

Joy in Death
Genesis 22:1-19, Pew Bible p. 16
November 27, 2022

I. The Test of Abraham (V. 1-10)

- A. The prospect of Isaac's death tested Abraham's:
1. faith in God's promises.
 2. delight in God's presence.
 3. trust in God's authority.
- B. Only faith in an almighty God can give a person joy in death.

II. The Faith of Abraham (V. 11-19)

- A. Saving faith is receiving more from God in eternity than we could ever lose on earth.
- B. Saving faith is believing man to be totally insufficient, but God to be completely sufficient.

III. The Joy of Christmas

- A. It was not Abraham's only son, but God's only son who would be offered as the sacrifice.
- B. The message of salvation by grace through faith does not just mean good for some, but joy for all.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Genesis 22:1-19.
2. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, according to verse 1? Have you ever faced the prospect of losing something God gave you? How did you respond?
3. What is the hardest thing God has ever asked you to do? Why do you think He asked you to do it?
4. What does Abraham's response to God's command in verses 3-8 tell us about how we should respond to God telling us to do something hard? Consider using Hebrews 11:17-19 for help.
5. What does God's provision of a substitute for Isaac in verses 13-14 tell you about God's plan for the world? What does that tell you about God's character?
6. What are the three blessings God promises to Abraham's offspring in verses 17-18? What is the connection between a substituted sacrifice (V. 13-14) and these blessings promised to Abraham's offspring? Consider using Galatians 3:16 for help.
7. What do God's promises to Abraham have to do with Christmas? How does that give you joy this year?
8. Pray for our church members to be on mission to all people during this Christmas season.

Church Bible Reading Plan

1 Kings 16-18

November Memory Verses: 1 Kings 2:1-3



Romans 10:16-17

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- PRAYING this week for the evangelism efforts of our church members, that they lead people to Christ.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Elaine D. (sister); Gary & Betty B. (brother-in-law); Family of Wayne & Twila D.; and Larry & Brenda D. (her sister-in-law)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues); Debbie B. (chemo); Ann C.-W. (health issues); Mary R. (transplant recovery); Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery); Laura M. (undiagnosed health issue); Stan & Twyla H. (health and other issues); Michelle LaM. (stroke recovery); and Debbie P. (new health concerns)
- Others that you are aware of