

# *the* Purpose *and* Promises of God

## The Purpose and Promises of God Through Testing

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### Summary

In Genesis 22, God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his only son – the one through whom God’s promises would be fulfilled. Abraham had to make a decision between putting his trust in God’s promises or in God himself. Through Abraham’s obedience, we see God’s continuing faithfulness in sparing Isaac and reiterating his covenant with Abraham.

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### Outline

#### Introduction

Through Abraham’s experience, we see that God is interested in the expression of our faith in him. Other passages describe faith as being “completed” by our actions. These actions, stemming from our faith, bring glory to God.

Notes:

## Notes Cont'd:

### Personal Application:

### Reflection Questions

1. As you reflect on God's testing of Abraham what strikes you the most? Why?
2. What do you think changed with Abraham for him to finally trust God? (in contrast to the lying about Sarah or producing an heir with Hagar)
3. Reflecting on the name Abraham gives the location – "God provides" – what was the significance and the implications? For Abraham? For us?
4. Review Philippians 3.7-8. What does it mean to count everything as loss in order to gain Christ? In what things do you tend to put more trust than God?
5. There are those who have a better relationship with God's promises than with him. How can we gauge where we are? What is the litmus test?
6. Try to think of this experience through Isaac's eyes. How do you think (or how do we see through Scripture that) this event shaped his view of God? (For parents) What is hard about modeling trust in God to our kids?
7. Review the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-30 and spend time in prayer together regarding what God may be asking you to give up in order that he might be glorified in your life.