

### Count The Stars

***“Lift your eyes from your circumstances and ask: How can God be glorified in this?”***

#### GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: What's a time when something didn't go according to plan, but looking back, it turned into a funny story or an unexpected blessing?

KEY THOUGHT: ***“Lift your eyes from your circumstances and ask: How can God be glorified in this?”***

#### GETTING THE POINT

##### The Testing of Our Faith

Read Genesis 22:1-2, 1 Peter 1:3-7

1. Why does God allow our faith to be tested? What good comes from it?
2. How have you seen the testing of your faith strengthen your trust in God?

##### Obedience Is Worship

Read Genesis 22:3-19

3. What are some things in our lives that we struggle to surrender to God? How can we recognize when something good has become more important to us than our obedience to Christ?
4. Why is obedience an act of worship? What does our willingness—or unwillingness—to obey God reveal about our trust in Him?
5. God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac. However, God's provision doesn't always mean deliverance from suffering. Sometimes His purposes are accomplished through suffering. How should this truth shape our understanding of God's goodness and faithfulness?

##### Connection To Christ

6. What parallels do we see between Isaac and Jesus Christ in Genesis 22? What is the most significant difference between their sacrifices, and how do these connections deepen our understanding of God's love and His plan of salvation?

#### GETTING PERSONAL

1. Abraham was willing to surrender what was most precious to him. What is something in your life that would be incredibly difficult to surrender to God? What does your answer reveal about where you're placing your trust?
2. We often pray for God to change our circumstances, but how often do we ask Him to change our hearts? What might God need to change in your heart for you to glorify Him more fully in your current season of life?
3. God used Abraham's faithfulness as part of a much greater story that Abraham couldn't fully see. Are you willing to remain faithful to God even if you never understand why He allowed a particular hardship in your life? Why or why not?

*Pray that God would be glorified through our trials as we trust in His faithfulness.*

**GP Groups: Know ♦ Care ♦ Encourage**