

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/21/2018

Genesis 22:1-14

DOING THE UNTHINKABLE

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel focused on Abraham's amazing victory of faith by being willing to do what most people would believe to be unthinkable...but this passage also foreshadows that God would do the unthinkable by sacrificing His only Son!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Genesis 22:1-14. As a home group, discuss the emotions that must have been felt by Abraham as he prepared to sacrifice his son that he loved so much. Some have expressed struggles with the fact that God would even put Abraham through this experience. Do you feel any of those struggles, and how do you work through them in your own heart and mind?

2. **This was clearly a test** of Abraham, so that Abraham would understand more clearly the level of his own faith. God knew that Abraham would pass the test, but the victory that Abraham experienced undoubtedly strengthened him in his walk for years to come. Pastor Mel defined a "test" as: **"An opportunity permitted or designed by God which utilizes difficult circumstances to identify for us areas of growth/ truths to be affirmed as He conforms us to Jesus Christ."**

Are there experiences that you have had in your life that you clearly now identify as a test? **(CASE STUDY)** Fred and Wilma have been going through a difficult year with the loss of a job and the possible loss of their home. They don't understand why God would allow this to happen to them. What advice would you give Fred and Wilma in their struggle?

What could individuals and/or the church do to help this couple?
How do you give advice and not sound trite or unsympathetic to their dilemma?

3. **Look at the chart below.** Look especially at the category of God's discipline. God may discipline us but should we assume that when others struggle, it's the result of God disciplining them?
How should we respond when we see others struggling without judging their struggle as an act of God's discipline?



4. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Talk about this passage in regards to the following:

- 1) The honesty of Paul to share his struggles in this passage and how this impacts our sharing in our home group and our transparency with one another.
- 2) The lessons Paul shares about going through his struggle and how God is using it to impact others.
- 3) The lessons that Paul learned about God and how God "grew up" Paul through the struggles he experienced and how that should impact our view of our trials.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for wisdom to navigate through tests that come our way and thank the Lord for the fact that He did what He did not allow Abraham to do....God sacrificed His Son for us...for our sins!!