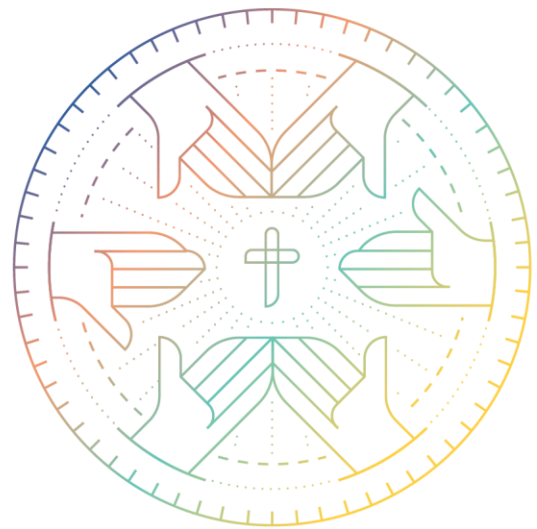


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week, we have the second week in our current sermon series, *The Promise*. Last week, we looked at promises God made to Adam and Eve. This week, we look at Abraham and his willingness to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. As we unpack this story, we look at how this story foreshadows the coming of Jesus.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Think of a promise you made that was difficult to keep. What made it difficult to keep?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: Genesis 22:1-18

Abraham trusted God and was obedient to Him. Abraham obeyed when God told him to travel for three days and sacrifice his son. Abraham didn't know that God would stop him from using his son as an offering. This is another example of the Bible showing that Jesus would come and die to save us from our sins.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

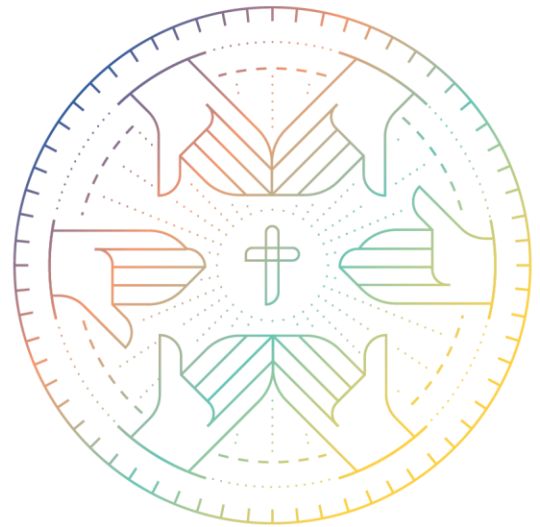
- 1. Read Genesis 22:3-10. We see through this story that Isaac put his trust in Abraham during a difficult situation. He was old enough to carry the wood, strong enough to stop his dad, and old enough to know his birthright. What sticks out to you from Isaac's actions? Does this correlate with our relationship with our Heavenly Father?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE:

Isaac is a picture of what obedience to God looks like. "Isaac here serves as a picture of the very action taken by Jesus about two thousand years from this moment. Jesus, the Son, willingly allowed Himself to be sacrificed for the sins of the world by His Father God. As Isaac did, Jesus carried the wood to be used in His own execution." (Bibleref.com) Like Isaac and Jesus, we can listen and obey our heavenly Father, knowing that even when we don't understand, He will fulfill his promises.

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2. **Read Hebrews 11: 17-19 and Romans 4:3,17. What do you think strengthened Abraham's resolve to trust God and follow His instructions to sacrifice Isaac even when it didn't make sense?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE:

The quotation is taken from Genesis 15:6, where it appears as a comment upon Abraham's belief in the promise that he should have numerous posterity. The same passage is elaborately commented upon by Philo and others so that it would seem to have been a common topic in Jewish schools. It should be noticed that the word "faith" is not used in quite the same sense in the original and the application. In Abraham's case, it was trust in fulfilling the divine promise. In St. Paul's sense, it is rather enthusiastic adhesion to a person. This is part of the general enlargement and deepening of the Old Testament terminology by St. Paul. A writer of less profundity (though marked by striking and elevated qualities), the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews applies the word more strictly. (See Hebrews 11:8 et seq.) In James 2:23, the word has the still thinner meaning of merely intellectual assent. St Paul quotes the same passage in the same sense as here in Galatians 3:6. (www.biblehub.com).

