

and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

1. How long did Abraham wait before responding to God’s instruction?
 - A. What does this tell us about him?
 - B. What does it tell us about his faith?
 - C. What must someone believe about God in order to respond this quickly?
2. Why is putting off obedience to God a dangerous thing?
 - A. What is it a sign of?
 - B. What tends to happen during the time of delay?
3. Even though Abraham responded in obedience right away, it still took 3 days to journey to the place that God had told him about. What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind during those 3 days?
 - A. What would have been going through your mind?
4. Though nothing is said about any internal struggles that Abraham was having along the way, what are we told in verse 2 that assures us this was not easy for Abraham?
 - A. Why is this important for us to recognize?
 - B. What danger is there in our thinking that Abraham’s obedience was super-human, or done more like a robot than a human being?

KTFK: When we / gray. / be rather / what was / God has / know that / delay, for / will soon / spoken let / once so / us not / very clear

Song: “Trust and Obey”

Prayer: “Lord, I confess there have been times when I believed you wanted me to do something, but I waited, and in waiting I convinced myself that I must have had my wires crossed. Lord, I want to be careful when assessing what you are impressing upon me, but do not let me pretend I am being careful when really what I am doing is being disobedient. Amen.”

Wednesday, May 18

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

1. Did God really want Abraham to sacrifice his son?
 - A. Why is this important to remember? (See Jeremiah 32:33-35)
2. If God didn’t really want Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, why did he ask him to?
 - A. How is this kind of fear of God connected to a love for God?
3. What does this tell us about situations in our own lives when it appears that God is asking us to sacrifice something dear to us?

4. What was Abraham trusting about God in this act of being obedient to a command that was very hard to understand?
 - A. How much do you trust the heart and goodness of God when he asks for similar things of you?
5. While God doesn’t speak as individually to us as he did here to Abraham, what teachings from his word have a similar effect upon us and our lives?
6. Read Matthew 16:24-28 and Romans 12:1-2. What life does God ask each of us to sacrifice?
 - A. How obedient have you been in that?

KTFK: heart of / fear of / show our / trust the / all that / him through / ask, that / every tested / We must / task. / he will / God in / we may

Song: “My God How Wonderful Thou Art” (St. EtheldredaJ) (#328, Blue Psalter)

Prayer: “O God, great God and Father, it is to you alone that all my love and fear is due. To you alone my life belongs, and you have asked me to voluntarily sacrifice it to you and your will. Help me to respond to this ongoing request with the same obedience that Abraham did here, that I might prove my love for you and you might be glorified in all I do and say. Amen.”

Thursday, May 19

¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

1. The statements “The LORD will provide” and “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided” are not exactly the same.
 - A. How does the second statement better explain, or qualify, the first statement?
 - i. Is it true that the LORD will always provide, or is it the case that he will always provide “on the mount of the LORD”?
 1. Would the ram have been provided if Abraham had chosen not to obediently journey to the mount of the LORD to sacrifice Isaac as the LORD had instructed?
 - ii. What does this tell us about our own desire to trust in the fact that the Lord will provide for us?
 - ii. What does this tell us about our own desire to trust in the fact that the Lord will provide for us?
2. Read Matthew 6:25-33.
 - A. How is “Seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” similar to what it means for us to trust that “on the mount of the LORD it will be provided”?

KTFK: vision, that / that he / will be / provision. / we may / May the / the Lord / never doubt / kingdom of / occupy our / our sure

Song: “Seek Ye First”

Prayer: “Lord, purge from me the belief that your provision will always be there for me no matter where I might be or what I might be doing. Help me to be certain to always be living in response to your call to come up the mount – to put your kingdom and your glory at the forefront of my life and my plans, that I might have no doubt that your abundant provision will indeed always be there as it is needed. Amen.”

Friday, May 20

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

1. What future event does this event foreshadow?
2. What language here most reminds us of the coming sacrifice of Christ?
 - A. In what is Christ represented here in this event?
 - B. What doctrine of the atonement does this point us toward? (Hint: It has to do with substituting one thing for another.)
3. How important was Abraham's obedience based on what God says in verse 18?
 - A. Do you believe him?
4. We often believe that God will accomplish what he chooses with or without our obedience. How does this account challenge that thinking?
5. Read Philippians 2:3-11. Who else's obedience has been critical for our lives and eternal futures?
6. Have you ever wondered what God might do through your more faithful obedience?

KTFK: Among the / greatest works / of God / that history / does display, / are works / he did / through those / who did / his words / fully obey.

Song: "Thy Word"

Prayer: "O God, how powerful and mysterious your ways are. I know that all things happen because you have ordained them. Still, not only do you choose to work through the obedience of people (people who can only obey you as they are led and stirred by your Holy Spirit), but also you honor them for that obedience. Forgive us for thinking that all of your purposes will be accomplished with or without our obedience. Give us the excitement of knowing that there are still more powerful eternal things you are going to accomplish in this way, that we might be used for those very purposes, for your glory. Amen."

Saturday, May 21

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

May 16 - It's only / as our / gracious God / does take / the pains / to test / us, that / we are / molded by / his power / into the / very best / us.
May 17 - When we / know that / God has / spoken let / us not / delay, for / what was / once so / very clear / will soon / be rather / gray.
May 18 - We must / trust the / heart of / God in / all that / he will / ask, that / we may / show our / fear of / him through / every tested / task.
May 19 - May the / kingdom of / the Lord / occupy our / vision, that / we may / never doubt / that he / will be / our sure / provision.
May 20 - Among the / greatest works / of God / that history / does display, / are works / he did / through those / who did / his words / fully obey.

Family Worship 2022 May 16-21 Genesis 22:1-19 - Obedience

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, May 16

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

1. What do you think about the concept of God testing people?
2. What exactly is God testing about them?
3. Where does this concept of his testing fit within our grace-filled understanding of his ways with us?
 - A. Does its presence diminish the place of God's grace in a saving relationship with him, or is its presence an aspect of that grace? (See James 1:2-4)
4. Read Luke 14:26.
 - A. How does Jesus' teaching there relate to Abraham's situation here?
 - B. Do you think it is unfair of God to require this kind of extreme allegiance to him?
 - C. How at risk do you think you are of loving certain people or things more than you love God?
5. Do you believe God has ever tested you?
 - A. How would you know?
 - B. If God were to test you in a similar way, what relationship or possession in your life might he ask you to sacrifice?
 - C. Would you?

KTFK: gracious God / we are / as our / us. / us, that / the pains / very best / into the / molded by / It's only / his power / does take / to test

Song: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Prayer: "Lord, I confess that often times we forget that testing is a central aspect of the working of your grace in our lives, for through it you build and strengthen our faith. Forgive us for being surprised when you seem to be asking us to sacrifice something so very dear to us. Help us in all situations to truly hold you as the most precious thing in our lives, and so be quick to respond when you ask for proof that we belong to you above all others. Amen."

Tuesday, May 17

³ *So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering*