

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

## Genesis 22:1-14

### Read and discuss the account of Abraham & Isaac

- Read Gen. 12:1-3 before answering the following question. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Why did this command appear utterly irrational?
  - *Leaders Cheat: for the promise in Gen. 12:1-3 to come true Abraham needed a son.*
- Was it unjust for God to ask for such a sacrifice? Why or why not?
- How would you answer a non-believer that is struggling with this passage and the idea that God would ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?
- Read the following quote and discuss why this commentary on the final plague on Egypt helps bring insight to what’s going on in Genesis 22.
  - *When God brought judgment on Egypt, his ultimate punishment was taking the lives of their firstborn. Their firstborns’ lives were lost, because of the sins of the families and the nation. Why? The firstborn son was the family. So when God told the Israelites that the firstborn’s life belonged to him unless ransomed, he was saying in the most vivid way possible in those cultures that every family on earth owed a debt to eternal justice - the debt of sin.*
- Read Hebrews 11:17-19 and discuss what may have been going through Abraham’s head in Genesis 22.
- Why is Gen. 22:6 an important passage in understanding Gen. 22?

- How is Isaac a picture of Christ? If Isaac is a figure of Jesus, how then is Abraham a picture of God the father?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 & Isaiah 53:4-6 and discuss how these passages relate to Genesis 22.
  - *Leaders Cheat: Point out that God the father is the one acting upon God the Son, just like Abraham was the one that was going to sacrifice Isaac.*
- Like Abraham, we sometimes get impatient about God's promises and try to fulfill them in our own way. How do you try to take situations into your own hands and find your own solutions instead of waiting on God? Give an example.
- Has God ever asked you to offer to Him something or someone that was very dear to you? What were your feelings? How did you deal with them? Was your faith strengthened through it all?
- How would you apply the following statement to your own life: "Faith cannot be less than total"?
- What does Abraham teach you about God the Father? What does this mean for you, a child of God?
  - Read Romans 8:31-32 & 1 John 4:10
- What does Isaac teach you about God the Son?
  - Read John 15:13

## **1 John 4:7-21**

### **Read 1 John 4:7-21**

- Quickly discuss any insights or observations you have on this passage.
- What do you think our cultural understanding of love is? How does our cultural understanding of Love influence our understanding of God when it comes to the phrase, "God is love"?
- Reread 1 John 4:7-12 and discuss how the story of Abraham and Isaac brings insight to this passage.
- How does John tell us to respond to the love of God?