

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker: What is the one thing in your possession right now that is hard to let go?
2. Abraham was a man who had faith. Though he was not without flaws, by and large He was devoted to the will of God. That is what we see in Genesis 22:3– 4. His complete faith in God leads to obedience of the unthinkable. Abraham doesn't say, "Let me offer this instead." No, the story just moves right into Abraham making preparations for the journey and then starting off.

Think of the pressure and torment of what Abraham went through to let go and give everything to God. This is the son he'd waited for all his life! But it is important that even in the midst of the unthinkable, Abraham's faith in God is not shaken. In fact, his faith that God will provide is what gives him the strength to set out on this journey.

3. In Genesis 22:7–11, we see a man who doesn't argue with God, *but* he steadfastly insists that the lamb of his son is not the true lamb, and that God will provide another for him to sacrifice. *How are you in this area of your life? Are you content? If God takes away, do you bless his name as passionately as you bless his name when he gives you something? Do you have a sacrificial faith like Abraham's? Or, to focus the question even more: Do you see sacrifice as a way to worship God?*
4. Abraham shows us in this passage that a key part of worship is sacrifice (v. 5). Abraham understood that the offering or sacrifice was part of the worship God deserved, even if that sacrifice was his own beloved son Isaac. So often we go into worship expecting to get something out of it. *In what way your worship of God in all areas of your life reflect the same act of sacrificial worship? Share an experience that God led you to sacrifice something in order to follow Him. What did you sacrifice? How did you respond? What was the outcome? How did this change your understanding about God?*
5. In his letter to the Roman church, Paul describes Abraham as "the father of all who believe" (Romans 4:11). While this story is historically true and useful for learning about a life of faith, it is also important to see that Abraham's story points us to the blessing of knowing God's Son, his beloved Son (Genesis 22:2, Luke 3:22), the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). When the moment came for a substitute to be found, God sent his Son in our place to die on the cross. We can be assured that once we believe, we are justified and made righteous in God's sight (Romans 4:3)—not because of what we have done but because of the One in whom we have believed. And in this way, Abraham is indeed the father of us all.
6. Pray for one another to reflect the DNA of Abraham's faith.