

Welcome: We would like to welcome you here today for a special worship service with our focus on Abraham with our theme "Experiencing new life with God requires obedience. If you are a guest and looking for a church home please join us here at Light of Christ Church.

Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

Genesis 22:1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." 3

Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, 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. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your

offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Sermon Outline

1. **Experiencing new life with God requires obedience.** How did Abraham experience a new life with God?

2. Why would God test us, why would He test me, why would he test you, and why would He test our church?

3. James says that the testing of our faith develops perseverance, which leads to maturity in our walk with God (James 1:2-4). Why is this so important?

4. The Lord has told us so far that God tests us so that we may become mature in the faith. How has the Lord tested you?

5. **There is a cost to obedience.** *As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.* Why is there a cost to obedience?

6. God himself provided the lamb. The word himself is significant. God himself sent his lamb to die for the sins of the world. The sacrifice came from Him. It was no accident that the ram was in the thicket. Just as Abraham offered his only son, so too God himself provided the sacrifice of His one and only son on our behalf. What does this say about God?

7. **The degree of our obedience to the Lord shapes our life like the potter shapes the clay.** Also Isaiah 64:8 says, *"Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."* To what degree are you going to let the Lord shape you? _____

8. **What is the Lord telling you today? What would He like you to do?**
