

# A Study in Genesis: Testing and Grace

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**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 22:1-19

There are some stories in the Bible that many of us cherish. Which ones do you most cherish and why?

How many people might you imagine choosing “The Command to Sacrifice Isaac” as one of their most cherished stories in all of Scripture?

It is not known with certainty how much time lapses after Hagar and Ishmael are sent away that Abraham is tested in this unimaginable way. Abraham has sent one son away, seemingly with God’s blessing, and now God is asking Abraham to give up “your only son, Isaac, whom you love” (v. 2). After reading the story, consider the following:

1. What do you believe was the ultimate purpose(s) of this test in which Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son on an altar as a burnt offering?
2. Do you believe God ever truly intended Abraham to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering? If not, why not?
3. Can you imagine what might have been going through Isaac’s mind as he makes this trek up the mountain with his very elderly father, carrying the wood, and becoming ever more aware that there is no animal to sacrifice? What must he have thought as Abraham was binding him?
4. Abraham is directed not to kill his son (v. 12) and then a ram is noticed nearby and this is what he offers as a sacrifice. Abraham credits God for the animal and declares that it is evidence that, “The LORD will provide.” (v. 14)

Might the story be as much about God’s faithful provision as it is about Abraham passing this major test of faith and obedience? Is this where grace comes in?

***So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”*** (V. 14 NIV) In the King James Version of the verse “Jehovah-jireh” is included in the verse itself. This compound name for God is found only this once in Scripture. (The name Jehovah, also shown as Yahweh, YHWH, LORD, occurs 6,519 times in the Old Testament.)

**Verse to Remember:** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)