



## **God Has Provided a Lamb for You** **Genesis 22:1-14**

*But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Genesis 22:11-12—ESV).*

To test Abraham, God commanded him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. On the way, Isaac asked his father why they took no sacrifice with them, and Abraham replied, "God himself will provide the lamb" (Genesis 22:8). On the mountaintop, Abraham built an altar, securely bound Isaac, and raised his knife to sacrifice his son. At that moment, both father and son knew with certainty that Abraham would offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God unless the LORD provided the lamb. At that very moment, God did intervene, and God provided a substitute for Isaac, a ram, a male sheep—just as Abraham had promised his son as they climbed the mountain and as God had promised Abraham in Genesis 17:19, for God had promised Abraham that Isaac would have descendants.

The sacrifice that God required of Abraham and the substitute lamb that God provided him in the place of Isaac, God intended as an object lesson for us. God saved Abraham from offering his son as a sacrifice, but God could not save His only Son from His sacrificial death for us. God provided Jesus the Messiah and His sacrifice as a substitute for the death sinners (you and me) deserve because of our rebellion against God. Believers in Jesus know that they deserve eternal separation from God because of their disobedience, and they thank God for providing a suitable substitute for them. Jesus became the Lamb of God, provided by His Father, so God could uphold His perfect law of love with justice while offering mercy and forgiving all who repent of their sins and receive the risen Lamb of God as their Lord and Savior. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Thank Jesus for suffering and dying in our place.