

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Genesis 22:1-14

For Starting

- Have you ever gotten *completely* lost? What happened?
- What is the ONE thing that you have always taken on holiday with you and cannot do without?
- Describe the long-distance journey you took as a child.
- What are some of the things that God has asked you to do which, at first, seemed strange or puzzling?

For Reviewing

- Where did God ask Abraham to go (v.1-2)? Why?
- When did Abraham leave (v.3)? What did he take?
- How long did Abraham travel (v.4)?
- Who stay and who went on the last part of the journey (v.5)?
- Who carried what on the last part of the journey (v.6)?
- What was Isaac's question to Abraham (v.7)?
- How did Abraham reply to Isaac's question (v.8)?
- What was built at the final location of the journey (v.9-10)? Where was Isaac placed? Why?
- What did God tell Abraham *not* to do (v.11)? What was he to do instead (v.12)? Why?
- Describe what was used as the sacrifice (v.13)?
- What name did Abraham give to the location (v.14)?

For Discussion

- Do you think that every difficult experience is a test from God? Why or why not?
- What is the difference between 'tests' and 'temptations'?
- Does God test every Christian? Explain.
- What is wrong with asking God, "Why?" or, "Why me?" What might be a better response to a test or painful situation?
- "*We live by promises, not by explanations.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not?
- You could end by reading together Genesis 22:13-14.

Genesis 22:1-14 (NIVUK)

Abraham tested

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied.

² Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac – and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show you.'

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.'

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, 'Father?'

'Yes, my son?' Abraham replied.

'The fire and wood are here,' Isaac said, 'but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?'

⁸ Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!'

'Here I am,' he replied.

¹² 'Do not lay a hand on the boy,' he said. 'Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.'

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'