

**Growing Deeper**  
***Born for This***

**Week One - Isaac: Born to Spare Us**  
***Genesis 22:1-19***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. What were the circumstances of your birth? Anything unusual?
  
2. Read Genesis 18:1-19. What were the special circumstances of Isaac's birth? (Read also Genesis 17:17)
  
3. Read verse 18. What were God's plans for Abraham?
  
4. How is a child key to these plans? To whom do these plans ultimately refer? (Galatians 3:13-14)
  
5. Why did Sarah laugh when God made the promise of a child?
  
6. When have you disbelieved God's Word? What promise of God is too unbelievable for you to count on?
  
7. In verse 14 God says, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" Throughout the Bible, God reminds us nothing is too hard for him. He keeps every promise. End your FIFTEEN thanking God for keeping his promises despite our unbelief.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. What do you treasure more than anything else?
  
9. Read Genesis 22:1-5. What did God tell Abraham to do? What is your initial reaction to this command?
  
10. Why did God do this? (read verse 1) Which phrases reveal God knew what it cost Abraham to give up his son?
  
11. What has God already told Abraham about Isaac (see Genesis 17:19)?
  
12. Does God test our trust in him for his benefit or ours?

13. How would this test benefit Abraham? Was it fair to ask Abraham to do this?

14. What can you infer about Abraham's faith from verse 5?

15. The purpose of a test is to show us what we know. It strengthens and deepens our understanding. A test gives us an opportunity to experience what is true. End your FIFTEEN in prayer for all those being tested.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

16. Read Genesis 22:6-8. Unlike what you may have seen in many children's Bibles, Isaac was not a young child at this time. What do you think was going on in Isaac's mind?

17. Did Isaac deserve this treatment? What treatment does any human being deserve from God? Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23a.

18. What was Abraham's response to Isaac's concern?

19. It seems Isaac had no further questions. Who was Isaac trusting? Who was Abraham trusting?

20. To what characteristics of God might Abraham have been clinging?

21. Hebrews 11 tells us Abraham's peace and confidence came from his trust in the all-powerful, promise-keeping, merciful God. End your FIFTEEN today contemplating the ways God has shown you his mercy, his power, and his trustworthiness.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

22. Read Genesis 22:9-19. What do you find surprising in this part of the story?

23. What is the relationship between trust and obedience?

24. What truths was God teaching Abraham in this test?

25. Imagine Abraham's relief and joy when the angel stopped his hand. When have you experienced God's merciful provision? What was your response?

26. How far will you obey God because you trust him?

27. End your FIFTEEN thinking of times when God has been merciful to you instead of fair (not giving you what you deserve). Ask him to show you ways to extend mercy to others.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

28. Reread Genesis 22:1-19.

29. What similarities are there between this event and Jesus' death on the cross?

30. The journey to Mt. Moriah covered 50-60 miles and took 3 days. Abraham named the place Jehovah-jireh: the LORD will provide. More than 1,000 years later, God instructed Abraham's descendent Solomon to build the temple, the place where lambs were slain in atonement for sin, on Mt. Moriah. Years after that, in that same area, God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God, to die in our place. How does this repeated message from God deepen your love for him?

31. What is a substitute? What substitute did God provide for Isaac? What substitute does God provide for you?

32. From what does God's substitute spare you? What does this free you from? What does this free you for?

33. Abraham was called to sacrifice his one and only son, but was spared from going through with this horrific act. God himself, however, sacrificed his one and only Son without sparing him. Jesus is the substitute sacrifice for all who look in trusting faith to him. He is the ram in the thicket, taking your place. What a beautiful, heart-wrenching picture of Jesus' great love for us! God provided then and provides now, to spare us. End your FIFTEEN in adoration and thanksgiving.