

*obedience***UNDER PRESSURE**

The story of Abraham's obedience is a hard story to process when it stands alone. If the first passage you read about Abraham is Genesis 22, you might be frustrated and confused. So, let's bring some context to the story. The practice of child sacrifice, although completely evil, was a normal practice in Abraham's culture and time. Other god-systems in the ancient Eastern world would regularly practice child sacrifice. But God sets himself apart from any other god in this moment. God's plan was never for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, as we clearly see through his provision. His purpose was to show Abraham that he was not like those other gods. Abraham could trust him. God would provide the sacrifice – every single time.

By faith, Abraham obeys and demonstrates his trust in God ([Hebrews 11:17-19](#)). Through his example, we learn that obedience won't always align with our feelings or desires. Focusing on the ask and potential loss can prevent us from really seeing God as good and faithful. He is the one who provides. He blesses when we are faithful. So, are you obedient to God or to your feelings?

READ [GENESIS 22:1-10](#)

1. What stood out to you as you read?
2. Obedience is clearly displayed in this passage. What do you think is necessary for obedience?
3. When is it easy for you to obey?

READ [GENESIS 22:11-18](#)

1. How is God's trustworthiness proven in this text?
2. How do both God and Abraham prove their trust for one another in this passage?
3. What type of relationship do you believe God and Abraham have?

RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD

Now that we've looked at Abraham's relationship with God, let's take a look at your relationship with God.

1. What does obedience look like in each relationship?
2. What does love/trust look like in each relationship?

3. Where are you at with God right now?
4. What is God's promise in each type of relationship? What is required of us in every relationship?

*Hitting it Home***TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD**

- Lover ([Ezekiel 16:8](#), [Hosea 2:19-20](#), [Revelation 21:2](#))
- Friend ([John 15:15](#), [James 2:23](#), [Exodus 33:11](#))
- Father/Child ([1 John 3:1](#), [Isaiah 64:8](#), [Romans 8:15](#))
- Master/Slave ([Romans 6:22](#), [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [Matthew 6:24](#))
- Shepherd/Sheep ([1 Peter 2:25](#), [Isaiah 40:11](#), [John 10:11-15](#))
- Seed/Soil ([Matthew 13:3-8](#), [Mark 4:14-20](#))