

b_____ Isaac and put him on the w_____, and prepared to kill him. Just at that moment an angel of the L_____ called out to Abraham and said: 'Now I know that you f_____ God, because you have not withheld your s____, your o_____ s_____.' When Abraham looked up, he saw a r_____ caught in some brambles and so was able to sacrifice it in place of his son, Isaac.

D3 We have already read in v8 that Abraham believed that God would solve the problem. But, in this case, we see his faith being tested to the Nth degree! And what a wonderful God! The name that Abraham called that spot on Mount Moriah, 'The L_____ W_____ P_____', are words that we should remember too.

D4 And the writer of the New Testament letter to the Hebrew Christians explains that, had the substitute lamb not been supplied, Abraham *was* prepared to kill Isaac. According to Hebrews 11:17-19, Abraham's reasoning went something like this: When G____ promises things, they happen; and if God had s_____ to him that it would be through I_____ (v18) that his 'offspring [would] be reckoned', then, had Abraham actually killed Isaac, God *would have raised him from the dead* in order to fulfil his promise. Therefore Abraham's faith was based on the r_____ (v19) that God could r_____ t_____ d_____ (v19).

D5 Do *you* have faith that God can raise the dead?

Answers/Suggestions for Section B – D

- B2** No
B3 boy
B4 birth, Beersheba, long time
B5 Some time later
B6 b
B7 Moriah
B8 Jerusalem, temple
C2 leave, country, people, land, great nation, name, earth, obeyed, left, told
C3 a) wisdom to neighbours, b) fairness to relatives, c) hospitality to visitors
C4 your own words, but which should include reference to Abram being both caring and brave
C5 a, c
C6 b, c (you choose)
D2 Beersheba, father, two, four, third, here, We, we will come back, wood, lamb, God, provide, lamb, wood, bound, wood, Lord, fear, son, only son, ram
D3 Lord Will Provide
D4 God, said, Isaac, reasoning, raise the dead
D5 (Own answer!)

GENESIS 22

Beacon Heath Church, December 2001

About the home study

Like the Genesis 18 study we did a short while ago, this leaflet is the first (home study) part of this Genesis 22 study, requiring just 15 minutes of easy preparation at home *before* the group meeting (at Care Group). If at all possible, please use the NIV version of the Bible.

The Home Study

In both the home study and the group meeting, each 'frame' is deliberately easy, often obviously so, but enter the spirit of the study and state the obvious, even if it's a single word – sometimes no answer is required. The method of study may be simple, but the truths we learn are deep!

As in the Genesis 18 study, suggested 'answers' to most frames are given on page 6 for you to check against. If you disagree or still have difficulty with any answer, make a mark in the margin – you will have an opportunity in the group meeting to discuss it. Nobody, except you, sees what you have written.

And, again, there's quite a bit of skipping around the Bible, so feel free to use the enclosed bookmark to quickly find the right book.

Now turn over the page and complete sections A to D.

Don't forget to bring your completed home study with you to the group meeting (Care Group)

● Section A (Goals)

- A1** Studying the Bible is useless unless we apply what we learn. After this short home study you should be able to:
- establish Isaac's probable age at this time and identify the place where Abraham offered his sacrifice
 - identify character traits in Abraham showing that sacrificing Isaac was not an act of barbarism
 - explain why Abraham was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice

● Section B (details)

- B1** Read (Genesis) 22:1-19 at the speed you might read a novel – fairly fast and not pausing to ponder too much detail at this stage.
- B2** To some, this account of Abraham offering his son Isaac as a sacrifice is familiar and may even have lost some of its impact. Let's start by establishing a couple of details that may not be immediately obvious from the passage. First let's consider Isaac's age. Read vv1-2. Are we told how old Isaac was at this time? _____
- B3** Although Isaac is described in v5 as a b____, the Hebrew word used for 'boy' covers the age range from infancy to being old enough for military service.
- B4** However, in the beginning of the previous chapter (21), we read about the b_____ of Isaac, and at the end of chapter 21 we know that Abraham lived at B_____ (v31) and that he stayed there for a l_____ t_____ (v34).
- B5** So when did the events of chapter 22 take place in relation to chapter 21 according to 22:1?

