



GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

19/20 May 2018
Vol. 40, No. 19

When God Tests Our Faith, Will He Find It Genuine?

Genesis 22:1-19

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Testimony
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Elder Aris Lumague
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Patotoo
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



When God Tests Our Faith, Will He Find It Genuine?

Today's Message (28/29 April 2018) /
Genesis 21:22-34

GOD'S TESTS
ARE INTENDED
TO PROVE OUR
FAITH, TO GROW
AND MATURE
OUR FAITH, TO
BLESS US, AND
TO GLORIFY HIM.

Genesis 22:1-19 is one of the most important but also one of the most controversial passages in the Bible. Can a loving God ask Abraham to perform an abominable act by asking him to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering? If God knew beforehand that He would not really let Abraham sacrifice Isaac, then why did He even allow him to go through the whole gruesome ordeal?

What is the relevance of this passage for us living in the present day?

If you are a Christian, you will surely experience a testing of your faith. If we are genuine believers, testing and trials are a given. The question is: *When God tests your faith, will He find it genuine?*

If you have not yet come to a point where you have truly put your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then I pray that this message will cause you to understand God the Father's great love for us which He demonstrated by allowing His One and Only Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross of Calvary to pay the penalty of our sins.

Why did God test Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering in a mountaintop in the region of Moriah?

1. THE TEST OF FAITH _____: GOD TESTED ABRAHAM BY TELLING HIM TO SACRIFICE HIS ONLY SON ISAAC AS A BURNT OFFERING IN MORIAH (vv. 1-2)

- Reason #1: God tested Abraham to prove the genuineness of his faith by asking him to obey His command.
- Principle #1: God tests believers to prove the genuineness of their faith through their obedience to His commands (*cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7, James 2:20-24*).
- God's tests of faith require obedience to His commands and trusting in His character. Genuine faith will manifest itself into action. While we are saved by grace through faith alone, the faith that saves us is never alone.

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Testimony

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Elder Aris Lumague

Response Hymn

Benediction



When God Tests Our Faith, Will He Find It Genuine?

Today's Message (28/29 April 2018) /
Genesis 21:22-34

- The purpose of God's testing of our faith is to prove that it is genuine and to bring glory and praise to God (*1 Peter 1:7*).

2. THE TEST OF FAITH _____: ABRAHAM WENT TO THE PLACE GOD TOLD HIM, BUILT AN ALTAR, BOUND ISAAC AND TOOK THE KNIFE TO SLAY HIS SON (vv. 3-10).

- Reason #2: God tested Abraham to allow him to persevere and to grow and to mature in his faith. Through this test, God wanted Abraham to experience and know Him more and to trust His character and His promises.
- Principle #2: God tests believers to grow and mature their faith as they obey Him and trust His character and promises.
- God's tests of faith require believers to act in obedience to His commands and to trust in His character and promises. When we obey God and persevere in trials and testing, we experience who God is and our faith in Him grows and matures.

3. THE TEST OF FAITH _____: THE ANGEL OF THE LORD STOPPED ABRAHAM FROM SACRIFICING ISAAC, PROVIDED A RAM AS A BURNT OFFERING AND BLESSED ABRAHAM BY REAFFIRMING HIS COVENANT BECAUSE OF HIS OBEDIENCE (vv. 11-19).

- Reason #3: God tested Abraham so He can bless him as he obeyed and trusted Him.
- God blessed Abraham's obedience by providing a ram as a burnt offering and by revealing Himself as Jehovah Jireh ('the God who sees and will Himself provide') and reaffirming His covenant.
- Principle #3: God tests believers to bless those who patiently endure by revealing Himself and fulfilling His promises.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Why is this passage one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament?

This account of the testing of Abraham is a foreshadowing or an indication of what is to come later: the passion, crucifixion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

God tested Abraham to see if his faith was genuine. He obeyed and passed the test. You have been tested in the past. And you can expect more tests because God's tests are intended to prove our faith, to grow and mature our faith, to bless us and to glorify Him.

