

Discussion Guide

Section # 10 SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

Group Questions:

1. How did Abraham prove the depth of his faith?
2. Why do you think Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son?
3. What type of attitude must the son (now a strong young man) have had in order to be willing to be tied up and put on the altar?

Leader Information: Abraham responded in obedience to God. As far as Abraham knew, God really intended for him to sacrifice Isaac. But, Abraham trusted in God and believed that even if he did kill Isaac, that God could raise him from the dead - even though he had never seen God do this before. Abraham knew that God is faithful and always keeps His promises.

Read to the Group: Many people have difficulty understanding this story. On the one hand God promised to give Abraham a great legacy through his son Isaac, and then God tells Abraham to kill his son as a sacrifice!

Group Questions:

1. Why do you think that God wanted this story to be included in the Bible when He knew we would have problems understanding it?
2. What could this story possibly say to us?

Read to the Group: We have difficulty understanding this story when we use only our human reasoning. As we learn more about the character of God, it begins to make sense to us. One reason God included the story in the Bible is this. As we see how difficult it would have been for Abraham to sacrifice his own beloved son, it demonstrates God's great love when He sacrificed His only beloved son for us.

But when the time came for God to sacrifice His own son, Jesus, He did not look for a substitute. The Bible says that before God made the world, He had already planned that Jesus would be rescue us. Jesus took our place and died for us, so that we, by faith, could have a restored relationship with God.



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Now when Isaac was grown” (Isaac as a young boy)... through... “Just as God had foretold Abraham” (Closing of scroll) 3 minutes, 39 seconds



Leader Information, Scriptures:

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:19-20).

“...whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8b).

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:17-19).



Read to the Group: The video only briefly touched on the life of Isaac's son, Jacob (also called Israel), and his son Joseph. It did say that Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers. It also mentioned that God used this very sad episode to protect Joseph's family during a famine.

Group Questions:

1. What do you think could have motivated Joseph to persevere through betrayal and hardship, and then to forgive his brothers?
2. Do you think that God who created us, has the ability and interest to work in the circumstances of our life to protect us?
3. Can you give any evidence of God's interest in us?

Read to the Group: At the end of his life, Joseph said this to his brothers who had betrayed him.

“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Genesis 50:20).

The Bible says that by faith Joseph, as he was dying, gave the commandment that his body should be one day be taken back to Israel. Although Joseph and all of his family had moved to Egypt, he believed God's promise that one day his family would go back to inherit the land of Israel.

Leader Information, Scripture:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Transition Statement: The life and faith of Abraham can teach us many truths about God. But as we now watch his descendants, after they have grown from a family to a nation while living in Egypt, we will learn much more. We will discover more now (*or* next time when we meet).