



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass the Promise Series, Lesson 14

Lesson Title: Abraham Offers Isaac

Take Home Point: Lay it on the altar.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine was a member of the U.S. diplomatic staff in Eastern Europe during a time when Cold War tensions were very high. One afternoon, he and another staff member found themselves in a location that was off limits. As they turned their car around to leave, a guard at the site opened fire, hitting not only the car, but also my friend. Even though they escaped, he was so seriously wounded that he was not expected to live. But he recovered, and now celebrates two birthdays every year – one for his original birth, and one for when his life was given back to him by God. He values every day as a special gift because when it seemed his life was lost, it was restored to him.

Read: Genesis 22

Observation (What happened?):

How did Abraham respond when God told him to sacrifice his son?

How did God respond when Abraham acted in obedience?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think God tested Abraham in this way? (This may be a very difficult question, but don't skip it. Think about it and ask God to show you.)

Why do you think Abraham was willing to go through with this drastic (and apparently contradictory) act?

Insight:

Imagine how Abraham must have felt about Isaac after this! Imagine the gladness in his heart when he gazed at his boy, the one who he thought was as good as dead until God gave him back! He must have treasured Isaac in a way most parents cannot understand. We tend to focus on how hard it must have been for Abraham to face this test, and certainly it was. But that perspective may cause us to overlook the aftermath; that for the rest of his life Abraham had a daily visual reminder that Isaac was truly the child of God's promise. The promise that God would bless all nations when Isaac's descendant Jesus died to free us all from our sin. (By the way, read 2 Chronicles 3:1 to discover how Mt. Moriah continues to be significant in history even up to today.)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where in your life do you think God is testing you by asking you to give up a prized possession or ideal or person? How are you responding?

Pray for your children to understand how God can use anything they offer him.

Kingdom Quest Year 1, Lesson 14