

# The Story Begins



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

Week 8: October 29–November 4, 2016

# *Day 1*

*October 31*



*Pray* / Give praise to God for keeping his promises.

OFTENTIMES HAVING GREAT faith requires great obedience. Sometimes God may call Christians to do things that might not seem to make sense or might even seem contradictory to popular culture.



*Read* / Genesis 22:1–4



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

How would you respond to someone who tells you that “being a Christian” is basically the same thing as “being a good person?”

Have you ever felt called by God to do something that took you out of your comfort zone?

In what ways have faith and obedience gone hand in hand throughout your life?

# *Day 2*

*November 1*



*Pray / Tell God you love him.*

MAKING AN INITIAL decision to follow through on a call from the Lord can prove to be very difficult. Taking further steps and actions to begin the process of following through with that call can put our hearts and faith to the test.

We always have options: give up and stop, continue but complain along the way, or continue with a heart for God.



*Read / Genesis 22:5–8*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

Abraham had what probably was the most difficult choice of his entire life in front of him. Notice, however, that he continued to worship God, did not complain, and continued following through with God's call to him. How can you use today's verses to encourage a new Christian after making their initial decision to follow Jesus?

How does your faith fuel your obedience?

If you have a relationship with Jesus Christ, how have others in your life encouraged or discouraged you in your journey? Reflect on how you can be an encourager versus a discourager.

# *Day 3*

*November 2*



*Pray / Pray for those who are far from Jesus Christ.*

THE STORY OF the sacrifice of Isaac is extremely harrowing, and it can be difficult for many to comprehend the events that took place. For today's verses, concentrate not so much on Abraham's actions but on what God said when Abraham came to the full realization that he was going to follow through with God's call.



*Read / Genesis 22:9–12*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

What do today's verses reveal to you about God's character?

How would you explain today's verses to someone seeking a relationship with Christ?

What do today's verses reveal to you about the level of your faith?

*Day 4*  
*November 3*



*Pray / Give thanks to God for all of his provisions.*

GOD PROVIDES US with our salvation and the path to his eternal kingdom. If you have a relationship with Christ, this is a reality. The story of Isaac's sacrifice is immensely important to the atonement that God provided for us through Jesus Christ. In today's reading, God will provide a substitute sacrifice. This ancient story points directly to God and his provision of Jesus Christ as a substitute sacrifice for our sins.

Without Jesus Christ serving as the atonement for all of our past, present, and future sins, we would persist in guilt and death with zero hope.



*Read / Genesis 22:13–18*





*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

What is your understanding of why God provided a substitute sacrifice for us?

Based on today's verses, do you think that we are able to provide our own salvation? Why or why not?

Has your faith and obedience ever been tested by God? What were the results?

# Day 5

November 4



*Pray / Praise God for his patience and plan of salvation.*

TODAY'S VERSES INDICATE that Abraham acted by faith. His actions were not his idea. They had nothing to do with his performance but everything to do with his heart.

It is truly remarkable that Abraham followed through with God's call without having the advantage of knowing how the story would end. The advantage that God's Word, through the Bible, gives us today is that we are provided with all of God's story, from the beginning all the way through the return of Jesus Christ and its aftermath.



*Read / Hebrews 11:17–19*



*Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.*

What would your life be like if all of your hope for salvation rested solely on your own actions or those of other people?

Why is it important to trust in the provision of God instead of in our own work and performance?

If you do not yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ, know that God loves you no matter what sins you have committed or what sins you will commit in the future. It does not matter what you are or what you were; you can be reborn in Christ. God has atoned for your sins through Jesus Christ. Explain how this might help you in deciding to step out in faith and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

*Portions of this study were adapted from The Gospel Project Chronological: The Story Begins, Vol. 1, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.*

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