

In preparing for this week, I was excited because I saw this, and I'm like, this is gonna be an easy sermon. Don't kill your kid, done. We can go home; but there's a little bit more into today's message than that. We need to remember who Abraham was. We know that Abraham started off as just a regular person, just somebody that was out when God came to him and said, you are gonna have a lot of kids. You're gonna be a great father. And Abraham was like, this is awesome. That's great news! Then he turned 50, and then he turned 60. He turned 70, and he's still waiting. He's still waiting for God's promise. But he saw his faith. He believes that it's still going to happen. He doesn't know when he doesn't know how. But he continues that faith in God And God tests him a couple more times. A couple more things happen in his life, and he continues on. God tells him he has to move. He can't be there forever. So he does. He picks up and goes away. God tests him by showing up at his house one day as a stranger, and he still helps him. Abraham takes care of him. It reminds him and at this point, Abraham is now 99. And God tells him you're going to have a kid. 99, I would not believe it any more than anybody else, but he did. And they had Isaac, him and Sarah.

It was a wonderful time. Abraham continued to grow. He continued to develop. He's now 110, lives miles away from where this altar is that God tells him to go to. For, God tells him to go and build. 110, carrying with him an eight-year-old, nine-year-old. I can barely keep a six-year-old with me At 51 I can only imagine trying to keep an eight nine-year-old with me at 110, but he does. They go, and they continue. Because for some reason, God thinks he needs to test Abraham's faith again and by telling him to kill his son. How much faith does Abraham have in this? How much faith does Abraham have in God that he's going to actually go through with this?

If you remember, Abraham wasn't always his name. God started off calling him Abram, which means excellent father, great father. But he changes his name to Abraham, which means father of many. Does that mean that God no longer sees Abraham as this great father? And that's why he's testing him. He tells him to take his only son to the mount and kill him. Isaac isn't his only son. He has another son that he sent away, that he left to die in the wilderness. That he left to die by the water. So Isaac isn't his only son. Then God tells him to kill him. He takes him up there. He takes him on to the mountain, and they're waiting. He's waiting. He has faith that God will stop him, or that God has a better purpose for this.

I have faith, but I don't know if I have that much faith. I don't know if I could do that. I don't know why God would want to test again time and time and time with Abraham to make sure that his faith was so strong that he would do this. I don't know if he would do it. To me so much in our life, we don't understand God's purpose. We don't understand why he does what he does for us. We go through what we have to go through to get to where we are. This is one of those times. Now, there's a lot of stories going through all of it on why God did this.

Why was it necessary for Abraham to feel that part of his life, to have that much faith? Why do you think? Why would God do that? Why would God put Abraham in that position?

There are groups of faiths that believe that God didn't stop Abraham that day, because in the reading it says that he came back, not they came back. Some believe that it ended there. The last factual part of the Bible ended at that point, and the rest are simply stories. Others believe that he resurrected Isaac and showed that God wouldn't put us through anything that they wouldn't put themselves through. There's a parallel there between giving up their only son.

That's why they keep saying, your only son is the prophecy that is being told back then that Jesus is going to come for all of us. God is having Abraham do what he plans to do later.

Instead of just saying, go ahead and do it, they have to live it. They give their only son and let them die so that we can be saved. So that we can be resurrected along with them.

That's a hard thing to kind of wrap around. Is this parallel between Abraham and God this morning the same? Is that why he let him do it? Or is it simply God needs our faith? God needs to see our faith at all times. We don't understand what's going on. We don't know why it's going on, but we know that they will protect us, that they will take care of us, that they will stop us from being harmed. There are so many stories in that story by itself.

We talked about it in confirmation today. So much of our faith focuses around the stories that we hear as kids. And as we heard this as kids, all we heard was that God stopped Abraham from killing him. How does that form our faith? How does that help us develop who we are in Christ's image? Sometimes we don't hear all of the words that are set. We don't understand all of the meaning behind what we say because it becomes ingrained within us to simply have faith. But do we have faith? Because of what we knew as children, or do we have faith because of what we learned now? Jesus tells us to have the faith of a child when we have turned to heaven. To get rid of all of the background, all the things that have corrupted us into forgetting our innocence. God will help us. God will protect us and we will always be those children if we allow ourselves to be. Let us pray.