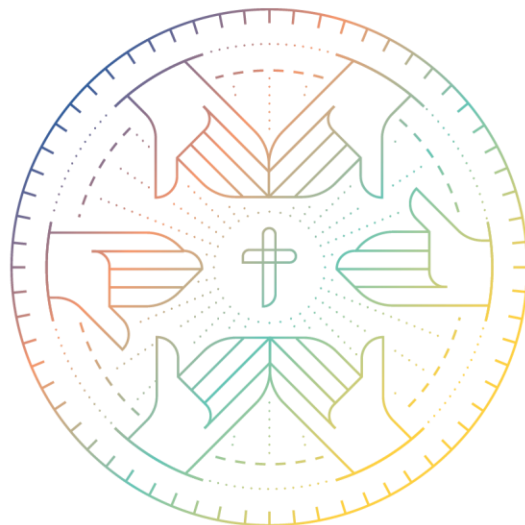
3. **Read Genesis 26:3, Deuteronomy 7:13, and 1 Corinthians 2:9. Joy is one of many promises God keeps and fulfills. Are there a few "empty promises" the world offers you that you later find shallow or fleeting? How do the true promises of God differ from those of the world?**

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE:

God is faithful and good (Psalm 100:5). We can rest in and trust that His Word is true, active, and alive ((Hebrews 4:12). The Lord is working in our lives for our good (Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 9:8). He remains faithful even when we are not (1 John 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:13). His love for us is endless and unconditional (1 Corinthians 13:8; Ephesians 3:16-19). His joy and blessings are multiplied (Ephesians 3:20), in contrast with the world's diminishing "achievements" and our weak attempts at earning what we think may bring temporary joy.

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APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Re-read Romans 8:35-39. How do these Scriptures show the trust that when God makes a promise, He fulfills it?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE:

[Rev. Joseph Benson writes in Bible Hub commentary, “Who shall separate us — By saying τις, who, the apostle personifies the things he is going to mention, namely, affliction, &c.; from the love of Christ — Toward us? By this, some understand the love which we bear to Christ. But to separate us from our own love, seems an unusual expression. Even this, however, may be included thus; — What creature or occasion shall cause us to withdraw our love from him, and consequently cause him, in any degree, to withdraw his love from us?” (www.biblehub.com).]

2. Read Proverbs 3:5, Psalm 46:10, and Romans 15:13. We see deep trust in God from Abraham during this story. Where in your life do you need to trust God deeply? What steps can you take to begin to trust in Him?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE:

[Brittany Yesudasan of Cru states, “1) **Seek truth in scripture.** It is unchanging and completely trustworthy. 2) **Confess unbelief.** Be honest. Allow God to remind you who He is and what He promises, and then be honest with Him. 3) **Share your concerns with your community.** The Lord is walking with you every step of the way. He also gives you other believers to walk with. 4) **Remember God and spend time with Him.** God is bigger than your circumstances. Difficult times may feel like they last forever, but they are temporary. God is present amid the bad times as well as the good. 5) **Look for things to be grateful for.** Difficult circumstances feel all-consuming at times. It is really hard to see past them to other good things going on. But God’s grace is in all things. 6) **Walk in the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is your constant helper, pointing you to Jesus. 7) **Wait on the Lord.** Wait on Him to act on your behalf. Wait on Him to do what you cannot do yourself.]

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the story of Abraham. It’s an amazing example of Your mercy and love that You have shown since You created life and the world. We are thankful for the promises You have made and kept since the beginning. We are so grateful for Jesus and that You sent Your Son to save us. Please watch over us as we go through the week and protect us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.