

Family & Individual Discussion Guide

POURED OUT — Week 2: “The Substitute”

Based on Genesis 22

Main Idea

God never tests us to destroy our faith—He tests us to deepen it. The story of Abraham and Isaac is not about cruelty but revelation. It reveals a God who provides what we cannot and a faith that trusts Him even when the command makes no sense. In Abraham’s obedience, we see a picture of substitution: a ram takes Isaac’s place just as Christ takes ours. True surrender leads to revelation—because you only know God as Provider when you climb the mountain of obedience.

Scripture Focus

- **Genesis 22:1–14** – The testing of Abraham and the provision of the ram
- **Hebrews 11:17–19** – Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead
- **Romans 8:32** – “He who did not spare His own Son... how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”
- **John 1:29** – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
- **Romans 12:1** – Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God

Family Discussion Starters

1. Why do you think God asked Abraham to do something so difficult? What does this teach us about faith?
2. How can we trust God when His commands or plans don’t make sense?
3. What are some blessings or answered prayers we might be holding too tightly?
4. How does Abraham’s story point to Jesus’ sacrifice for us?
5. How can our family show that we trust God even when life feels uncertain?

Family Activity

- Create two boxes: one wrapped beautifully and one plain. Talk about how the plain box might represent God’s will—it doesn’t always look appealing but holds true treasure.
- As a family, write down one thing each person needs to “put on the altar”—something that may have become more important than obedience to God. Pray together: *“Lord, help us trust You with everything we love.”*

Individual Reflection

1. God Tests Our Trust to Reveal What We Value Most

Abraham's test wasn't a trap—it was a window into his heart. God's tests reveal whether we love the gift more than the Giver.

Reflection Questions:

- What is my "Isaac"—the thing I fear losing more than I fear disobeying God?
- How have I confused God's blessings with God Himself?

2. God Provides What We Cannot: The Substitute

Abraham didn't find the ram—God provided it. On that mountain, substitution was born. The innocent died in place of the guilty, foreshadowing Christ's cross.

Reflection Questions:

- Where am I still trying to earn or prove what God has already provided in Jesus?
- Do I believe that His grace is enough even when I fail?

3. Surrender Isn't Losing—It's Trusting

Abraham called the mountain "The Lord Will Provide," not "The Lord Provided." Real trust looks forward.

Reflection Questions:

- Where is God asking me to trust Him with something precious?
- How might obedience today open the door for revelation tomorrow?

4. You Can't Receive What You Won't Release

God can only fill open hands. Many believers want the ram but avoid the altar.

Reflection Questions:

- What have I delayed putting on the altar because of fear or comfort?
- What do I need to release to experience God's next level of provision?

Individual Challenge

Spend time this week identifying one "Isaac" in your life—something you've clung to more tightly than your obedience. Write it down and pray:

"Lord, You can have this. I trust You with what I can't control. You are my Provider."

Then choose one practical act of obedience to demonstrate surrender—apologize, forgive, give, or serve sacrificially.

Family & Individual Challenge

Read Genesis 22 aloud. Each time you read the word “provide,” replace it with “trust.”

As a family or individually, ask: *Where do we need to trust God again?*

End the week by writing your own name next to Abraham’s in Genesis 22:1:

“Some time later, God tested [your name].”

Then write your response: “Here I am.”

Closing Challenge

Faith without testing is theory. God doesn’t want to take your promise—He wants to show you His heart beyond it. When you trust Him enough to surrender what you love, you’ll discover a deeper love than you imagined. The altar is not where things end—it’s where revelation begins.

Closing Prayer:

“Father, thank You for being the God who provides what I cannot. Help me trust You beyond my comfort, to surrender what I love, and to see You clearly through every test. Teach me to say, ‘Here I am,’ and to believe that You will provide again. Amen.”