

# ONE STORY

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 3  
Abraham and Isaac

## BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going if your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie. [mosley@lifepointchurch.org](mailto:mosley@lifepointchurch.org) for help.

## THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

God told Abraham to do something very strange in order to test his faith. Like Abraham, our faith is tested. The question is, "How will we respond?"

## TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will read Genesis 27-45. We will engage with an amazing story of irony and redemption seen in the life of Joseph, Abraham's grandson.

## AS YOU READ...

...Think through the highs and lows of your own life. Allow yourself to be reminded that even though we don't always see the whole picture, God is a God of redemption.

## CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. **Have you ever been through something that you thought was a "test" from God? If so, describe it.**
2. **Have someone ever made you a promise that he didn't fulfill?**

## EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we're going to discuss how God put Abraham's faith to the test and then ultimately brought Himself glory" Then guide your group through these questions...

3. **If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **If today someone said to you, "God told me to sacrifice my only child." what would you think? When others in Abraham's day heard about his story do you think they thought he was crazy? Why or why not?**
5. **Read Genesis 22:1-2. The command God gave to Abraham seems absurd to us. Have you ever sensed God leading you to do something that made no sense at the time? What did you do? What was the result?**
6. **Read Genesis 22:3-5. Notice that Abraham never seems to doubt God's promise (Genesis 15:1-6) that through Isaac God would multiply a nation of people through whom He would bless the nations. Have you ever doubted God?**
7. **Read Hebrews 11:17-22. Isaac was old enough to have a very clear memory of today's story. What impact do you think Isaac's recognition of his father's faith had on the faith of his kids and grandkids?**
8. **Based on what you learned in worship on Sunday and in your personal reading last week, discuss all the different ways the story of Abraham and Isaac is a foreshadowing of the story of Jesus.**

## TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Say something like, "Today we've talked about Abraham's obedience in spite of the circumstances that surrounded him. His story ultimately points us to the story of Jesus." Then pose the following questions to bring it all together.

9. **Who have you been investing in? How can you share the story of Jesus with?**

Close by reminding your group of how to be prepared for next week's session. (See box on left.) Then pray together.

# This Week's Study Notes:

## General Notes

### What's the difference in a temptation and a test?

Great question! A temptation always comes from the enemy. Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness. He tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. And, he tempts us to sin today.

God, on the other hand, never tempts us to sin. That would be in conflict with His character. However, like with Abraham, He often puts our faith to the test as well.

## Scripture Notes

### Genesis 22:1-5

By this time, Isaac was a teenager or young man. tested. God used this as a way to confirm Abraham's faith and commitment to Him (Ex. 20:20; Deut. 8:2). Isaac was the only son of God's promise (21:12). God knew how much Abraham loved his son, but God wanted Abraham's complete allegiance to remain in Him. God desires His people's complete obedience. offer him. This test looked ahead to the coming sacrifice of God's own Son—Jesus Christ—who would consecrate Abraham's spiritual descendants to God and fulfill the covenant promises.

### Genesis 22:3

"Early in the morning" seems to indicate that Abraham obeyed God immediately and without question.

**Genesis 22:5** Abraham left his servants behind so he could obey God without hindrance. Notice Abraham said, "we'll come back." The author of Hebrews tells us Abraham knew he could trust God to fulfill His promise of descendants through Isaac, even raising him from the dead if it came to that (Heb. 11:19).

### Genesis 22:8

"God Himself will provide the lamb." This phrase is a direct foreshadowing of the coming sacrifice of Christ (1 Peter 2:24).

### Hebrews 11:17-22

According to tradition, God gave Abraham 10 tests, this being the final one. offered up Isaac. Since child sacrifice was part of the worship life of the surrounding cultures, this may not have seemed as outrageous to Abraham as it does to modern readers. That does not minimize his anxiety regarding the death of his son, however. It also would generate tension in Abraham in that it was through Isaac that God had said the promise would come true (v. 18; Gen. 21:12).

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Who does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. To whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasic/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasic/bwords.htm)

