

Faith Tested
Genesis 22 - 23

How to use this Scripture Engagement



Pray to Begin

Before you start each lesson, ask the Lord to use it to grow you in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Read the Bible passage

Invite God to open your eyes and deepen your understanding of His Word as you read the passage.



Study the Scripture Engagement Guide

Go through the Scripture Engagement study provided to reflect on the meaning, context, and personal application of the passage you've read.



Reflect on the Scripture Engagement Questions

After every teaching, consider the Scripture Engagement questions listed for personal reflection and application and for your small group discussions.



Listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's Teaching

If you'd like to hear the complete audio teaching on the passage, [visit ttb.bible](http://ttb.bible) or scan the QR code on the last page to download the THRU the BIBLE app in your own language.



Use our recommended **pause and resume icon**. This will guide you to move through the content thoughtfully and at your own rhythm.

For your consideration

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Faith Tested

Dear Heavenly Father,

Teach us what true faith looks like. Help us to trust You when we do not understand Your ways. Give us hearts that obey fully and believe that You will always provide. Strengthen us through Your Word.

Amen.



The Test and the Journey



Genesis 22:1-8

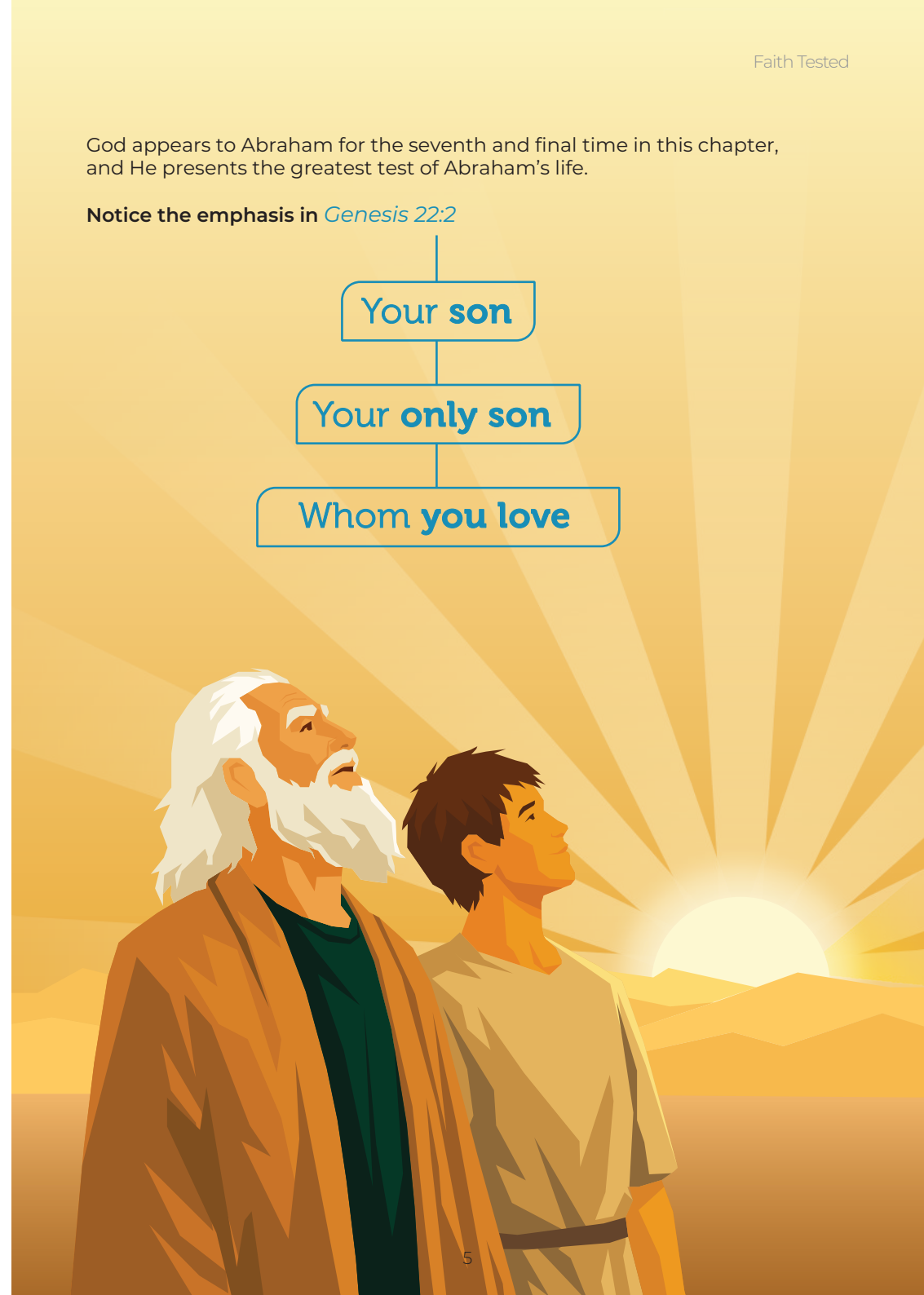
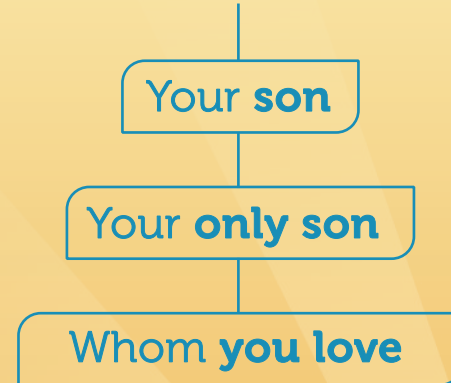


"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering..."

- Genesis 22:2-3

God appears to Abraham for the seventh and final time in this chapter, and He presents the greatest test of Abraham's life.

