



Our Next Guest – Abraham
Sermon Discussion Questions – June 19, 2022

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 21:1–3 (NIV84) Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

Genesis 22:1–19 (NIV84) Some time later God tested Abraham. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up . . . “The fire and wood are here . . .but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son . . .” ⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

Luke 22:42–44 (NIV84) ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done. . . ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

John 19:17 (NIV84) ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull.

John 1:29 (NIV84) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:16 (NIV84) ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Luke 24:7 (NIV84) ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ”

Warm Up

Pastor Tom started his message by mentioning the song Father Abraham which was the “cool song” of his day. What songs have you enjoyed that quickly fell out of style?

Discussion

1. Pastor Tom introduced us to Abraham at the beginning of his sermon. Skim Genesis 15-18:15 and Genesis 20.
What can we learn about the call of Abraham from these verses? How was he unsteady while God was always steady? What comfort can you find in the steadiness of God?
2. The Lord gave Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac in Genesis 21. Read Genesis 22:1-2:
How does this picture of God make you feel or think? How are these circumstances contrary to Abraham’s belief about God? How could they be contrary to your belief about God and His character?
3. Read Genesis 22:3-4 and Luke 22:42-44
Pastor Tom compared these moments and called this “Abraham’s Gethsemane’. How are the experiences of Abraham and Jesus similar?
4. Why is this type of loss something you get through not get over? How do you think they felt walking into these experiences? What are some experience in your life that you get through, not get over?
5. In his message, Pastor Tom talked about how Abraham was faced with a choice. He had to ask himself, “Will I trust and obey or take matters into my own hands?”
Can you think of some times in your life when you were faced with a similar choice? What are some times when you are tempted to take matters into your own hands?

6. Abraham seems to focus on the past promises God has kept, his son Isaac, to lead him into the future despite fear.
How did Abraham and Jesus show their trust and faith in God despite their circumstances? What is so difficult about trusting God in fear? How can you follow the example of Abraham and Jesus during a time of difficulty?
7. Read Genesis 22:6-14, John 1:29, John 3:16, John 19:17.
What parallels do you see between the story of Isaac and Abraham and Jesus and the cross? What do you find encouraging about these verses and comparisons?
8. Pastor Tom said, “This story is supposed to offend us, to violate us, to bust our categories. This isn’t supposed to be comfortable; it is to rock us to our core.” How does studying the story of Abraham as a foreshadowing to the death of Jesus encourage you? how does comparing these stories show the faithfulness of God in their lives? How can you see it in your own?

Next Steps:

Pastor Tom mentioned these three names for God used in the story of Abraham

El Roi—God who sees you, notices you (Genesis 16:13)

El Shaddai—capable, sustainer (Genesis 17:1)

Jehovah Jireh—one who provides (Genesis 22:14)

Which of these names of God do you connect with the most and why? How could you live differently because of these names?