

# GROUP GUIDE - WEEK 7



## **Gen 22:1-14**

This week is a loaded time, full of great conversation and exciting content! The suggested outcome to trust God for in your group is that people would see the great sacrifice and goodness of Jesus on the cross. Secondly, that God would show your group that he is so good that he could call us any type radical obedience and we could trust Him in being fully obedient.

### BRIEF WHOLE GROUP CONVERSATION (10 MINUTES)

We're about to read the story of Abraham taking his son Issac to be sacrificed in obedience to God's command, what are your initial feelings/thoughts/emotions towards this story as you think about it?

### FOR DISCUSSION

#### **First read Genesis 22:1-13**

- Discuss what Abraham may have felt at the thought of sacrificing his only son, considering how long he had waited for this promise from God? What could God have been doing in Abraham at this stage?
- How does this passage inspire us to radical levels of obedience to God? Does anyone have a story of their need to be radically obedient?
- It would seem that Abraham had every reason to back-chat God and tell him he's out of his mind; and yet he didn't. What would Abraham have known about God that would cause him to be so obedient to Him without questioning anything he said?
- Why does this story point towards Christ so powerfully? Discuss how this story shows us that God always "out-sacrifices" us, and that our best response to him is faith, gratitude and obedience.

### DISCUSS IN SMALLER GROUPS (of 3-5 people)

- Abraham seems to know one thing really well; **that God is good!** Why would knowing that God is ultimately good make such a difference to our obedience?
- Where do we as individuals need prayer to be obedient to God as a statement that he is our all in all as he was to Abraham?

### FOR PRAYER

In your smaller groups pray that God would show his goodness and grace, and that you would each in faith act as though he is the great provider, who provides all we need so that we don't need to disobey or do more than trust him alone.

## HOW TO PREPARE



<http://www.commongroundchurch.co.za/News/ponderthis/1745.aspx>

(download from the link at the bottom of the page)

40 days with Abraham, the devotional, will be brilliant reading in preparation. Simply look through day 35-38 to submerge yourself in the beauty of this passage and it's power to transform.

**This week**, trust God that people will see that Christ is entirely good for them, and that he is worthy of our nothing less than our full trust and obedience. Remember that although most have placed their faith in Christ, all are growing in their capacity to savor and see God's goodness through Jesus Christ. Once people see his goodness, obedience becomes increasingly normal. However, like pedals on a bicycle, one feeds the other in that obedience feeds our understanding of and trust in God's goodness.

Maybe tonight is a good night to call people gently, graciously and authoritatively to new levels of trust in God through prayer, but also in active obedience to him!

Don't forget to pray before. Possibly consider getting some of your key leaders to pray with you for half an hour before your all meet and ask God to breath his life in your meeting time. This can also be a good time to share your heart and vision for the group with some key people who can help you implement some of those plans.

Have fun and keep working to cultivate contribution from all the people in your group!

As elders we are backing you as you serve in this vital function of small group leading, go for it and allow God to work in you whilst you lead. Remember that we are all doing our best to lead from a place of humility not superiority – share your life and your vulnerabilities and watch God give grace to the humble as he promises.

Love!