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SERIES: The Story Begins (Gospel Project)

SERMON 8: "The Covenant-Making God Tests Abraham"

TEXT: Genesis 22:1-14

DATE: October 29/30, 2016

1. The Test: God asks Abraham for a special _____.

Genesis 22:1-8

If you fail the test because your faith is weak, it shows where you need to grow stronger. God doesn't abandon you. He wants to grow you.

2. The Twist: God provides a _____ sacrifice.

Genesis 22:9-14

The theme of _____ is at the heart of Christianity.

3. The Trust: God calls us to trust in his _____ in the test.

Hebrews 11: ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

- What is the nature of God's tests?

You know you are being tested when obedience to God appears to pull you right out of the path of _____.

- Why do we need to be tested?

We need to be tested to see whether we are chasing after God's blessings or chasing after _____ of the blessings.

- How do we pass the test?

T_____ about who God is, what God is like, and what God can do.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of the biggest blessings in your life?
3. Read Genesis 22:1-6. It's a test when obeying one of God's commands appears to pull you right out of the path of blessing. Pick one of your blessings (see previous question). How might obedience to God pull you out of the path of that blessing?
4. What is revealed when you always follow your feelings or do what makes you happy, expecting God to always line up with your feelings and what makes you happy?
5. Why do we need tests?
6. Read Genesis 22:7-14 and Hebrews 11:17-19. How did Abraham pass the test?
7. We pass the test when we think (i.e., reason) about who God is, what God is like, and what God can do. So, think now in advance:
 - Who is God?
 - What is God like?
 - What can God do?
8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply.

NOTES:

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important for our family to understand sin as rebellion toward God?
2. How can recognizing sin strengthen our family relationship?
3. How should our family respond to the brokenness caused by sin?

CHRIST CONNECTION

"Where is the lamb?" echoes through the pages of the Old Testament and is answered in the New Testament by John the Baptist when he declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What did God promise?