

# OPENING DOORS

## The Tests | Ron Holton

### ICEBREAKER:

How has God provided for you this week?

### READ:

Genesis 22:1-14

### DISCUSS/OBSERVE:

1. What is something you learned about God from this scripture passage or sermon?
2. How did Abraham respond when Isaac asked, “where is the lamb?” What situation are you facing where you need to declare, “God will provide?”
3. In what area of your life have you grown impatient while waiting for a promise from God to be fulfilled? How can this story encourage you to endure and wait well?
4. Why is it tempting for us to operate under the assumption that God would never ask us to do something difficult, uncomfortable, or contrary to our own desires?
5. How do we differentiate between a trial from God that strengthens our faith and a temptation from the devil that seeks to destroy it?
6. Abraham had a history with God that prepared him for this test. What in your own spiritual history reminds you of God’s faithfulness and prepares you for future tests?

### REFLECTION:

After the test, God reaffirmed his blessing and covenant with Abraham. How does remembering and reflecting on God’s past faithfulness help you trust Him during a present trial?

Write a prayer thanking the Lord for providing for your needs and giving you the strength needed in the tests you have already walked through. Pray for His wisdom and continued provision in the days ahead.

## APPLICATION:

Genesis 22 foreshadows God's ultimate provision in Jesus. How does the story of God providing the ram in place of Isaac give you a deeper appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross? Do you believe the promises God has given you?

What is one "step of faith" you need to take this week that requires you to rely on God rather than your own provision and strength?

Are you willing to give your best? In what area of your life is God asking for your "best," and what does that look like in a practical, day-to-day sense?