



LESSON 11 // PASS YOUR TESTS

Big Idea: Leaving a godly legacy involves passing tests of our faith in God. Through these we learn that real faith is revealed by what we do, and it's tested by both what we receive and what we give. (Sadly, the blessings we receive can sometimes become idols we worship!) Real faith is obedience to God's *commands* based on trust in His *character*. We also learn that passing God's tests brings promotion.

James 2:20b-23 (NLT) *Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.*

Exodus 20:3 (NIV) *You shall have no other gods before me.*

Genesis 22:7-8 (NIV) *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.*

Hebrews 11:17-19 (TLB) *While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and his promises, and so he offered up his son Isaac and was ready to slay him on the altar of sacrifice; 18 yes, to slay even Isaac, through whom God had promised to give Abraham a whole nation of descendants! 19 He believed that if Isaac died God would bring him back to life again; and that is just about what happened, for as far as Abraham was concerned, Isaac was doomed to death, but he came back again alive.*

Start Talking:

Talk about a significant sacrifice you have had to make. What role did your faith in God play in this?

Start Thinking:

Read James 2:20-23. What do you learn from Abraham's example about the relationship between faith and obedience to God?

Read Exodus 20:3. How can what we receive from God sometimes become an idol that we value more than the Lord? How can we avoid this pitfall in our walk with Him?

Read Genesis 22:1-18. How did Abraham's relationship with God impact his relationship with his son Isaac? How does this speak to you about the impact your relationship with the Lord should have on the other relationships in your life?

Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Why is trusting God's promises such a vital part of our faith in Him?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that your faith in God and His goodness grows deeper so that your trust in Him is stronger. Look for opportunities this week to walk in obedience to His Word and will—even when it's hard—as an expression of this trust.