

RPC SGL Sermon Discussion Questions

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Have several different people read the passages below aloud, prior to beginning discussion:

Scripture Passages: Genesis 12:1-19; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:17-19, Matthew 23:23

1. Has reading these scriptures or hearing this sermon challenged your understanding about who God is and what He is like? If so, how so?
2. In what ways are these chapters less about Abraham and more about the Lord? What crucial lessons do we learn (a) about the Lord Himself, and (b) about the nature of our relationship with Him?
3. What can we do when we come across scripture we do not understand? Is it wrong to question God? Why do we question God?
4. How do you wrestle with Destin's point that God is looking for an excuse to save? How might a desperate cry for mercy and hopeful faith in God's promises change your outlook this week?
5. Sometimes we can offer God part of our lives, but it is challenging to always fully trust and obey Him. Who can share an area that it is difficult for you to have complete trust and faith in God?
6. Abraham named the place, "Jehovah-Jireh," meaning, "the Lord will provide" (Genesis 22: 13-14)? What did God provide in place of Isaac? What has God provided for us so that we might be saved?
7. How does the unconditional covenant of God point us to Jesus Christ? Genesis 22:17-18
8. Destin cautioned us that it's easy to get in a habit of checking boxes and/or doing the right things for show but not spending time in scripture, and growing inwardly in righteousness. How do you assess if you are growing in justice, mercy and faithfulness to God? Matt. 23:23
10. It is one thing to obey, it is another thing to keep on obeying over the long haul. What areas have you found victory in Christ? Is there an area in your life where you struggle to have consistent victory?
10. Have you grown silent like Abraham or are you begging, pleading, praying, beseeching God to be merciful, to save one more! Is there someone you've given up on praying for that we can join you in praying for their salvation this month? Hebrews 11:17-19

For further application and next steps:

- Memorize - Matthew 23:23 this week.
- Apply - Who are you fervently praying for God to save this week? Set a reminder on your phone or write their name somewhere visible to remind you to seek God's mercy on their behalf this week.
- Prayerfully consider: How does reading about Abraham's major character flaws, lacking integrity and lying, give you hope that God can still work in and through your life.
- When do you tend to drag your feet in obeying God? What would it look like to fully trust God in obedience in that area this week?
- Journal - What does the concept of "The LORD Will Provide" mean in your personal life?

Destin Garner Sermon Notes: The Test of Abraham

RPC Central July 23 & July 27, 2025

The Milk and Meat of Scripture:

- Milk represents the basic, foundational truths of the faith, suitable for new believers.
 - Meat represents more complex, deeper doctrines require spiritual maturity and discernment.
- The account of Abraham commanded by God - Sacrifice Isaac:

- The Milk: We are to obey God no matter what and give even our most precious things to God.
- The Meat: Is the only application that God wants us to take away from this is completely blind, unquestioning obedience even if it's an unfathomable sin. Or is there more going on here?

The Promise: Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

The Narrative Arc: Abraham's growing relationship with God and how is he coming to discern God's character.

The Lessons to be Learned: God must teach Abraham that He is different, unique, unlike any other - holy.

The Pattern that Emerges: God is faithful, Abraham is fearful; God makes promises, Abraham makes a mess. And yet—God never gives up on him.

Genesis 18 is a teaching/testing moment and is connected to the test of Isaac in Genesis 22,

Genesis 18:17-19 ESV

Genesis 18:23-26 ESV

Why did Abraham stop at 10?

The fact that Abraham stops at ten suggests that he hasn't fully plumbed the depths of divine mercy - he has not yet learned what God wanted to teach him.

In a final, climactic episode in the Abraham story, God gives Abraham another opportunity to learn and grow in the relationship. But God ups the ante this time; God raises the stakes. It's not his nephew Lot who will be destroyed. It is Abraham's own son. And it's not God who will do it; Abraham must do it by his own hand. If anything would force Abraham to speak out, to appeal to the mercy of God, this would be it.

Genesis 22:1-19 ESV

Is a this broken scattered family the result of faithful obedience?

No need to reject the traditional understanding but this offers a complementary lens - part of the test was whether Abraham would intercede on behalf of Isaac and appeal to God's mercy.

Through all of this it appears as if God is looking for an excuse to save!

1. God is looking for an excuse to save you. (Matthew 7:7-8)

2. God is looking for an excuse to save one more (2 Peter 3:9)

Have you grown silent like Abraham or are you begging, pleading, praying, beseeching God to be merciful, to save one more!

3. God is looking for an excuse to save you from self-righteous rule following. (Matthew 23:23)

You may do all the right things but are you becoming the right person?

Matthew 7:7-8 ESV

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

2 Peter 3:9 ESV

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Matthew 23:23 ESV

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Don't just be obedient to come to church, come to church and also but beg and plead for our sons and daughters in this church – God is looking for an excuse to save them. He's looking for you to "Say Yes" and go serve and pray and teach them His ways - are you looking for an excuse to say no, to stay silent, to sacrifice them on the altar of our comfort and convenience – may it never be. Son of Man came to see and save the lost.