

## Genesis 22 — The Test

### **Warm-Up Question:**

When you were growing up, what was one of your deepest desires in life that you thought would make you really happy? When did you come to realize it wouldn't ultimately satisfy you?

**READ: Genesis 22:1-18**

### **I. TEST: THE CALL**

- ▶ From VS 1-3, how was God testing Abraham as to what he ultimately loved in life?
- ▶ What are some things in your life now that would be really difficult for you if God asked you to lay them on the altar before him?

### **II. TEST: THE QUESTIONS**

- ▶ What questions about God might Abraham be wondering after receiving the call to sacrifice his only son?
- ▶ What things in life is it easy for you to love and cherish more than God? (Health, wealth, comfort, children, success, approval, etc)
- ▶ From VS. 8 & Hebrews 11:17-19, what did Abraham believe about God that enabled him to lay his most precious possession on the altar of God?

### **III. TEST: THE**

- ▶ In VS 7, Isaac asks "Where is the lamb...?" Read VS 13-14 along with John 1:29 and discuss the main reason Jesus came.
- ▶ Read 1 John 5:20-21. How does the gospel of knowing why the Son came and how we are "in Him" motivate us to "guard ourselves from idols"?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

**“When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an ‘idol,’ something you are actually worshiping. When such a thing is threatened, your anger is absolute. Your anger is actually the way the idol keeps you in its service, in its chains. Therefore if you find that, despite all the efforts to forgive, your anger and bitterness cannot subside, you may need to look deeper and ask, ‘What am I defending? What is so important that I cannot live without?’ It may be that, until some inordinate desire is identified and confronted, you will not be able to master your anger.”**

— Timothy Keller,  
Counterfeit Gods:

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