

Genesis 22-25:18 — Group Discussion & Application — GABC Foundations, March 3, 2019

Genesis 22, The Sacrifice of Isaac --

1) The account of God asking Abraham to offer his only, beloved son as a sacrifice and providing a substitution strongly foreshadows the coming of the Messiah roughly 1,500 years later. This detailed foreshadowing should strengthen our confidence that the Bible is divine in origin. What ways can you demonstrate greater confidence in God's Word this week?

2) Abraham was willing to obey God's command to sacrifice Isaac because he also believed God's promise to make him into a great nation through his offspring (Isaac). Abraham even believed God would raise Isaac from the dead, if necessary (see Hebrews 11:17-19). This verse tells us that, figuratively speaking, Isaac did rise from the dead, becoming a "living sacrifice". The New Testament calls followers of Jesus to be living sacrifices (see Romans 12:1-3). What are some ways you have sacrificed to follow Christ? Are there any sacrifices you still need to make but have been hesitant to obey?

3) "God will provide" is the main point of this chapter (see Genesis 22:8, 13-14). What ways has God provided for you and your family in the last year? What is the pinnacle of God's provision for His people? As members of God's people, how should we respond to His provision?

4) The story of Abraham might seem to suggest that Abraham was justified both by his faith (see Genesis 15:6) and by his works (see Genesis 22:16, 18). The New Testament seems to suggest a similar contradiction between justification by faith and by works (see Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:22, 24). How are we to rightly understand justification in light of these verses? (Hint: look at the context of both passages.) How should we live in light of this Gospel?

Genesis 23, The Death of Sarah --

1) Why hadn't Abraham settled in Canaan prior to Sarah's death (see Hebrews 11:9-10)? As Christians, what kind of city are we "looking forward to"? Are there ways you can "look forward" with more eagerness and anticipation this week? What ways can you encourage other believers to "look forward" with eagerness? What ways can you share this hope with unbelievers?

Genesis 24, Isaac and Rebekah --

1) Abraham's unnamed servant and Rebekah both willingly made long, risky, and uncertain journeys because they clearly sensed the Lord calling them to do so. How can Christians know when God is calling them toward a risky journey? Has anyone in your group ever sensed a call from God? What principle can we draw from Rebekah and the servant that is applicable to Christians today?

Genesis 25, Abraham's Death --

1) Polygamy may have been the cultural norm, but it did not conform to God's design of a husband and wife in Creation (see Genesis 2:24). What ways do you think 21st century evangelical Christians might unknowingly be in danger of conforming to ungodly cultural norms? How can we root out these sins we might naturally be blind toward?