

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 11:17-19 we are shown 3 aspects of Abraham's faith.

- I. God tested Abraham (v. 17b).
- II. Abraham faced a dilemma:
 - A. God promised Abraham descendants through Isaac (v. 17d, 18).
 - B. God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac (v. 17c, e).
- III. Abraham obeyed God by faith and received his son (vs. 17a, c, d, 19).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 28, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 11:17-19

Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:17-19

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:17-19 & Gen. 22:1-19.** Read Hebrews 11:17-19 prior to reading Genesis 22. As you write a summary of the Genesis account, what are the most important pieces of information?

(b) What is mentioned both in Hebrews and Genesis?

(c) What is mentioned in Hebrews but not Genesis, and why is this important?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:17-19.** Why was Abraham “tested” (cf. Gen. 22:12)?

(b) How was Abraham tested (cf. Gen. 22:12, Heb. 11:17)?

(c) Why is Abraham described as “he who had received the promises” (Heb. 11:17)?

(d) Why is Isaac called Abraham’s “only son” (Heb. 11:17 & Gen. 22:2) when he also had Ishmael (see Gen. 16)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:17-19.** Describe the circumstances surrounding the promise quoted in Heb. 11:18 (cf. Gen. 21:12).

(b) Explain the conflict Abraham had that he overcame “by faith” (if you need help, think of “promise” & “command”)?

(c) Given the definition of faith in Heb. 11:1, what did Abraham hope for that he saw as a reality and have proof of that he could not physically see?

(d) How did Abraham’s faith enable him to obey God’s command in light of God’s promise?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:17-19.** What aspect of God’s character did Abraham consider that fueled his faith toward obedience?

(b) The words translated in the ESV as “figuratively speaking” are εν παραβολη (en parable, lit. “in/as a parable”). “Figuratively speaking” is an acceptable translation of this phrase, but of the word’s 50 occurrences in the Greek NT the ESV translates it “parable” 46 times, “lesson” (as in of the fig tree) twice, “proverb” once, and “symbolic” (Heb. 9:9) & “figuratively speaking” once each (here). How does this help you fully understand what is being said in 11:19?

(c) Explain why Abraham’s belief that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead helped him obey God’s commandment (which required Isaac’s death) while at the same time trusting in God’s promise (which required Isaac’s life).

(d) In what way did Abraham figuratively (i.e. as a type/symbol) receive Isaac back?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:17-19.** Does God still “test” his children’s faith, and if so, how (cf. James 1:2-4 & 1 Pet. 1:6-9)?

(b) Abraham’s love for God was tested to show whether or not he loved God more than His promise & his son (Deut.6:5, Matt. 22:37 & parallels). What things/desires/relationships/plans might God test in you to see if you love them more than Him? How might you reprioritize your loves so such discipline is not necessary?

(c) Abraham’s faith empowered him to navigate his finite understanding of God’s will which led to an apparent contradiction (i.e. the promise required Isaac to live whereas the commands required his death). What seeming contradictions (i.e. God is infinite and you are finite so you don’t understand everything the way He does) exist in your life and how does your faith fuel obedience in light of those seeming contradictions?

(d) Implementing your Biblical theology, explain how our passage points to Christ, the anti-type to Isaac’s type.

DATE: February 28, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:17-19

God Is Able