When you face trials and testing this coming week, how will you respond? When God tests your faith, will he find it genuine? ■

REACHING OUR OIKOS APPLIED

As GCF, we are not just a church when we gather on Sundays. We continue to be a church even when we scatter out to where God has placed us: in our workplaces, schools, homes, and with friends. We continue to be a church as we live our lives demonstrating Jesus Christ in flesh to our personal communities or what we call our *oikos*.

That is why we as a church have started the Oikos Movement. We thank the Lord for those who have taken the training last March and have started to apply what they have learned. Some have been sending text messages of their Oikos Journey, asking for prayer as they share the love of Christ to their neighbors.

If you are journeying with someone right now we would love to hear your *oikos*. Please let us know how we can pray for you and your *oikos* by sending your story to oikos@gcf.org.ph.

OIKOS TRAININGS

All our pastors are equipped to facilitate the Oikos training. In fact, all those who attended the trainings last March are also encouraged to train others. So if you missed the trainings last March, don't hesitate to ask your pastors and friends who attended the training to share to you how to witness to your *oikos*. If you are part of a Growth Group, please let us know if you would like to have training in your group or in your cluster; it would be a privilege for the pastors to visit your GG and spend some time to learn with you.

INTRODUCING THE JOSHUA AND CALEB MINISTRY

Part of reaching out to our *oikos* is to reach out to our workplace. One of the most influential workplaces are the uniformed services, such as the police and military.

If you are serving in these areas of work, we would like to invite you to a lunch fellowship on June 3. We will be spending time together to pray and learn how we can together be the church while serving the country. Please let us know by registering at the Ministry Information Booth or e-mailing emortigas@gcf.org.ph.

30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

The past week has marked the start of a month-long prayer and fasting for our Muslim neighbors here in the Philippines and abroad. One of the best ways we can serve them during this time is to also pray for them. By praying, we may learn a lot about how the Lord is moving in their lives. There are many prayer guides that you can find to help you pray during this month, including one that we made available for you or your Growth Group. If you would like a copy of this prayer guide, please visit the Ministry Information Booth. There is only a limited supply, so please grab your copy as soon as you can.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Pastor Larry Pabiona is in Canada today and for the next two weeks as he helps GCF affiliates there resolve certain situations that require his presence and guidance. In his stead is one of our elders and Pastor Larry's mentee, Elder Aris Lumague, who will bless us with his preaching in the English services. Next Sunday, Dr. Harold Sala of Guidelines will bless us in the morning services, while Dr. Charles Morris of Haven of Rest and FEBC will speak on June 3. For the other services on these weekends, we will continue our Genesis series to be preached by our pastoral staff ■

Ablaze Devotional

**"After me comes the one
more powerful than I...**

**I baptize you with water, but
he will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit."**

- Mark 1:7-8 (NIV)

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

The wilderness is an important element in the whole biblical narrative. In the Bible, the wilderness is more than just a geographical place, it serves a spiritual significance where God meets, reveals Himself to, tests, and saves His people. No wonder it is a major theme in Mark's gospel narrative. God is revealing Himself again to His people, so He sent His messenger in the wilderness to announce His coming reign.

John's proclamation announces the reign of God through a message of people turning to God for their forgiveness. His message concerned not only a way of life and a symbolic rite; John's whole message and ministry points to a person. As John immerses the people into the reality of God's call to a new life and His forgiveness, it also opens up the way for the Messiah.

God is doing something new, and His reign did come. But it did not arrive with a grand parade, compared with how other rulers announce their reign. Nor did He come with great signs and wonders. God again meets His people, but this time He meets them with His very presence clothed in full humanity. The same God who gave man the breath of life, now breathes the same breath in human atmosphere. In this encounter, humanity is not just immersed in His forgiveness, but are shown how it really is to be fully human. In Jesus, we see how God's offer of new life and forgiveness looks like.