Notice the emphasis in *Genesis 22:2*





Jesus

(Fulfillment of the Promised Son)

The Father's beloved Son

"And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'**" (Matthew 3:17)

God the Father willingly gave His Son for the salvation of the world.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Isaac

(Promised son to Abraham)

Abraham's beloved son

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..." (Genesis 22:2)

God tested Abraham by asking him to offer his son Isaac.

"Now it came to pass after these things that **God tested Abraham**, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'" (Genesis 22:1)

Jesus was crucified near Jerusalem, the place God had chosen for sacrifice.

"And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha." (John 19:17)

The sacrifice of Christ was part of God's redemptive plan, even though many could not understand it.

The resurrection of Jesus proved God's power over death.

"Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death..." (Acts 2:24)

The crucifixion was ultimately between the Father and the Son, accomplishing redemption for humanity.

Jesus carried His own cross to the place of sacrifice.

"And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull..." (John 19:17)

Christ bore the judgment of sin through His sacrifice.

Isaac was taken to the land of Moriah, believed to be the same region where Jerusalem would later stand.

"...go to the land of Moriah,... on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." (Genesis 22:2)

Abraham did not fully understand God's command, but he trusted God's character and obeyed.

Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead.

"...concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense." (Hebrews 11:19)

The sacrifice on Mount Moriah involved only Abraham and Isaac, symbolizing the personal nature of the offering.

Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice.

"So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son..." (Genesis 22:6)

Abraham carried the fire and the knife, symbols of judgment and sacrifice.

"...and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together." (Genesis 22:6)

Faith Proven and God's Provision



Genesis 22:9-19

Jesus

(Fulfillment of the Promised Son)

Jesus willingly submitted to the Father's will, even when facing death.

"Saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.'" (Luke 22:42)

Christ **surrendered Himself** as the sacrifice for sin.

The cross was Christ's moment of ultimate sacrifice.

Jesus fulfilled the purpose of God's redemptive plan through obedience.



Isaac

(Promised son to Abraham)

Isaac willingly submitted to Abraham.

Abraham built the altar and laid Isaac on the wood. Isaac was likely about **33-37 years** old and strong enough to resist, yet he submitted to his father's will.

Isaac allowed himself to be placed on the altar, **demonstrating trust** in his father and ultimately in God.

Abraham raising the knife was the moment of supreme crisis.

Abraham had **already faced many tests of faith**:

- Leaving Ur
- Separating from Lot
- Sending away Ishmael



God's Provision: The Substitute

Jesus became the true substitute for humanity's sin.

"Behold! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**" (John 1:29)

Christ died in the place of sinners, fulfilling what earlier sacrifices only symbolized.

The Lamb of God was foretold long before the cross.

— Behold! —
The Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world!
John 1:29

A ram was provided as a substitute for Isaac.

"Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a **ram caught in a thicket by its horns**. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering **instead of his son.**" (Genesis 22:13)

The ram died in place of Isaac, introducing the principle of **substitutionary sacrifice**.

Abraham's statement in *Genesis 22:8* prophetically pointed forward to Christ.

"My son, **God will provide** for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

This statement prophetically pointed forward to Christ.



Abraham named the place: **Jehovah Jireh, "The Lord Will Provide"**.

God then **reaffirmed His covenant:**

"In your seed **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...**" *Genesis 22:18*



Reflection

Question 1

Why would God test Abraham in such a painful way? Read *Romans 4:1-3*, *James 2:21*.

Question 2

What does Abraham's immediate obedience reveal about his spiritual growth?



Application

Question 3

What is your experience when it comes to obeying God?



All the way from the Garden of Eden down to the cross of Christ, the substitution was this little animal that pointed to His coming—and God would not permit human sacrifice. But when His Son came into the world, His Son went to the cross and died.



Sarah's Death and Abraham's Grief



Genesis 23:1-20

Genesis 23 begins with the record of Sarah's death:

Sarah lived **127 years**. When Isaac was born, she was **ninety years old** (*Genesis 21:5*), which means that at the time of her death Isaac was about **thirty-seven years old**.

Her death occurred in **Hebron**, within the land of Canaan, the land God had promised to Abraham (*Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:15*).



Abraham **mourned** deeply for his wife. Yet even in this moment of sorrow, a remarkable situation appears. Abraham **did not own any portion of the land** where God had promised his descendants would live. He had to **purchase a burial place** for Sarah in the very land **God had promised him**.

We then see how Abraham requested land for **burial place of the inhabitants**. They **responded with honor and offered him** the land as a gift, but he **negotiated a fair price** and bought the land from them.

Abraham would **not take possession of the land prematurely**. Until God fulfilled His promise, Abraham would **purchase what he needed and wait for God's timing**.

The burial of Sarah in this land **revealed Abraham's deep conviction** that **God's promise concerning the land would one day be fulfilled**.



There are two great hopes and two great purposes which God has. He has an earthly purpose, and He has a heavenly purpose.

Later, Jesus **revealed another promise** to His disciples:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you."
(*John 14:1-3*)

This promise reveals the **heavenly hope prepared for believers in Christ**.

Thus, the **burial of Sarah** was **not simply a funeral arrangement**, it was an act of faith pointing toward **God's future promises and resurrection hope**.





Reflection

Question 1

What does Abraham calling himself a “foreigner and visitor” teach us about living by faith in this world?

Question 2

How does Abraham’s patience show his trust in God’s timing rather than taking matters into his own hands?

Think of ways in which you take things into your hands instead of trusting God.



Application

Question 3

List the ways in which our hope in God’s future shapes the way we live today

Draw your Application



Your Takeaway

Integrating **'God's Intelligence'** in my life.

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