire story of Abraham and Isaac.

Reflection: What stands out to you most in this passage? Is it Abraham's faith, Isaac's trust, God's provision, or something else? Where do you need to trust God today even when you cannot see the outcome?

Tuesday

Hebrews 11:17–19

Abraham's faith is remembered centuries later.

Reflection: Abraham trusted God's character even when he did not understand God's plan. How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help you trust Him in the present?

Wednesday

Psalms 121

"I lift up my eyes to the hills..."

Reflection: Abraham looked up and saw God's provision. The psalmist lifts his eyes and sees God's help. What are you focused on right now—your problems or God's presence?

Thursday

John 1:29–34

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Reflection: Isaac asked, "Where is the lamb?" John points to Jesus and provides the answer. How does seeing Jesus as God's provision deepen your understanding of God's love?

Friday

Romans 8:31–39

"He who did not spare his own Son..."

Reflection: Abraham was spared from sacrificing Isaac, but God willingly gave His Son for us. What does this passage teach you about the depth of God's commitment to His people?

Saturday

Philippians 4:10–20

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Reflection: God's provision does not always look the way we expect, but God remains faithful. Looking back over this week, where have you seen evidence of God's provision, care, or presence in your life?

Weekly Prayer

Lord, teach me to trust You when I cannot see the whole picture. Help me remember that You are faithful, that You keep Your promises, and that You have already provided everything I truly need through Jesus Christ. Open my eyes to recognize Your presence and provision each day. Amen.