

# 01 A CALL FOR SACRIFICE

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 22:1-14

## CENTRAL truth

God asks His followers to do some really hard things. Over and over in Scripture, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him won't be easy and obedience will be costly. But that didn't start with Jesus! As we'll learn today, God's instructions to Abraham are a great example of how costly our obedience to God can be. But it's also a great example of how **when we trust in God, He gives us what we need to follow Him.**

## key question

**What does it mean to trust God? Why do you think Abraham had so much trust in God?**

Our relationships with God require faith, but doubt often creeps in. This is especially true when we're invited to exercise obedience in a way that is unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and costly. If we're honest, we'd much prefer to follow God on our terms. Yet, we can find encouragement in Abraham's example as he yielded to God what he held so dear.

## keep in mind

- Some students may think that Abraham's obedience to God's instruction was motivated by fear of punishment. Stress that Abraham's obedience was a reflection of his reverence for Lord and a demonstration of his trust.
- The idea of God instructing Abraham to sacrifice his only son might seem overly harsh or cruel, especially to students who have experienced severe discipline or abuse. Remind them that God wasn't punishing Abraham or acting vindictively; He was testing Abraham's faith. God wanted Abraham to demonstrate through his actions what he said with his words: that he loved and trusted God. God always planned to intervene and protect Isaac.

## application

**How can we take notice of all the ways—both big and small—in which God provides for us?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students can feel empowered by the truth that God not only treasures their obedience but will give them everything they need to follow Him. As they reflect, the goal is for them to identify their next steps in obedience to the Lord.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Students may be tempted to see God's love or approval as something they need to achieve through obedience. Highlight that God's love is the starting place and source for our obedience. We can love and serve Him because He first loved us through Christ.