

From A to B: Part 4

Sacrifice: Hebrews 11:17-19

Big Idea: Faith is a trial tested, belief activating, calculated decision.

Faith is trial tested:

_____ we really are and _____ we really _____ is revealed when we go through difficult times.

Faith is belief activating:

Make a faith _____ plan. Identify an area in your life where you haven't been living in faith and plan to act on your belief.

Faith is a calculated decision:

Abraham "**considered.**" That word means that he **computed** or **calculated.** He evaluated what he believed about God and made an informed decision. *He reasoned that it was more improbable for God to break his word than it would be to let Isaac die.*

Life Group Study Guide

This week, before you go to your Life Group:

Read Genesis 22:1-19, the story of Abraham and Isaac. Write down your observations and questions. What aspects of the story stand out to you? What questions or observations do you have?

Life Group Discussion Questions:

Have you ever felt like you were being asked to make a significant sacrifice for God? How did it feel to make that decision? Is there anything that you learned through that experience about your faith/relationship with God?

Together, review the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22:1-19. Why do you think God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac instead of something else in his life? What do you think were some of the thoughts and emotions Abraham had in response to this request? Can you identify with any of these thoughts or feelings?

What do the details of the narrative reveal about Abraham's response to this incredibly difficult situation (22:3-10)? What is the significance of God's response to Abraham's faith (22:12)? How does God's provision for Abraham in 22:13-14 fulfill the confidence he expressed earlier (22:5, 8)?

Hebrews 11:17-19 refers to this story. This passage emphasizes Abraham's willingness to exercise his faith in such a sacrificial way. Acting on our beliefs is an important part of faith. Is there an area or areas of your life where you find it difficult to act on what you believe about God and what he wants you to do? Think of some practical steps that you can take to exercise your faith practically. Share with the group and pray for one another in your commitments to grow your faith!

Think about how this story points us to the love of God who did not spare his son, but sent Jesus to die in our place. Spend some time in prayer praising and thanking God for the Ultimate Sacrifice!