

“Abraham answered, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son’ ” (GENESIS 22:8, NIV).

Bible Study 5

Abraham’s Sacrifice

BY CHAD BLAHA

Read Genesis 22:1-19.

What did God tell Abraham to do? _____

Was God specific in His commandment to Abraham? Yes No

How did Abraham respond to God’s request? _____

How did Isaac respond to God’s request? _____

Many of us are familiar with this story about Abraham and Isaac. As we read this passage in Genesis, a story of Abraham’s great faith and God’s provision unfolds.

As Christians we can relate to Abraham receiving a message from God. In fact, many of us have heard God calling us to one thing or another. What sets Abraham apart was his response. After years and years of desiring a child, Abraham and Sarah had become quite old when God blessed them with a son, Isaac. As his and Sarah’s only son, Isaac was Abraham’s most valuable “possession.”

When God told Abraham to give up Isaac as a burnt offering, why did he obey?

How would you respond if God asked you for your most valuable possession?

The Bible tells us that Abraham got up early the next morning, saddled the donkey, got two of his servants and started cutting wood for the fire. He did not ask God to tell him which mountain they were going to. He did not ask God why He wanted Isaac, after He had just given them their only son. Nor did Abraham try to negotiate with God a sacrifice that would be less taxing on him. Instead he prepared to do just what God had commanded, and he did so quickly.

What do you learn from Abraham’s response to God?

What prepared Abraham to receive this unusual assignment from God?

What was Abraham thinking? (*Hebrews 11:17-19*)

In what way was Abraham's obedience to God's command important in God's overall mission to redeem the world?

Now think about Isaac. What did he gain from this bizarre experience? What effect do you think it had on him to see his father's all-out obedience and experience God's dramatic, last-second angelic rescue?

How would Isaac's life have been different if his father had refused to obey God?

The Scripture tells us one question Isaac had. He asked his dad where the sacrificial lamb was. The verse that followed was more than a simple response to a simple question: "*God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son*" is an answer to Isaac—and a prophecy for us.

This story is an illustration of God's greatest sacrifice for us. Just as Abraham was willing to give his only son, God also was willing to give His only Son. Just as Isaac was freed from death, so also Christ was freed from death (*Hebrews 11:17-19*). As *on mission* Christians, we know the mission of God is to reconcile the world to Himself. God's Word tells us that all of us are sinners (*Romans 3:23*) and as sinners we deserve death (*Romans 6:23*). But God has provided the Lamb. Jesus was our substitute. He stood in our place and was sacrificed for us. But He did not let death conquer Him; instead, He conquered death. Three days later He rose from the grave and was reunited with His Father also.

What difficult assignment has God given to you?

What will it cost you to obey?

What difference will your obedience make in God's mission to reach and rescue lost people?

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