

Wrestling With God

Week #4: The Ultimate Test

Text: Genesis 22:1-19

1. Do you suffer from “**test** anxiety”?

- Psalm 13:2 - *How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?*

✓ Video: Abraham's Ultimate Test

2. So why would God test us if he **loves** us?

Abraham's Faith Lesson

God wanted to know...**if Abraham would put his son ahead of his God**

God wanted Abraham to know...**God could be trusted completely**

- Hebrews 11:17-19 - *By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.*

Our Faith Lesson

#1 - Learn to hold **lightly** what God has **given** to you.

#2 - Learn to hold **tightly** what God has **done** for you.

3. The fact that God **tests** us is proof that he **loves** us.

- Romans 8:32 - *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*
- Genesis 22:1-19 — *Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 2 Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a*

mountain I will show you.” 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Read Psalm 139:23 then answer this question - Why would God test us if he loves us so much?
- 2) Can you recall a test of faith you’ve recently faced? How was your faith (or lack of it) revealed?
- 3) Read James 1:2-4. Apply these words to a test of faith you’ve faced in your life.

Homework: Genesis 24-26