

The **Call** of God  
The **Response**  
of the Faithful

October 5, 2008  
Genesis 22:1-19  
The Call to Supreme Trust

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."* Proverbs 1:7

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*  
Hebrews 12:2

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*  
Romans 12:1

**"Sent to Follow"**

Mary Beth Baker challenged us to watch for the simple sacrifices we can make to our love of God. Her journey was one of giving from her gift of hospitality with a willingness to sacrifice her control and be vulnerable.

**To Get Started . . .**

John shared a passage from The Chronicles of Narnia where Aslan is described as "not tame" and "not safe" but good. What does this mean to you?

**Dig into the Scripture**

Have the group close their eyes and listen as one person reads the following passage 2 times.

First time - Listen for what each character might be feeling.

Second time - Listen for a word or phrase that jumps out at you.

**Read Genesis 22:1-19 (2x)**

What was Abraham feeling? What was Isaac feeling?

What words or phrases did you notice in particular?

What questions does this passage leave you with?

**Apply It**

Choose some of the following questions to discuss as a group:

What blessing(s) in your life most work their way into becoming idols?

How do you know when something is becoming an idol?

Did you experience your parents putting God first, family first, or something else first?

In what ways have you personally experienced God as "untamed?"

Have you ever felt you were being tested by God? Was your loyalty to God strengthened through it?

God took Abraham on a journey that built his trust in him before he called him to sacrifice Isaac. What experiences in your story have built up your knowledge of God in a way that enables you to respond to him with obedience, faithfulness, and hope?

What sacrifices do you make to demonstrate God's love? How do these sacrifices give you joy? What is the relationship between worship and sacrifice in your life?

Do you feel like you are able to listen to God well enough to respond like Abraham did? Why or why not?

**Pray Together!**

Take a moment of silence to consider how you are a living sacrifice. Listen for how God has, and is, calling your name.

Confess your fears. Express your hopes.

Close by reading the two verses to the left.

**Live It**

- Contemplate these questions this week: Why did it take the sacrifice of God's son to enable us to have a loving relationship with him? What role does our sacrifice play? Explore scripture and talk to God about this.
- Watch for ways to demonstrate God's love by sacrificing something of yourself.

## Genesis 22:1-19 (New International Version)

### Abraham Tested

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

2Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

3Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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.<sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.<sup>5</sup>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.”

6Abraham 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,<sup>7</sup>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?”

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

9When 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.<sup>10</sup>Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.<sup>11</sup>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.”

13Abraham 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.<sup>14</sup>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.”

15The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time<sup>16</sup>and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,<sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,<sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

19Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.