

“Laying Down Love” | Worship as love

GETTING STARTED: Where would you go if you were trying to win the new CBS reality show “Hunted?” Remember, you only have limited funds, a one hour head start and you have to evade capture for 28 days!

EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. How do people know you love them? What actions, words or ways come most naturally to you? In what ways can we express our love towards God?
2. Compare the structure and content of Genesis 12:1-2 (God calls Abram) and Genesis 22:12 (God tests Abraham). What is God asking? What details does God provide? What details does God omit?
3. Why might Abraham have been confused by God’s request? What questions does this story raise in your mind?
4. The Hebrew word for “love” first appears in the entire Bible in Genesis 22:2. To say the least, Isaac was very special to Abraham – he was the very fulfillment of God’s promise that Abraham and Sarah would have children! What were some other things in Abraham’s life that he would have likely loved? Why did God ask him to sacrifice Isaac instead of those other things?
5. Brainstorm a list of things that people tend to love “the most.” Include relationships, possessions, places of influence, etc. How can a person use the things they love the most to please God?
6. What does Genesis 22:3 tell us about how promptly Abraham acted in response to God’s command? What other actions could Abraham have taken instead? Why do you think he chose to obey?
7. To fulfill God’s command, Abraham would have needed the following items: an altar, fire, a sacrifice, a knife. Read Genesis

22:3-10. Which of these items does Abraham bring from his home? Which of these does he wait until he arrives to find? What do these two lists tell us about Abraham’s level of preparation?

8. What would you say to someone that says, “God wouldn’t ask me to sacrifice my child... so this story has no relevance to our life today”?
9. Identify Abraham’s response to God (Genesis 22:1) and the angel of the Lord (Genesis 22:11). What does this tell us about Abraham’s availability to hear from God? How can we prepare ourselves to hear from God?
10. Abraham tells Isaac that “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering (Genesis 22:8).” How did God fulfill on Mount Moriah for Abraham? How did God fulfill the need for sacrifice once and for all in Jesus?

APPLY THE TRUTH:

Read 1 Corinthians 13 this week. Highlight the various attributes of love. Select three that you could work on in regards to your love towards others and God.

PRAY:

Use this simple prayer to help develop a “Here I am” readiness in your relationship with God:

“Lord, Here I am! You were faithful to provide your son for my life. You have blessed me in many ways (consider listing some of those ways!) and I want to use those blessings to show you my love. Help me to be ready to offer all that I have to you.”

NOTES:
