

Discussion Guide
Series: Origins Wk 9: Abraham Tested
March 2, 2025



Big Idea

God tests us to see if He is first in our lives.



Icebreaker

Do you prefer to be graded in a class via a testing format or an essay (written) format & why? Share your most memorable test-taking experience (f.y.i. we aren't perfect, so maybe there was one you tried to cheat on but got caught that you could share about, or maybe one that you did better than you expected).



Discussion Questions

1. Read Genesis 22:1-2. We see here that God does, in fact, test His followers. What is your initial reaction to this truth & why? For what reason is God testing Abraham here? Why may God test you or I today? Fill in the following blank: *God tests us to see if He is f_____ in our lives.*
2. We referred to these tests in the sermon as *Lordship Tests*. Is there a *Lordship Test* that God has you in right now? If so, describe it. What are some good things that are currently in direct competition for your heart and for Him being the top priority in your life?
3. Read Genesis 22:3. What do the actions and the timeliness of these actions here with Abraham tell us about he and his understanding of, or trust in God? Do you think Abraham understood all of the “why” behind what God was asking of him here? Do you think Abraham felt like doing what was asked of him here? What allowed Abraham to be able to obey versus disobey God in this situation?
4. A key point drawn out of verse 3 was this (fill in the blank): *Abraham responded to God by taking the n_____ s_____ of obedience.* This, in fact, is often what following God looks like still today. Do you tend to hold out for flashy and/or giant steps of obedience to God *OR* are willing to be committed to engaging in the “daily grind” of obedience, walking in the general direction God is asking you to go in? What are some of the parts of that “daily grind” for you which you trust will lead you to where He (God) ultimately has for you to go eventually? What hinders you from doing so?
5. Read Genesis 22:4-9 & Hebrews 11:17-19. From the Genesis passages what clues or statements from Abraham do we have that indicate his trust in God and that He (God) will not kill and/or keep Isaac dead? What stands out to you from the Hebrews passage and how can that be an encouragement to your own faith?
6. Read Genesis 22:10-19. What does Abraham call the place where this all took place and why is that significant? Fast-forwarding to Jesus’ time (approximately 2000 yrs) what event in His life is believed to have occurred at the same location where Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac? Many portions of the Old Testament point to Jesus, this is one. What other ones you have encountered that are powerful to you?



Concluding Questions

What is the right next step in your spiritual journey? Will you commit today to taking it?



Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the realizations from the *Concluding Questions* above. Pray for the church (gathered body of believers) as we enter the season of Lent together with Ash Wednesday’s Service and beyond in the new sermon series: “The Promise”.