

## BE A BRINGER

*“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”* John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

*“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....”* I Samuel 12:23a

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Bob and Patsy celebrated their 55th year of missionary service in July. God is still using their ministry. It was reported that 66 individuals in Conjutepeque, El Salvador accepted Christ while the church was using Bob’s video course on church planting. Many of the resources created from Bob’s experience are being used around the world to advance the gospel. Also, Roberto Nieto in San Miguel reported that attendance is back to Pre-Covid numbers. They had 650 in attendance at a recent marriage conference.

# FAITHFUL

THROUGH THE SEASONS OF LIFE - GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 09/04/22

Study Date: 09/11/22

## Faithful In Sacrifice

“Why did God command Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?” The Bible does not specifically address the answer to this question, but in our study of Scripture we can compile a few reasons:

God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to test Abraham’s faith. God’s tests prove and purify our faith. They cause us to seek Him and trust Him more. God’s test of Abraham allowed His child—and all the world—to see the reality of faith in action. Faith is more than an inner spiritual attitude; faith works (see James 2:18).

God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to validate Abraham as the “father” of all who have faith in God. “Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness” (Romans 4:9). And we today “who have the faith of Abraham” also find that “he is the father of us all” (verse 16). Without Abraham’s response to the command to sacrifice Isaac, we would have difficulty knowing all that faith entails.

God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to provide an example of absolute obedience. After God gave the command, “early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey” and headed out with his son and the wood for a burnt offering (Genesis 22:3). There was no delay, no questioning, no arguing. Just simple obedience, which brought a blessing (verses 15–18).

God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to reveal God as Jehovah-Jireh. On the way up the mountain to the place of sacrifice, Isaac inquired as to the animal to be sacrificed, and his father said, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:8). After God’s provision of a ram to take Isaac’s place on the altar, “Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide” Thus we have another character-revealing name of God: Yahweh-Yireh.

God’s command to sacrifice Isaac was to foreshadow God’s sacrifice of His own Son. The story of Abraham prefigures the New Testament teaching of the atonement, the sacrificial offering of the Lord Jesus on the cross for the sin of mankind.

Many centuries after God’s command for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Jesus said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad” (John 8:56).

Source: Gotquestions.org

## KEY VERSE

Genesis 22:1-2 (NKJV)

*Then He said, "Take now 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."*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Genesis 22:1-18; I Peter 1:6-7**

### Sacrifice Is Necessary For Spiritual Maturity

1. How did God test Abraham in Genesis 22? Why do you think that God tested Abraham?
2. Describe a time in your life when God used trials to test and grow your faith.

**Tuesday: Genesis 22:2; Romans 8:31-32, 12:1**

### Sacrifice Is Giving Up Something Precious

3. Why was Isaac precious?
4. What is something precious to you that you've had to sacrifice?

**Wednesday: Genesis 22:3-7; Galatians 2:20; John 1:29**

### Sacrifice Is Sometimes Not Fully Understood

5. What questions would you have had if you were Abraham? What questions would you have had if you were Isaac?
6. Have you had to make a sacrifice without fully understanding the whole picture? What was the sacrifice you made?

**Thursday: Genesis 22:8-10; Hebrews 11:1, 6, 17-19**

### Sacrifice Is Based On Faith

7. Based on today's readings, how would you describe Abraham's faith?
8. What beliefs did Abraham have about God that would have given him the faith to be obedient in this very difficult trial? How do you think this experience impacted Abraham's faith?
9. What did Abraham say God would do in Genesis 22:8? How has Jesus been a fulfillment of that in your life?

**Friday: Genesis 22:11-18; Galatians 3:7-8, 26-29; John 8:56**

### Sacrifice Leads To Blessing

10. What blessing did God promise to Abraham?
11. What does it mean that through Abraham all nations would be blessed?
12. How has God used your sacrifice to bless you and/or others?