- B6** So we can assume that Isaac was probably (tick one):
a) ___ still a baby

- b) ___ a young man in his teens
c) ___ an old man

- B7** Second, let's establish exactly where this sacrifice took place. In v2 God tells Abraham to 'sacrifice him there' which, from the same verse, we know is M_____.
- B8** By reading 2 Chronicles 3:1 we know that Mount Moriah is in _____. It was on this hill that Solomon chose to build the t_____.

● Section C (Abraham's character)

- C1** At first reading, a father's willingness to kill his only child, whom he really loves, may appear barbaric. But was Abraham barbaric and, if not, what drove him to go to this extreme? Let's look more closely at some of Abraham's character traits.
- C2** We first read about Abraham (or Abram, as he was then called) in Genesis 12 that he was obedient to God. In 12:1-4 we read that God told Abram to l_____ his c_____ and his p_____ and to go to another l_____ which God would show him. God made a promised agreement (or covenant) with Abram that his descendants would become a g_____ n_____ (v2a), that Abram's n_____ would be great (v2b), and that all peoples on e_____ (v3) would be blessed through him. Abram o_____ (Hebrews 11:8) and l_____ his country, just as God had t_____ him (Genesis 12:4).
- C3** And Abram displayed hospitality to visitors, wisdom to neighbours, and fairness to relatives. Write 'hospitality to visitors', 'wisdom to neighbours' and 'fairness to relatives' opposite the applicable verse:
a) Genesis 21:27 _____
b) Genesis 13:8-9 _____
c) Genesis 18:4-5 _____
- C4** Later we learn that Abram was a caring and brave man too. In your own words, describe what happened in

Genesis 14:14-16...

- C5** Moreover, Abram was a Godly man. Tick one or more passages showing this:
a) ___ Genesis 15:4-6
b) ___ Genesis 12:11-13
c) ___ Genesis 13:18
- C6** In the light of what we know about Abraham, tick the appropriate statement/s:
a) ___ Isaac probably didn't trust his unreliable father.
b) ___ Abraham was obedient to God and displayed great integrity to his family and neighbours.
c) ___ I think Abraham had more integrity than I do.
d) ___ Abraham was always devious and scheming.

● Section D (Abraham's faith)

- D1** Imagine yourself to be Isaac, in your late teens or early twenties, and going up Mount Moriah with your father, who himself seems unusually on edge. Read vv3-14 (we're in chapter 22, remember?!).
- D2** Isaac set out from, probably, B_____ (21:32-34) with his f_____, Abraham, together with t_____ servants, making a party of f_____ in total. On the t_____ day they could see Mount Moriah in the distance, at which point Abraham said to his two servants: 'Stay h_____', adding 'W__ will worship and then w__ w__ c_____ b_____ to you.' Abraham carried the fire and knife, but made Isaac carry the w_____ for the burnt offering. On the way up the Mount Moriah, Isaac asked his father where the l_____ was, for the the sacrifice, to which Abraham's reply was: 'G__ himself will p_____ the l_____.' After the w_____ had been arranged on the altar, Abraham

F4 And last, read [vv9-10](#) followed by the relevant OT 'types' and NT fulfilments:

- i) *OT type* (v9): Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood
NT fulfilment ([Acts 2:23](#)): This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge
[It was Abraham who had to prepare all the details for the sacrifice of his much loved son. God did the same in Jesus' case; nothing happened without his foreknowledge.]
- j) *OT type* (v10): Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son
NT fulfilment ([Mark 15:20b](#)): Then they led him out to crucify him

F5 Read [frame D4](#) [*Leader please note: this is a rotation reading*]. Now we see that Isaac's experience in Genesis 22 can be seen as an OT 'type' of the NT resurrection of Jesus.

