

4. Hebrew 11 gives us insight into Abraham's thought process (see below). What does this teach us about trusting God with and in everything?

Hebrews 11: ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

5. Abraham often betrayed a lack of faith in his life, but in this passage, he exhibits complete trust in God. What practices and experiences grow your ability to trust God more fully?

6. What are some ways we can keep our love for our children or other loved ones in a healthy balance?

7. How can we model loving God most to our loved ones?

Everything

"Our Greatest Love"

Genesis 22:1-14

How to Love Your Kids in the Best Way Possible

1. Understand that your children are a _____ from God and ultimately belong to him.

Genesis 21: ¹ Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.

Psalms 127: ³ Children are a heritage from the Lord...

Ezekiel 18: ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me.

2. Love God _____.

God detested human sacrifice, but Abraham lived in a world that practiced human sacrifice, and Abraham didn't _____ that God hated human sacrifice.

Hebrews 11:17-19

Until Isaac was born, Abraham HAD TO trust God for a future legacy. All he had was God's word. He was incapable of having a child with Sarah. But once Isaac was born, the temptation and greatest danger would be to _____ his dependence on God over to Isaac, to become dependent on Isaac.

God wants us to depend on him _____ because he alone is truly and completely dependable. Every other object we might depend on will let us down.

God's not asking you to love your kids _____. He's asking you to love him more.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



God wants to protect your kids from you. When you _____ them, you harm them. They can't carry the weight of being one of your gods.

Love for God is different from the love you have for your kids, and here are three questions that reveal whether or not we love God most:

- When push comes to shove, will you _____ God to please your kids or to fulfill your dreams for your kids?
- Do you believe that your plan for your kids is _____ than God's plan?
- Will you _____ your kids toward loving God most?

3. Learn to love God most by understanding that he loves your kids _____.

God gave his _____ for your kids.

This _____ in Abraham's life has significance way beyond Abraham himself.

In the story, why didn't God just say, "Stop. I was just testing you. Now I see you fear me. So go back home in peace." Instead, God _____ an animal for sacrifice.

You have the ram as a _____ for Isaac, the blood of the lambs as a substitute for the firstborn of Israel in Egypt, and Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We grow in our love for God when we understand that when Jesus was on the cross, God looked at his Son, his only Son, the Son he loved, and he didn't cry out, "_____!"

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. When you're going out of town, what is your ideal time to pack, and what is the actual time you usually pack for your trip?
3. Read Genesis 22:1-4. What do Abraham's preparations, words, and actions reveal?