**Lesson 15 Genesis 22 & 23**

**Abraham Is Tested**

1. Since God knows the hearts of all people, what do you think was His purpose in testing Abraham?

2. What verse indicates that God was fully aware of what it cost Abraham to offer up his own son?

3. Give some phrases which imply the intimacy between Isaac and Abraham.

4. Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What does the Lord tell us about sacrifice?

22 But Samuel said: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to the LORD’s command? Obedience is better than sacrifice, to listen, better than the fat of rams.

5. See John 10:17-18. In what way is Isaac’s attitude in Gen. 22 an illustration of Christ’s love for His father?

17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.\* This command I have received from my Father.”

6. *Challenge Question*: All the Old Testament passages reveal that God never will allow human sacrifice to be offered in His name. Do you think Abraham made a mistake in interpreting God’s request or merely followed the Canaanite fashion of his day? Give the verses.

7. Observe Abraham’s words “we will come back to you” 22:5 and “God himself will provide the lamb” Gen.22:8. What did Abraham believe? See Hebrews 11:18-19.

Hebrews 11:18-19

17 By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son,

18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.”

19 He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

8. According to James 2:20-24, what is one lesson we should draw from Abraham’s experience?

20 Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works.

23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called “the friend of God.”

24 See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

**Chapter 23**

9. Chapter 23 records Abraham’s first purchase of land in Canaan. Give several ways this purchase proved Abraham’s faith in God’s promise to him.

10. Why might Abraham not want to bury Sarah in one of the Hittite tombs? Why not bury Sarah where their ancestors live in Mesopotamia?