



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

A Test for Discerning True Faith
March 4, 2018
Genesis 22:1-14

“So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided’” (Genesis 22:14).

God promised Abraham that he would have a multitude of descendants through his son Isaac. God kept His promise: Jesus’ genealogy can be traced through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 1:1-2). Today, the nation of Israel contains many physical descendants of Isaac. Abraham believed God’s promise to him concerning Isaac, but how deep and strong was Abraham’s faith? When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham rose early the next morning to cut wood and leave for the area of Moriah where the LORD told him to go. Trusting in God’s promises that he knew God would keep in some way, Abraham went. When Abraham and Isaac left to worship the LORD on the mountain, in faith he told Isaac and his two servants: “**w**e will come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). When Isaac asked about the lamb, in faith Isaac said: “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son” (Genesis 22:8). At every point along the way, when Abraham could have been tempted to return home, Abraham kept trusting that the LORD would provide a way to fulfill His promises and his save son. Only at the very last moment, after Abraham took the knife to slay his son, did the angel of the LORD stop him and provide a ram for a substitute sacrifice. The Bible shows how God always keeps His promises no matter what happens or how things appear. As Abraham demonstrated, faith includes believing God, obeying God (the Bible’s teachings), and entrusting the consequences of our obedience to God’s loving care.

Thinking Further

1. Describe the type of faith a person must have to obey God immediately and without question
2. How can people develop and maintain the strong type of faith that Abraham demonstrated?
3. Why do you think God tested Abraham?
4. If you were Abraham, what might you have talked with Isaac about during your three days journey and climb up the mountain?
5. If you were Isaac, how might you have felt from the time Abraham raised his knife to the time God provided the lamb as a substitute? How might this experience have an effect upon your faith?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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