

1. What's the hardest test you've ever had to face? What made it hard? How did you assess yourself afterwards?
2. Read Genesis 22:1. Why did God put Abraham to the test? What purpose does God have in testing his people? What's the difference between God's testing and Satan's tempting?
3. Read Genesis 22:2. What does God ask of Abraham? Why is this surprising? How would you have felt if you were in Abraham's position?
4. What are the stakes for God's command of Abraham? How do we tend to make idols of people or things? In what ways do idols show up in our lives in subtle forms?
5. Read Genesis 22:3–10. What observations can we make about Abraham's response to God's command? Given what we've learned about Abraham thus far, what about his response stands out?
6. Read Genesis 22:11–12. What does God have to say about Abraham's response? What would he say about you and me as we respond to him in faith?
7. Read Genesis 22:13–14. How does God provide for Abraham? What is the significance of the substitute sacrifice of this ram and how does it point to the future sacrifice of Christ?
8. Read Genesis 22:15–19. How does God bless Abraham because of his obedience? What does this tell us about how God views our obedience? What reward(s) can we look forward to beyond salvation for obeying God's commands, even when they're hard?
9. Spend some time this week asking God to reveal to you those idols that keep you from making him your highest priority. Ask him to help you lay those idols on the altar and trust in his provision, no matter what.