● Section G (the difference)

G1 It has already been pointed out that the 'types' in the OT which we see revealed in the NT are never identical, and in comparing the 'type' of Isaac with its fulfilment in Jesus, one difference is very significant.

Read [vv11-13](#) and [Matthew 27:45-46](#). What is the underlying difference?

*[In Isaac's case there is a voice from heaven, whereas for Jesus there is none. God provided a **substitute** for Isaac, but there was no substitute for Jesus because **he was the substitute for the whole world.**]*

G2 Throughout the OT we read of sacrifices offered to God for sins committed by humankind. Read [Leviticus 4:13-21](#) to appreciate how sacrifices were central to the religious life of the Jew.

G3 Read [Hebrews 9:24-28](#). Therefore when God sacrificed his only son, it was a one-off, perfect, never to be repeated sacrifice, not a repeated 'copy'.

● Section H (the fulfilment)

H1 Read [vv14-19](#) in which God, through his angel, reinforces his promise to Abraham. Which part of the promise is repeated in v18?

[That all nations would be blessed through Abraham's offspring – this obviously includes Isaac]

H2 Read the following four passages, one after the other, letting just the verses themselves bring us to the wonderful conclusion of that promise: ([Genesis 22](#)) v18, [Matthew 1:1-2a](#), [John 3:16](#) and [Romans 8:32a](#).

H3 Finally, we'll finish with two or three minutes of silence, reading to ourselves [Romans 8:32-39](#) and reflecting on all that the Holy Spirit has revealed to us through Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac in [Genesis 22](#).

*[Leader: explain to the group that the time allowed is more than enough for reading the passage **slowly and reflectively** – encourage the group to concentrate on **their own** thinking space, and to be oblivious to those around them.]*

H4 Let's close with prayer, thanking God for his word; for giving us added insight into his perfect plan which we see woven into both the Old and New Testaments; and, above all, for the glorious hope expressed in [Romans 8:38-39](#).

[Short time of prayer.]

H5 Re-read to the group the goals of this study from [frame E7](#), then hand out copies of these Group Meeting notes so that everyone has a complete record of what we learnt from [Genesis 22](#).

GENESIS 22

Beacon Heath Church, December 2001

About the group meeting

As in the home study, each 'frame' in the group meeting is deliberately easy to respond to, often obviously so, and the answers or responses being sought are usually the obvious – even if only a single word. Some frames require no spoken response.

Remember: the method of study may be simple, but the truths we learn are deep!

The Group Meeting

Once again, this is designed to be fast-moving!

Like the Home Study, the frames have been carefully designed and ordered to build one thought on another – **do NOT skip frames and, equally, don't spend too long on each one.**

There should be a real sense that all of us are the students and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There's no need for the leader to prepare any additional material, only to have completed the home study and to have read through the group meeting frames and Bible references beforehand. If you haven't led this type of study before, please read the more comprehensive notes at the beginning of the [Genesis 18](#) study (Group Meeting leaflet).

Remind the group that during the meeting there are quite a few Bible verses and passages to be read aloud; these are the **underlined** references which should be read **in rotation** around the group (note: only one reader per reference – don't try to split references) – and you, as leader, read the references which

are not underlined. Having already introduced this routine during the Genesis 18 study, your group is probably familiar by now the rotation of underlined reading, but a brief prompt (a quick mention of the next person's name) from yourself may still be necessary to maintain the flow, and save time.

Have you tried sitting around a table? There are several advantages in being around a table rather than sitting in easy chairs (assuming the house you meet in has a suitable table and enough chairs).

