

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | November 9

Open your group time by reading Genesis 22, thanking God for His Word in prayer, and by asking a few questions (20 minutes).

Begin by reading all of **Genesis 22** and then praying. Thank God for His Word.

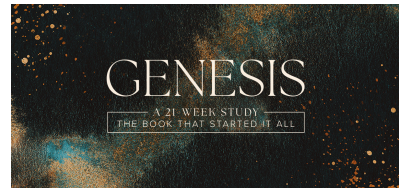
As you reflect on this story, reflect on the following:

- The call from God for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac is shocking to our modern ears. As sole heir to the promise (see Genesis 12), it would have been shocking to Abraham too. What textual clues exist in Genesis 22:1 that convey to the readers of this story that God did not actually intend for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
- How does Genesis 22:2 describe Isaac in the eyes of Abraham? How do these descriptions highlight the costliness of what God is testing Abraham with?
- What stands out to you about Abraham's faith?
- In general, what questions do you have OR what do you find interesting OR what do you find challenging from this chapter in Genesis?

After some sharing, pray together.

Talk about the sermon from Genesis 22 (40 minutes).

- What resonated or stood out or challenged you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?
- In his sermon, Dan talked about God's blessing of Abraham even though Abraham quite often lacked faith. What are some of the blessings you have in Christ that you hold most dear? Explain.
- As Abraham's life continues on, he learns to obey and trust God more and more, such that when God asks for Isaac's life, Abraham obeys – no questions asked! What do you think led to this kind of faith in Abraham? Do you obey God no questions asked when he tells you to do something? Can you think of a time where you were immediately obedient? When you weren't?



- Have you ever been in a season of testing by God? When? What was that like for you? What did you learn about yourself? About the Lord?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how often “real faith precedes understanding.” Have you ever stepped forward in obedience without knowing the “why?” – choosing to trust God instead of having all the answers? Explain.
- Read Genesis 22:12. Dan said in his sermon that this test for Abraham “was never about death, it was about devotion.” Have times of testing ever felt like “death” to you? Explain. In what ways have times of testing deepened your devotion to God? Explain.
- Read Genesis 22:13-14. How did God provide a way out for Abraham? How did God provide a way out for us from our sin through His Son Jesus Christ? How does this story in Genesis 22 point to the gospel?

Split into groups of 3-4 for prayer (20 minutes).

Finish by having each person read a passage from the list below. Have each person pray out loud with your smaller group using the language, theme, and idea articulated in the verse or passage below.

Example: If you were given Romans 8:1, you might pray, “Lord, we thank you that for those in Christ there is no condemnation! What a blessing! How marvelous! Help us to live in light of that reality ever day. In Jesus name, Amen.”

- Isaiah 53:5
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 3:18
- John 1:29
- Romans 5:8

Finish your group time by coming together, sharing prayer requests, and praying for one another (5 minutes)