

These questions are for the June 14, 2026, message, “The Only Son.” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 22:1-14) out loud.

Passage Outline

1. The test of faith (1-2)
 - a) Abraham is asked to sacrifice Isaac, the son of God’s promise.
 - i. No one else would ever be asked to sacrifice their child. God forbids it.
 - ii. As the man of God’s promise, Abraham is here “tested.”
 1. Tested to see if he will withhold anything from God.
 2. Tested to see if he loves anyone more than he loves God.
 - b) Tests are from God, and given to strengthen our faith (James 1:2-4).
2. The obedience of faith (3-10)
 - a) Abraham obeys God immediately and fully.
 - b) Abraham knew that God can bring life from death (Heb 11:17-19).
 - c) Angels prevent Abraham from harming Isaac in any way.
3. The Perfect substitute (11-14).
 - a) The place: Mount Moriah, where the temple is built and Jesus is crucified.
 - b) The perfect substitute: a ram for Isaac, and Jesus for you and me.
 - c) The willing Son: Issac submits, pointing to Jesus (Is 53:7).
 - d) The loving Father: Abraham is pointing to “God so loved the world” (Jn 3:16).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God will test us (James 1:2-4). Tests are often unpleasant and unwanted, yet they are from God and for our good. What is the test God is putting you through right now? What is that test revealing about you?
2. Based on #1, above: The test: “will Abraham love the gift that God has given more than he loves God?” Passing our tests means that we God removes all competition—every idol—to total devotion to Him. What are your tests teaching you about loving God?
3. Based on #2, above: You and I will never be asked to do what Abraham was asked to do, but we will be asked to obey when it is painful. Open up your heart and talk to us about an area of obedience in your life that hurts. How can we help you?
4. Based on #3, above: Read through and think about the theology or “what we are learning about God” from Abraham. Which of the four ideas most fuel worship? The place, the substitute, the Son or the Father?
5. Application: we said that we can respond in worship when we see the great lengths God went to show us love in Jesus; that we should be constantly vigilant to remove idols; and that we must remember that this test (valley) we are in is not meant to crush us, but strengthen us. Which of these mindsets are you working on?