Abraham & Isaac: The Story of Sacrifice

We are going to spend the summer looking at the hottest stories in the Bible. You know the kind of story you would tell when you’re out around a campfire at night. Stories that every believer should know because they’re important to understanding our faith. We call them Campfire Stories.

The Promises

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.” Genesis 12:1-2

The promise: you’ll be great and all the nations of the world will be blessed through you. Abram did as instructed to.

Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” Genesis 15:4-5

And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. Genesis 15:6

Another promise: numerous descendants.

The MISTAKE

Genesis 16 – Sarai, Abram’s wife couldn’t have children and so said, “Take my servant Hagar and have a kid.”

Abram sins and does as Sarai suggested.

So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. Genesis 16:15

Hagar and Ishmael are a picture of trying to make God’s promise happen in our own strength. We all do this.
The Promise RESTORED

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.

I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.” Genesis 17:1-2

In Genesis 17 – Abram is renamed Abraham – from exalted father to father of many. The promise is expanded upon.

God replied, “No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant. Genesis 17:19

Isaac means laughter, Sarah laughed at God’s word, then they laughed at joy when His promised was fulfilled.

Isaac grows up to be a great kid, Dad is happy then this...

God will ask you to SACRIFICE Whatever You LOVE More Than HIM

“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.” Genesis 22:2

God gave specific instructions to avoid confusion.

V3 Arose early. To split the wood. Why? Couldn’t sleep.

V4 Three days later they see Mt Moriah in the distance.

V5 Servants stay here. The boy & will be back.

V7-8 Dad? We got a knife and wood, where’s the sacrifice? God will provide son...

V9 Ties up Isaac and puts him on the altar.

And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. Genesis 22:10
“Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” Genesis 22:12

How many of us have never seen the blessing because we avoid the sacrifice God requires?

**The Sacrifice is a TEST of Your FAITH**

Sometime later, God tested Abraham’s faith. Genesis 22:1

This chapter started with telling us this was a test.

Abraham is called the Father of Faith.

God has to break self-reliance to use us.

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. John 12:24

This speaks of Jesus’ death but God will cause your dreams to die to produce greater faith.

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead. Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham believed in God’s resurrection power before resurrection had ever taken place!

What has God asked you to do? What promised is delayed? What is an Ishmael in your life?
God Provided The Sacrifice of **JESUS**

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

**Jesus is the sacrifice today.**

*If you’re watching online, say this prayer out loud.*

*Then check I’ve accepted Jesus on your Connect Card…*

**Sacrificial Giving**

Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.” Luke 2:2-4

*For some, tithing is a sacrifice right now. For others tithing is doing the minimum. What is God asking you to do?*

**My Next Steps This Week:**

- Sign Up to SERVE TODAY!
- Read Abraham & Isaac in Genesis 22
- Ask God what He wants you to Sacrifice

**Next Week:**

*We continue the Camp Fire Stories Summer Series’ continuing this story with Abraham and Isaac: God Keeps His Promises!*