The Home Study leaflet (which covers sections A to D) should be given to ALL members of the group a few days **before** the group meeting – **with clear instructions that it should be completed at home before the group meeting**. The Group Meeting leaflet (covering sections E to H) is initially for the leader only, but afterwards copies should be distributed so that each member has a complete record of the material covered in our study of Genesis 22. Suggested answers, comments and instructions are given in square brackets after frames for the leader's benefit only and should not be read out!

Group Leader's instructions

As leader, you should first work through the Home Study leaflet, and then through sections E to H below – **before** the meeting itself. Section E is introductory and places the group meeting in context; while sections F to H form the main core of learning and application.

Start both the home study and group meeting preparation by praying that the Holy Spirit will clearly reveal to you the message of this study from Genesis 22 and place in you the desire to help your group discover these truths too.

● Section E

E1 We'll open with prayer, asking God to speak to us through his word.

[Short time of prayer.]

E2 Let's turn to frame A1 on page 2 of the Home Study and remind ourselves that, already, we should be able to:

- **establish Isaac's probable age at this time and**

identify the place where Abraham offered his sacrifice

- **identify character traits in Abraham showing that sacrificing Isaac was not an act of barbarism**
- **explain why Abraham was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice**

E3 Did anyone have difficulty with any of the frames or their 'answers'?

[Discuss and compare.]

E4 Approximately how old was Isaac at this time?

[Probably in his teens]

E5 Where is Mount Moriah?

[Jerusalem]

E6 What led Abraham to the extreme of being willing to sacrifice his own son?

[Brief group feedback. To summarise, refer the group back to frame D4.]

E7 Now we will unpack a little more of Genesis 22. After this group meeting, we should be able to:

- **compare a 'type' of event in the Old Testament which is later 'fulfilled' in the New Testament**
- **understand the important difference between the many sacrifices in the Old Testament and the one sacrifice in the New Testament**

● Section F (the similarities)

F1 Many parts of the OT *[read out as 'Old Testament']* have their fulfilment in the NT *[read out as 'New Testament']*. Sometimes OT prophecies are clearly revealed in the NT. However, other OT passages which are revealed in the NT are not direct prophecies, but 'types'. These 'types' in the OT which we see revealed in the NT are never identical, but they do share many similarities. The sacrifice (or near-sacrifice) of Isaac is one such 'type'.

F2 Read vv1-2. Then work through the following pairs of OT 'types' and NT fulfilments *[Leader: you read each OT 'type' before each NT fulfilment is read in the usual rotation, after which you repeat the OT and NT extracts shown below, placing emphasis on the words in bold]:*

- OT type* (v2): Take your **son**
NT fulfilment (Hebrews 1:2): God has spoken to us by **his son**
- OT type* (v2): your **only son** Isaac
NT fulfilment (John 3:16): For God...gave his one and **only son**
- OT type* (v2): whom you **love**
NT fulfilment (Matthew 17:5): This is my son whom I **love**
- OT type* (v2): go the region of **Moriah**
NT fulfilment (Luke 9:51): Jesus resolutely set out for **Jerusalem**
- OT type* (v2): **Sacrifice** him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about
NT fulfilment (Luke 23:33): When they came to the place called The Skull, there they **crucified** him

F3 Read vv3-8, then their OT 'types' and NT fulfilments:

- OT type* (v6a): Abraham took the **wood** for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac
NT fulfilment (John 19:17): Carrying his own **cross**, he went to The Place of the Skull
- OT type* (v6b): As the two of them went on **together**
NT fulfilment (2 Corinthians 5:19): God was reconciling the world **to himself in Christ**
[Stick with this one!... It seems that Abraham and Isaac agreed together to follow God's plan – emphasised again in v8. We should never imagine that God the Father and God the Son were in disagreement about the sacrifice on the cross. They, too, acted together, in total agreement.]
- OT type* (v7): Where is the **lamb**?
NT fulfilment (John 1:29): Look, the **Lamb** of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
[Isaac was to be the sacrificial lamb, just as Jesus was.]