

Notes Is the God of the OT different than the God of the NT? 10-8-23
Origins: Tough Questions, Real Answers

Texts: Genesis 3:14-15; Genesis 22:1-14

Genesis 22:1-2 – God desires genuine faith in Him, so He tests our faith.

2 reasons God tests us:

- Reveal

- Refine

Genesis 22:3 – Previous tests build our faith for the present test.

Genesis 22:4-5 – Faith in God means trusting that He can do what is unclear and impossible for us to accomplish.

Genesis 22:6-8 – The uncertainty of the test gives opportunity to speak of the certainty of God.

Genesis 22:9-10 - The way we handle our tests will impact how others handle their tests.

Genesis 22:11-14

- The angel of the Lord = Jesus (set phrase that appears 67x in the OT)
- Faith is demonstrated in actions, not words.
- The ram is a foreshadow of Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)
- The Lord will provide – This is the constant character of God in the Old and New Testament and the consistent message of the Bible.

This story points us to Jesus and represents the consistent message of the Bible from beginning to end. God desires our faith in Him and He provides our salvation and all we need to accomplish the purposes He has for our lives.

LG Qs Is the God of the OT different than the God of the NT? 10-8-23

Origins: Tough Questions, Real Answers

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

Is there something God taught you this past week? Or is there something that happened that we can be praying about?

Who engaged in our spiritual practice for this month? How did it go for you?

Looking up: Read Genesis 22:1-14

What aspect of the Abraham & Isaac story most resonates with you and why?

Read Romans 5:13-23 – What details or insights stand out to you from Paul's reflection on the story of Abraham and Isaac?

How have the tests that God has led you through in the past prepared you for something you are facing now? (Remember that tests reveal and refine our faith.)

Prayer: Spend time praying together based on what has been shared.

How does this story help you better understand and apply the Gospel message of the Bible to your life?

Looking forward:

What step of faith is God calling you to take now? Are you delaying in your obedience or getting right after it as we saw in Abraham?

Spiritual Practice for October: Silence/Solitude.

Set a minimum of 5 minutes/day aside to be in silent reflection before God. During this time, seek to quiet your mind and heart. Ask God to examine your heart and bring to your attention anything that you need to hand over to Him. Discuss your experience with your life group at the beginning of each week's gathering.