

Small Group Questions | January 20th, 2019

The Great Explorers — Abraham Part 3

Genesis 21:1–7; 22:1–4

Other Passages Referenced: Gen 17:18; 18:12; 22:1–19; John 1:29,35; Hebrews 11:17–19

Hook: *A Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

What is the first thing you remember as a child wanting to do or be when you grew up?

Look:

Read Genesis 22:1–19

1. What imagery do you see in Gen 22:1–8 that parallels the sacrifice of Jesus?
2. Count the times that the word “son” and the phrase “only son” are found in Gen 22:1–19.
3. Although Abraham continued taking steps to sacrifice his son Isaac, what declarations of trust does he make in 22:5 and 22:8?
4. Read Hebrews 11:17–19 to see how Abraham’s declarations were compatible with his actions.

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

Practical Applications:

1. Are you able to identify some personal concentric circles moving from least to most intimate as in the examples of “your country...your kindred ... your father’s house” — “your son ... your only son ... whom you love” — “predictability ... preferences ... pride” — that you find hard to give up to go where God is leading?
2. When Abraham was in a period of delay and doubt, he devised a plan of his own to fulfill God’s promise—to make Ishmael the child of promise. Abraham had to give up his own plan in order to fulfill God’s plan. Saying yes to God’s plan sometimes means saying no to our own. Can you share from your own experience an example of having to give up a plan of your own in order for God to fulfill His plan?
3. In Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac, we see that God wanted Abraham’s trust and willingness to surrender what was most precious to him. Have you had an experience when you became willing to give up something precious to you and then God let you have it back?

Verse (You might consider memorizing this one): “And he (Abraham) believed the Lord and he counted it to him as righteousness.” Genesis 15:6