May the reign and baptism of Christ be alive in us who profess to be His. May our lives be a living witness to God's offer of new life and forgiveness as we follow Christ as a community ■

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements

THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD

SUPAMoms Fellowship with Dr. Ali Ng Gui

May 26 (Sat), 9 a.m. to 12 noon at BM07-08

Contact 0919 564 9004 or 0927 239 8525

register/for more info

SEMINAR ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Getting Acquainted with the Holy Spirit" by

Dr. Harold Sala of Guidelines

May 26 (Sat), 9-11:30 a.m., at Auditorium B

Contact 0917 532 7672 to pre-register/for more

info | Pre-registration is required | Reg. is **free**

S.H.E. MOVIE FELLOWSHIP

S.H.E. is a ministry for God's single women

May 26 (Sat.), 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Auditorium A

Contact Dana at 0917 532 7725 to pre-register

Registration is until May 21 only

SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS

GCF Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) 2018

May 28 to June 2 (Mon.-Sat.), 8 a.m. to 12 noon

here at GCF | **For kids ages 3-12**

Registration is online: [https://vbspro.events/p/](https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbsshipwrecked2018)

[events/dvbsshipwrecked2018](https://vbspro.events/p/events/dvbsshipwrecked2018)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

May 2018

	May Budget	Received, May 1-17
General	9,024,881	3,001,151
Missions	927,000	365,432
	Jan. - May Budget	Received, Jan. - May
General	45,953,644	35,108,476
Missions	4,635,000	4,399,076

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God for His grace and mercy by LC, the Basilad family, the Messiah College and by an anonymous donor. The flowers are also given in memory of Josue B. SyQuimsiam.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



MCare: A "Journey With One" Missionary

by Joy Miguel

Part of the process of equipping a missionary is providing missionary care. Our church did not have one during my first long-term mission trip, and this prompted me to constantly pray for God to move the church to see the need for one.

You might be wondering why is there a need for MCare. Let me share with you some experiences that I had while ministering in a large Pakistani community in the UK.

A haunted team house was what I called home during my first year there. It was small, very old and noisy. It had territorial spirits manifesting themselves in images which you only see in horror movies. I had never been so scared in my whole life and my question was, "Who am I gonna call?" *I had no MCare group to organize a prayer meeting to intercede.* After crying out to God and praying for every nook and cranny of the house, peace came and there were no more manifestations.

After that experience, I got terribly sick for five weeks though I continued to do ministry. The medicines there were not compatible with me. I didn't want to tell my family about the situation so as not to distress them, *but if I had an MCare group, I'm sure they will immediately send Biogesic and lagundi.*

But life in the UK was not just about ghost, illness and loneliness. These challenges were trivial compared to every victory and blessing that God allowed me to experience. Today, by God's grace, I now have an MCare group who has journeyed with me even before I am gone to minister in a country with 96.64% Muslim and only .07% Evangelical Christians. These men and women have heeded God's call to partner; after all, *the role of missionary carers is equally as important as that of the one sent.* God has blessed me with this MCare group who will walk with me in the joys and challenges of doing missionary work, for God's glory ■

ON THE COVER: A bighorn ram among bushes in the Glacier National Park in the US (pixabay.com).

Join a

DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B124

Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

Life in Technicolor Support Group for cancer patients

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Seniors' Room

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

8 a.m.: Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413, Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406

10:30 a.m.: Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406
3 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403

5:30 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404

Nursery: 2nd flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

Yayas: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

Sunday School Parents' Class:
9:30 a.m., B406

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.

Growth Group Leaders' Training

May 20, 27, June 3 and 10 (Sundays)

12:00-3:00 p.m. at B302-303



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- ☐ I am a first-time guest.
- ☐ I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- ☐ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- ☐ **I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- ☐ I want to start a Growth Group.
- ☐ I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

Today is 19/20 May 2018, and I attended the
8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.