



# Sermon-Based Small Groups

This outline includes the discussion prompts and the Bible text (backside) to the sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide. You can also find the sermon at [www.manheimbic.org/sermons](http://www.manheimbic.org/sermons) if you look for it by date (see upper right corner).

**Connect**  
**Care**  
**Challenge**

Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Ask: Who are you?

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. Ask: How are you doing?

Dive into God's Word to learn from each other's insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. Ask: What is God teaching us today?

**Step 1:** Read and make notations on the Bible text: **Genesis 22** on the back of this document.

**Step 2: Discussion Prompts**

Talking about great adventures, we can't really skip a person like Abraham. Being called to leave his own home to go to a new place; a traveler for many years, facing the threats of kings; and having to rescue his nephew Lot from criminals; Abraham had his share of adventures.

But Abraham also had a track record of getting directions from God and then going with plan B. The most prevalent is probably where he was not trusting God to provide a child through Sarah, but ending up having a child with Sarah's maid.

Yet Abraham is known for his faith and obedience to God. In Hebrews 11 he is mentioned several times being recommended for his faith. The point where his faith -and obedience- was being tested the most is probably when he received the order to sacrifice his son Isaac. After listening to Pastor Bryce's sermon we can easily conclude that **Faith being tested boils down to Obedience.**

Abraham's posture of obedience was shocking and it is hard to believe that he actually went through with that order from God. But looking closer we can actually learn a lot from it.

**Faith starts with a posture of obedience before God**

Ask yourself, what kind of a posture before God do you have? A posture of hesitance? A posture of openness? A Posture of doubt? A posture of trust? Now ask yourself, how does your posture change when you remind yourself of what God has done, on the same mountain top, when he gave his son Jesus to be a sacrifice for your sins? What is your posture now?

**A posture of obedience is open to three things:**

- Open for God to speak to you
- Open to be redirected by God
- Open to an immediate response

Let's assume that you know exactly what God wants you to do in a certain situation. What is your response? Openness to be redirected? Immediate obedience? Or is it doubt or even rebellion? Share with your peers what holds you back from obeying God's direction, and why.

Pastor Bryce mentioned one specific thing that keeps many us from going after what God what's from us: **TIME!** Share with your group how you use your time? Do you have your day planned out to the minute? Or do you approach time more spontaneously, reacting to what comes?

Now, what would your attitude be if God would change this plan right now, asking you to do something outrageous, like he asked from Abraham? Would your faith rest on a promise from God? If so, which one? -> If God would test your faith, would you pass the test?

Clarify next steps: with the studied text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

ADVENTURE: Abraham

**Clarify**  
**Celebrate**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)





# Bible Text Study

## Read & Observe what the Text says!

Step 1: Take a pen, or even coloring pencils, and actively read the Bible text. Underline important insights. Put a box around words that seem significant to you. Wave-underline where you have a question. Make connections of themes.

Step 2: Write in the margins or in the text, why you underlined, put a box, or what it is you think about the text.

Step 3: Sum up what you think is the key truth that can be learned from the text, the Gold Nugget. Write that nugget down on the bottom of this page.

1 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. - "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." - 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

3 The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back." - 6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" - "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. - "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" - 8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" - "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" - 12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." - 13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. 16 "This is what the LORD says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17 I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:1-18 (NLT)

You may also want to look at Genesis 17:19 & Hebrews 11:17-19.



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