



## SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 22  
September 3, 2017

For starters:

At what age do you find children the most adorable or the most exasperating and why?  
What possession would be the hardest for you to give up?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. In God's command to Abraham what phrases emphasize the magnitude and painfulness of this sacrifice (vv 1-2)?
2. Knowing God waited years before providing a son for Abraham, how would you expect Abraham to react to God's instruction in verse 2?
3. Why did Abraham take Isaac to the altar? He was afraid of God? He was committed to unquestioning obedience? He knew it was only a test? He knew God would provide? He believed God would raise Isaac from the dead? Other details that reveal Abraham's response?
4. Do you think Abraham would have actually killed Isaac (vv 5,8-10)? Why [see Heb 11:17-19]? Why does God wait until the last second to stop Abraham?
5. What do you think Isaac learned from this event? To be committed to God like his father? That God will provide? That Abraham's relationship with God came first? A greater faith? Early trauma? Other?
6. How does this story remind you of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How is Jesus like Isaac?
7. How do the examples of Isaac and Jesus apply to your current circumstances and faith? Where have you drawn the strength to say "yes" to God when everything else inside of you said "no"?
8. Where do you sense God may be presenting a challenge to you in your life right now? How are you getting along?
9. What have you found helpful during a test or a challenge? Time in prayer? Close obedience to God? Seeking counsel from others? Fasting? Meditating on God's word? Exercise? Other?

Pray together. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and to supply you revelation and wisdom, so that you may know Him better. Pray for God to speak to you and to help you see your need for him... for help to once more turn away from anything keeping you from a close and right relationship with him. Pause for a while. Pray to receive a renewed awareness of what the sacrifice of Christ -- the giving of his life for yours -- means for you and your group. Sit in silence for a while and let the Spirit perform this "heart surgery" on you and your group.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).