

April 13/14, 2002

Study Questions
By Faith We Live: A Study of the Life of Abraham
Faith and Trust
Genesis 22:1-24

Opening Discussion

1. Discuss the last time your faith in God was stretched to the limit. Why was this such a test of your faith? How did you respond? What did you learn?
2. Are there certain areas of your life you find harder to trust God with? Why is this?
3. What has been the greatest test of your faith in your Christian walk? What made it hard? What did you learn? Did that experience make you stronger or weaker? Why?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 22:1-19. The story in Genesis 22 does not appear in a vacuum, but rather is the culmination of 25 years of learning to walk by faith. Review what Abraham has been through over the past 25 years.

What was necessary to get him to trust God as he did in Genesis 22?

2. Talk about the thoughts and emotions that Abraham must have processed as he prepared and traveled to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice his only son.
3. Can faith be faith if it doesn't demonstrate itself in action? Compare James 2:21-24.
4. This is the first occasion the word "love" is used in the Bible (22:2). The following verses record the first time love or beloved is used in the NT. Do you see any correlation?

Matt. 3:17

Mark 1:11

Luke 3:22

John 3:16

5. Isaac is a type of Jesus. This means he is a picture of what Jesus would do. In what ways do you see a picture of Jesus?

How does the emotion of this story help us better understand the sacrifice made for our sins?

6. What does it mean to trust God?

What are some of the indications in our lives that we don't trust God as much as we'd like to think we do?

Are you willing to let God have your spouse? Kids? Health? Money? Career? Home? Possessions? Why or why not?

Application

1. On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being highest... where are you in your faith walk right now? Where do you want to be? What will it take to get you where you want to be?

2. What are three practical steps you can take to grow in your faith in the next couple of weeks?

What are specific areas where you struggle?

3. List every area of your life or people you are willing to give totally to God right now.

Spend time in prayer and tell God He can have each of these areas or people to do with as He pleases.

What areas are you holding back? Why?

In the days ahead, try to wrestle through why you are holding back certain areas, if that is the case. Why can't God be trusted in those areas or with those people?