



Small Group Discussion Questions

"Passing the Test"

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Opening Remarks

From day to day, our faith in God gets tested in both small and significant ways. Sometimes we are aware of these tests of our faith in God, but most often they take place in the background of our thoughts and perspectives. Circumstances, struggles, tragedies, and outside influences challenge our confidence in God. At the very core of our relationship with God is a fundamental question: Do we trust Him? Do we trust in God's goodness and faithfulness toward us? In Genesis 22 we read of Abraham's trust in God being tested to its limit when God asked him to do the unthinkable. In the end, not only did Abraham show us what complete trust in God looks like, but we also get a closer look at God's faithfulness to us and His willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Warm it Up

1. As you consider all the ways that God has blessed you and provided for you, what do you cherish most in your life?
2. If God wanted to test your trust in Him, what might he ask you to sacrifice?

Talk it Over/Think it Through

Read together Genesis 22:1-17a.

3. Look at how God referred to Isaac in verse 2. What did Isaac mean to Abraham? Why did Abraham love him so much?
4. What do you think was going on in Abraham's mind and heart when he heard God's request?
5. How did Abraham respond to God's request?
6. If you had been in Abraham's situation, do you think you might have been able to respond as he did? Why?
7. How might this request have changed your view of God?

8. What do you think motivated Abraham to be willing to go through with what God asked him to do?

Read Hebrews 11:17-19

9. What insight does this passage give us into Abraham's thinking and faith? Did God's disturbing request change his view of God or his confidence in God's promises to him?
10. After this whole ordeal was over, do you think Abraham had more or less trust in God?

Work it Out

11. When do you find it most difficult to trust and obey God?
12. What should this passage teach us about how we trust God and live out that trust?
13. If you are a parent, how might God be asking you to give up your child for his purposes rather than your own? Are there ways you might need to loosen your grip on your child?
14. Are there other things in your life that you may need to give up, hand over, or sacrifice for God's purposes to be fulfilled in your life?
15. As you imagine walking in Abraham's shoes for that three day journey to fulfill what God asked him to do, how does that change the way you look at Jesus' death on the cross?

Pray it Through

Pray for one another, and take time to thank God for the personal sacrifice He was willing to make for us!