

# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

EVERY STORY WHISPERS THE NAME OF JESUS



## A Sacrifice Demanded & Provided

Genesis 22:1-19

### Main Idea

God justly demands a sacrifice we cannot afford; He graciously provides the sacrifice in His son, Jesus Christ.

### Overview

- **God Demands a Sacrifice (Gen. 22:1-9)**
  - The Justice of God's Demand
    - God called Abram (Gen. 12:1-9)
    - God protects Abram (Gen. 12:)
    - God blesses Abram (Gen. 14:17-20)
    - God covenants with Abram (Gen. 15)
    - God keeps His promises to Abram, now Abraham (Gen. 17, 21)
  - God Demands a Sacrifice to Test Whether Abraham Fears (respects, reverences) Him (Gen. 22:1, 12)
    - God did not demand that Abraham sacrifice Isaac to cover Abraham's sin because:
      - Isaac was sinless and could not serve as a substitute
      - Abraham was already redeemed (Gen. 15:5-6)
    - Abraham Obeys in Faith (Gen. 22:3-9)
    - Abraham is counted righteous by his faith in God (Heb. 11:17-19)
- **God Provides a Sacrifice (Gen. 22:9-14)**
  - Reasons, in part, God *may* have provided the ram as a sacrifice:
    - Because Isaac could not fill the role of an animal sacrifice (he was not blameless)
    - Out of love and compassion toward Isaac and Abraham
    - Child sacrifice is inconsistent with God's character
  - The primary reason God provided the ram as a sacrifice:
    - God *always* must provide the offering
    - We face the same demand from God as Abraham – God demands a sacrifice we cannot provide
- **God Provides *the* Sacrifice (Gen. 22:15-19)**
  - Isaac represents (is a type of) Christ (Gen. 22:18, Gal. 3:16)
  - Ways Isaac represents Christ (similarities)
    - Both were promised (Gen. 17:15-21; Isa. 9:6, Mat. 1:18-23)
    - Both were only sons (Gen. 17:15-21, Gen. 22:2,12,16; Jn. 1:14, 3:16, 1 Jn. 4:9)
    - Both were beloved of their fathers (Gen. 22:2; Mat. 3:16-17)
    - Both were victorious over death (Heb. 11:17-19; Rom. 6:1-14)

- Ways Isaac cannot represent Christ (dissimilarities) (2 Cor. 5:20-21)
  - Christ was a substitute
  - Christ was innocent
  - Christ's death was effective

### Questions

*Discussion starter: What are some recent news stories that show us we always long for justice? Why do you think we all desire justice?*

1. Read Genesis 22:1-19. Is it just for God to demand Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? How would you explain this to a person unfamiliar with Christianity?
2. What is God's intention in asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (cf. v1, 12, 16)? How does this apply to us in everyday life?
3. How do verses 5-8 point to Abraham's faith (cf. 15:6)? How does Abraham's faith compel his obedience?
4. What is the relationship between faith and obedience? What is the danger in emphasizing one without the other?
5. Abraham is confident God will provide a sacrifice (v. 8), and he does (v. 14) – Why must God provide a sacrifice for us?
6. How do we often try to provide our own "sacrifice"? What are we saying about the gospel when we try to provide our own "sacrifice"?
7. How does Isaac point us to Christ? What are some similarities? Dissimilarities?
8. How do we see Abraham, the father, and Isaac, the son, working together? How does this point us to the cross?
9. Read vv. 17-18. How are the nations blessed in the offspring of Abraham?

*Accountability Question: How are you trying to provide your own sacrifice?*