

Following Christ into the Crucible: How God Transforms Us through Testing – Week One

Crucible #1: Abraham & the Crucible of Sacrifice

Abraham and the Sacrifice of Isaac – Genesis 22:1-19

Introduction: Sometimes God takes us through a crucible in which he asks to give up the one thing we cherish most. That “giving up” process shatters long-held dreams and places our future in jeopardy. But, if we’re faithful, that crucible experience becomes the defining moment in our lives.

- 1. *THE CRUCIBLE PREPARED – God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice the thing he cherishes most. Genesis 22:1-2***
 - A. The timing of the ordeal – God tests Abraham at the high point of his life. 22:1a
 - B. The initiator of the ordeal – God himself is the one who causes this ordeal. 22:1b
 - C. The nature of the ordeal – God asks Abraham to give up his greatest hope. 22:2
 - D. The question – Who or what is your Isaac?

- 2. *THE CRUCIBLE ENTERED – Abraham surrenders what he loves most with this conviction: God will provide. Genesis 22:3-12a***
 - A. Abraham takes the first step. He travels to the place of the sacrifice. 22:3-6
 - B. Abraham completes his obedience. He prepares to sacrifice his son. 22:7-10
 - C. What thought process empowers obedience? Focusing on the promises of God!
 - D. What would it take for you to sacrifice your Isaac?

- 3. *THE CHRIST-FOLLOWER TRANSFORMED – After Abraham passes the test, he enters new depth in his relationship with God. Genesis 22:11-19***
 - A. He worships with renewed passion. 22:11-12
 - B. We will see Jesus in a fresh way.
 - C. Abraham is transformed. 22:15-19

