



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### Genesis 22:1-14

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*What does God hope for us  
in times of testing?*

### Explore + Apply

1. How do you generally feel about tests? What about the idea that God tests people — figures in scripture like Abraham? What do you understand this 'test' (v1) to be about, and do you believe God is 'testing' people still, today? If you've experience this, can you share about it with the group (and if you're experiencing this current, how can the group pray with you)?
2. This account is a direct, intentional parallel to the Cross, where Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29), takes our place as an atoning sacrifice. If it's true that He's paid our debt in full, then what might God desire most of you (and for you) now in a relationship with him? If you're a Christian, is there anything you are trying to make part of the relationship that is unnecessary in light of grace? Is it something that could be obscuring your view of God's real desire?
3. Three times in this passage Abraham responds, "Here I am," as if to say, "I am present." How might our presence in relationship with Jesus be connected to our trust in him? What's it mean to you be 'present' with God, or, as it's often said, to 'practice the presence of God' in our lives?

#### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to  
transform us and the world  
around us with His grace.*

### Pray

- Reflect on God's faithfulness in the midst of testing.
- Pray and listen: What might God desire most of you (and for you) now in a relationship with him?
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come" here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world specifically as God shows Himself to be present in the trials of our lives. May we and more of our neighbors know the freedom Christ who has succeeded where we have failed and offers us His success, His presence.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

#### GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*Next HG- Mar 24*

*HG- Apr 7*

## Genesis 22:1-14

<sup>1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."