

THE LONG-AWAITED SAVIOUR

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

26 & 27 NOV 2022

“IN SACRIFICE, A LONG-AWAITED BLESSING TO THE NATIONS”

GENESIS 22.1-18

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. The Bible states that God was testing Abraham (v.1). The description of a test is repeated in Hebrews 11.17-19. What exactly does the test involve and not involve? What kind of sacrifice is God looking for? (eg. is it child sacrifice, the sacrifice of a lamb or ram, or the sacrifice of something else?)

a) Out of this test, Abraham came to genuinely experience that God really does provide (v.14). How has God used trials to demonstrate his goodness and faithfulness to you?

b) Out of this test, came a blessing to many others (vv.17-18). How has God used trials such that you become a blessing to others? (See 2 Corinthians 1.3-4).

3. The sermon mentioned that even the good things, the promises, and the blessings from God can become things we love more than God, as seen in our unwillingness to give them up.

a) In what ways did Abraham previously cling to God's promises too tightly, that he tried to seize those promises for himself, rather than waiting on God? (Hint: see Genesis chapter 16.)

b) What is the "heart sacrifice" God is calling you to make? Is God calling you to put something to the knife? For instance, in the area of career, relationships, use of money, use of time, priorities in family life, etc?

4. From the Biblical narrative, we observe that though Isaac questioned his role in the sacrifice, he did not resist carrying the wood, ascending the mountain, or being bound in preparation to be sacrificed. Similarly, while our Lord Jesus cried out in anguish at the Garden of Gethsemane, still he willingly bore the Cross, suffered physical abuse at the soldiers' hands, and died on the hill of Calvary, as a sacrifice for our sins.

a) Read Romans 12.1-12. In light of this week's Scripture text and sermon, what insight do you have on the phrase "living sacrifice"?

b) In what way(s) is God calling you to be a living sacrifice?

Prayer Items

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.