

BY FAITH

SEEING THE UNSEEN

I Lay my Isaac Down

Genesis 22:1-19

After reading the passage together, discuss the following questions:

1. Some people are appalled by God's command to Abraham that he sacrifice his son. How can we reconcile God's instruction to Abraham with his own command, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13)?
2. Verse 1 tells us that God was testing Abraham. Does God still test us today? Why would God test us?
3. What do you think was going through Abraham's mind when God gave him the command to sacrifice Isaac? Where in the text, or in other parts of the Abraham's story, do you find evidence for your answer?
4. Have you, like Abraham, ever faced a mystery in God's dealings with you? In other words, has there ever been a time in which God's working in your life seemed to be at odds with what you believed about him? Did you find resolution? Please share.
5. Abraham's conviction that "God is God" is shown by his prompt obedience to God's difficult command (v. 3, cf. 17:23, and 22:3). Jesus showed the same conviction when he said, "Not my will but yours be done" (Mark 14:36). Do you believe your life reflects a prompt readiness to do God's will? What are some areas in which you are responding willingly to God? Where do you struggle most?
6. Have you ever faced a situation in which you had to "lay your Isaac down" (that is, give up something you really wanted because of your love for God)? Please explain.
7. What do you think this story is intended to reveal about both Christ and our heavenly Father's heart?