

THIS IS A **TEST...**

GENESIS 21:1-21; 22:1-24

Sunday, November 10, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

**TRUSTING** God's promises 21:1-8

**God's timing** Isaiah 55:8-9; 2 Peter 3:8-9; Psalm 27:14

 **God's power** Jeremiah 32:17; Genesis 18:14; Job 42:2

through **TESTING** 21:9-20:19

 **turning consequences to trials** 21:9-21 Hebrews 12:5-6, 11; Isaiah 61:3; Rom. 8:28

**a test from God** 22:1-19 James 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Job 23:10

is **KEY** on our journey of faith.

**the initial test of faith** Gen. 12:1-9

**the final test of faith** Gen. 22:1-19



Text us at **833-271-8805**.  
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide  
Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

**Welcome to Life Group!**

**Getting to Know You**

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

*What's one book, movie, or song that you think everyone should experience at least once?*

**Digging Deeper – A Bible Study**

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. *Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
2. We have all experienced tests of our faith—situations that require us to trust that God will provide. In these times, the question becomes: How do we respond? Do we allow fear and doubt to control us, or do we trust God with an extreme faith? Abraham, too, encountered many faith tests. Sometimes he obeyed and trusted God's promises; other times, he acted out of fear or took control himself. In Genesis 22, God presented him with one final, extreme test of faith (Gen 22:1). **Read Genesis 21:1-8.**
3. The various mentions of Abraham's age in **21:1-8** anchor the progression of events in real time and show the accuracy of God's promise in **18:14**. The mentions of his age also indicate how long he had to wait for God to fulfill his promise!
  - What are some of Abraham's responses whilst he's waiting on God?
  - How does God use this period of waiting in Abraham's life?
  - How does God use it to show his power?
4. If this were merely a story about God fulfilling his promise, it could end here with Abraham and Sarah finally having the son and heir they had always hoped for. But the story of Abraham is also about his faith. Abraham's resolve had been tested repeatedly, and now it would be tested again—especially when it came to his relationships with his two sons. In 21:8-24 we see the struggle re-emerge between Sarah and Hagar. **Read 21:8-24.**



BIBLICAL **FAITH** IS...

**believing** God's Word

and **acting** upon it

**no matter** how I feel

because **God promises** a good result.

*(—and he keeps all his promises!)*

# WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

**OUR MISSION** We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

**OUR OUTCOMES** This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

*If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...*

- 1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
- 2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
- 3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
- 5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

## WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find: Genesis 22:15-18 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>15</sup> Then the **angel** of the **LORD** called again to **Abraham** from heaven.

<sup>16</sup> "This is what the **LORD** says:

**Because** you have **obeyed** me and have not **withheld even** your son, your **only** son, I **swear** by my own **name** that <sup>17</sup> I will **certainly bless** you. I will **multiply** your **descendants beyond number, like the stars** in the sky and the **sand** on the **seashore**. Your **descendants** will **conquer** the **cities** of their **enemies**. <sup>18</sup> And through your **descendants** all the **nations** of the **earth** will be **blessed**—all **because** you have **obeyed** me."

I Q B C G T K O B E Y E D  
 N G E O S A A N G E L A E  
 Q C C N P B M A S T A R S  
 L T A Q K R U T L H K T C  
 O O U U W A L I N B O H E  
 N O S E I H T O B E V E N  
 L C E R T A I N L Y C N D  
 Y A A L H M P S E O R M A  
 C L S B H H L W S N L T N  
 I L H A E E Y E S D I S T  
 T E O N L A G A I N K A S  
 I D R A D V S R N Q E N A  
 E N E M I E S K L O R D Y  
 S E O E S N U M B E R L S

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

- Sarah's struggle was ultimately a consequence of her and Abraham not trusting God back in Genesis 16. Over a decade later she still seems to be bitter and jealous. How would you have responded to Sarah?
  - Have you faced consequences in your life (or God's discipline) that you've been able to turn into a trial and let God shape you? How can someone do that?
5. God commanded Abraham to take Isaac to Moriah and sacrifice him—his beloved son—as a burnt offering (Gen 21:2). If Abraham had ever felt at liberty to question God (Gen 18:22–33), surely it would be on this occasion. But instead, Abraham obeyed without question. The narrative methodically describes Abraham's actions: He got up early, saddled the donkey, cut wood for the sacrifice, took Isaac and two servants, and headed for Moriah—all without speaking a word. **Go read Genesis 22:1-24.**
- Can you think of a time when God called on you to exhibit extreme faith? How did you do it, and what was the result?
  - Reflect on a time when you felt your faith was tested. What made it difficult or easy for you to believe?

### Taking It Home

As Abraham and Isaac continued on, Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice, indicating that he had grown significantly since his last appearance in the story. Abraham's response provides the key to understanding this entire event: "God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen 22:8). The test hinged on the tension between God's past provision and His promise to provide in the future. The success of this test led to God reaffirming His covenant to bless Abraham with countless descendants and to bless the world through his offspring, ending the story as it began—with the promise of worldwide blessing.

As you wrap up, discuss this question:

- Have you ever experienced a time when you were more focused on what God had provided for you in the past than on what He might have planned for you in the future?

### Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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# JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, November 10, 2024

PART 8

THIS IS A TEST..

GENESIS 21:1-21; 22:1-24



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our App with Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.

<https://wawasee.today>