

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. God does not tempt anyone to do evil, but in verse 1 God tests the genuineness of Abraham's obedience. Why would God do this?
God already knew Abraham's heart. The test was never for God's benefit but for Abraham's proving, and a foreshadowing of God's ultimate plan of salvation. Abraham had been building toward this moment through decades of smaller acts of trust. This was the summit of a long climb, not an arbitrary cruelty.
3. Child sacrifice was prevalent among the pagan people of Abraham's day to appease the gods. How does this story contrast that of the pagan people/pagan gods?
Pagan sacrifice was a human initiative...people offering children to appease an unpredictable deity. The god demanded; the worshiper paid. Genesis 22 reverses the entire dynamic; God stops the sacrifice and provides the substitute Himself. God is not appeased by human suffering; He is the one who provides the means of atonement.
4. Why does the text emphasize multiple times that Isaac was Abraham's only son? What do you think was the reasoning for this seemingly untrue distinction?
Abraham's son Ishmael did exist, but the emphasis here is covenantal, not biological (some scholars even point to the fact that Ishmael was physically no longer present, so Isaac acted as an only son). Isaac is the only son of promise, the one through whom the covenant lineage runs. John 3:16 mirrors this exact language. Just as Isaac was Abraham's uniquely beloved covenant son, Jesus is the Father's uniquely beloved eternal Son, and unlike Abraham, the Father did not withhold Him.
5. What does verse 5 reveal? What does it say about Abraham's faith?
Abraham tells the servants "we will come back" (both of them). Hebrews 11:19 interprets this: Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead if necessary, because the covenant promise had to be fulfilled through Isaac.
6. Identify the parallels of this story and the story of Easter in Jesus Christ. In the...Sacrifice (v.13), Covenant Promise (v.18), etc.?
 - **Beloved son** — Isaac is Abraham's uniquely loved son; Jesus is the Father's beloved Son (Matt. 3:17)

- **Carrying the wood** — Isaac carries the wood up the mountain (v. 6); Jesus carries His cross to Golgotha (John 19:17)
 - **The mountain** — Moriah is identified in 2 Chronicles 3:1 as the Jerusalem temple mount — the same region as Calvary
 - **Three days** — Abraham journeys three days before the sacrifice; Jesus is three days in the tomb
 - **Substitute sacrifice** — A ram replaces Isaac (v. 13); Jesus becomes our substitute at the cross
 - **"God will provide the lamb"** — Abraham's words in v. 8 are prophetic; John the Baptist declares it fulfilled: "*Behold, the Lamb of God*" (John 1:29)
 - **Blessing to all nations** — The promise of v. 18 reaches every nation through Abraham's offspring, whom Paul identifies as Christ (Gal. 3:16)
 - **The Father who does not withhold** — Abraham was spared; God was not. What Abraham was willing to do, the Father actually did — and that is what makes the gospel good news.
7. As a contemporary people, what can we gain from this ancient text? What is God speaking to us through this text?
[Dialogue]
8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?
[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to practice sharing the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources