

**Genesis 22:1–19**

**Hebrews 11:17**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son. Hebrews 11:17

Teenagers seem to have a strong sense of fairness whenever it comes to a promise made by a parent. Generally, it doesn't mean as much to them when they break their promise to you as it does when you break your promise to them. That's because you're the parent and they believe your word is good.

What happens when God seemingly breaks a promise? Sometimes God tests our faith . . . Sometimes the very thing God promised us moves out of our reach.

Read Genesis 22:1–19. The story of the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham is tough to comprehend. Why would God require Abraham to sacrifice his son whom He had promised? An even better question is, if you had been Abraham, would you have obeyed God?

Abraham was being called to sacrifice everything to God, even His dreams and His promise. Consider the fact that Abraham's identity was now wrapped up in the promise God had made to him. (Remember, his new name meant "father of many.") He was to be remembered for generations. Even deeper than his dreams and the promise, Abraham was being asked to surrender his identity to God.

Often our identity becomes wrapped up in our purpose and dreams and what we feel is promised to us. But our true identity of our faith is in our relationship with God. At times, God will put our relationship, our identity in Him, and our obedience to the test as He did with Abraham. How will you respond?

## FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

### Connect . . .

First, the family takes two minutes to think of as many hymns, and praise, contemporary, or modern worship songs that speak of God's faithfulness. A family member (who writes fast) writes down the titles.

Then, family members take turns recalling times when God has tested their faith.

### Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Genesis 22:1–19 aloud. Then, a family member reads: **Abraham was called to surrender everything to God including his own dreams of the future. We are called to do the same. The test of our faith is this: Are we willing, beyond resources and understanding, to rely on God even when it costs us everything?**

### Transform . . .

The family discusses the following questions: **How will we know when God is testing our faith? What will be our response to His tests? How can we as a family help each other to act in faith and obedience when God tests us?**

*Pray for each other that you will surrender your dreams, hopes, and identities to God. Pray that your lives would correspond with God's will. Pray for the faith of Abraham and the provision of God in your lives.*