

THE THREAD | BEGINNINGS

Lesson 6: The Offering Of Isaac

Dear Parents,

Hello! We are almost halfway through our 13 lessons, looking at *Beginnings* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled “The Offering of Isaac,” and it was quite heavy as we looked at a powerful example of sacrificial faithfulness. Let’s be real. None of us want to be put in the position of sacrificing a loved one’s life. Most of us wouldn’t even want to sacrifice our phones! That’s why we need to consider how great a sacrifice Abraham was willing to make in order to remain faithful to God. Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son in obedience to God, demonstrating that nothing came between God and himself. And then for us to go a step further to consider God willingly giving His Son Jesus so that we could be forgiven for our sins—Jesus faithfully obeying God even to the Cross. The discussion was so good, and the students dug deep into the Word of God. I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did!

Lesson Overview: Sometimes, the Bible presents us with stories that cause us to scratch our heads. This may very well be one of those stories. The narrative of God’s command to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac catches us off guard. But the resolution of the story provides us with an amazing glimpse into the heart of Abraham and of God. And when we dig deeper, we see that Isaac’s “almost-sacrifice” provides a meaningful foreshadowing of another Father sending His son to die.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Grasp Abraham’s faithfulness, notice God’s desire to graciously provide even in the midst of calling us to sacrifice, and begin to better understand how God did not withhold His own Son as a sacrifice for the sins of His children.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned: Define their response to God’s grace and love shown through the giving of His Son, Jesus.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Genesis 22:1-19; John 3:16

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- So, God provides for those who are faithful to Him. What surprises you the most about how the whole thing went down with Abraham, Isaac, and the ram? (Share your perspective too.)
- How do you think this event affected Abraham? How about Isaac? (Get real. This is messy stuff that makes you think and grow.)
- How is this story like the story of Jesus’ sacrifice? (The ram stood in the gap for Isaac. Jesus stood in the gap for us by dying on the cross for our sins.)

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.