

The Lord Provided the Sacrifice

Just as God provided the sacrifice to take Isaac's place, so He has provided Christ, the Lamb of God, to take our place.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Genesis 22:1-19

March 1, 2020

(Gen. 22:1-19) ¹ 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.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What is the most difficult sacrifice or decision that you've ever had to make?
- How did this decision test your faith? How did your faith inform your decision at the time?
- How did the results of that decision confirm and/or challenge your faith?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer to read Genesis 22:1-10

- Why do you think people struggle with passages like these in the Bible? How can we keep ourselves from feeling embarrassed or ashamed about parts of the Bible that are not pleasant or endearing to our culture?
- What is most shocking to you about Genesis 22 and God's command for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Has God ever shocked you with one of his commands in Scripture and/or with a life situation?
- Given Abraham and Sarah's experience with barrenness and God's earlier promises to them, why would this command come as a shock?
- Which details in verses 1-10 indicate that Abraham was obedient to God's command?
- How do verses 5 and 8 indicate that Abraham believed that Isaac would somehow survive the burnt offering?

Have a volunteer read Genesis 22:11-19

- Why would God wait until the last moment to intervene in order to prevent Abraham from killing Isaac?
- What does God's providing a ram as a substitute indicate about His character and grace? Why is God within His rights and justice to require Isaac's life?
- What does God's statement to Abraham in verses 16-18 say about His role in bringing about God's earlier promises to him and for the world (e.g., Gen 12:1-3)?

Have three volunteers read Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-19; Romans 4:16-25; James 2:20-24

- **In light of these New Testament passages, what does the Abraham-Isaac story tell us about the nature of the gospel and salvation?**
- **According to Hebrews 11:17-19, how does the Abraham-Isaac story point not only to Jesus' sacrifice but also to His resurrection?**

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- When has God provided for you in a "last moment" sort of way? What did this reveal to you about your level of confidence and trust in God? How is Christ's sacrifice the ultimate display of "last moment" provision?
- What can we glean from this passage about how we should approach difficult texts in the Bible? Why must we keep the "big picture" in view when looking at difficult texts (or any individual text)?
- How does Abraham's trust in God—even to the point of nearly sacrificing his son—challenge you? What sort of things might God be calling you to sacrifice in order to demonstrate your trust in Him?

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Genesis 18-19
 DAY 2 – Genesis 20-21
 DAY 3 – Genesis 22
 DAY 4 – Genesis 24
 DAY 5 – Genesis 25:19-34, 26

KEY VERSE: Genesis 26:4

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

