



The Season of Pentecost & Summer Sermon Series

These stories aren't about perfect people. They teach us to trust God even when we cannot see the path ahead.

Today we are going to be reading a story that is horrifying and confusing, but also one that teaches us what it means to trust God's purposes

WE CAN TRUST GOD WHEN LIFE FEELS INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Genesis 22:1-14

- *The Akedah - one of the most important moments in Abraham's story.*
- *The literal translation of the text reveals something very different.*
- *Abraham is called to do something that is terrible, and tragic.*
- *Child sacrifice in the ancient Mesopotamian cultures was prevalent.*
- *The only time Isaac speaks is a telling moment—Abraham's response is, too.*
- *1st Century rabbinical teachings took this story in a different direction.*
- *But then, God's messenger speaks (Hagar's story) and stays the sacrifice.*
- *One of the lessons here is that God abhors child sacrifice (tolerates others)*
- *The word na'ar is spoken over Isaac—just like his brother Ishmael*
- *All three monotheistic faiths look to this story for meaning.*

Trust is not the absence of questions—it is refusing to let go of God in the middle of them.

Some Questions

- 1. Was God testing Abraham or was Abraham testing God?*
- 2. What about Isaac? How do we see his part in this story?*
- 3. Where in our lives do we have moments where trust in God seems like a real reach?*
- 4. How do we distance ourselves from the idea of a transactional God?*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Reading Genesis

Marilyn Robinson

Abraham: A Journey To The Heart of Three Faiths

Bruce Feiler

Walking The Bible

Bruce Feiler

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