



Dgroup Discussion Guide for June 19, 2016

The Faith of a Pader

Scripture: Genesis 22

As the “*pader*” or column that supports the family, a father must be steadfast, immovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord. It is his responsibility, as the thermostat, to set the temperature of the family. As the father goes, so does the rest of the family. Proverbs 20:7 says, ***The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.***

We look at an instance in Abraham’s life when the Lord tested his faith, in Genesis 22. When the Lord told him to sacrifice his only son, the latter’s response was that of eager obedience. Not only did he make sure to get up early to complete the task set before him, he also made sure to be properly prepared for what he was about to do. He could have chosen to obey the Lord halfheartedly, or manipulated the situation so that it would not go as smoothly as it could, but he chose otherwise. Note that this is the case despite the fact that he knew he could lose Isaac, a miracle that he had to wait 25 years for.

Another thing to take note of is Abraham’s attitude toward the Lord’s command—he saw his obedience as an act of worship. As he neared the mountain upon which he was to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham told the men that came with them in verse 5, ***“I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”*** Through it all, Abraham’s only focus was to worship the Lord.

Abraham’s faith in the Lord was steadfast. As he and Isaac traveled to the mountain the Lord was leading them to, his son asked him where the lamb they would be sacrificing was. In Genesis 22:8, he responded, ***“God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.”***

As a result of Abraham’s faith and subsequent obedience, the Lord reiterated His promise to Abraham. Genesis 22:16-18 says, ***“By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*** There is no shortcut to blessing; if you are obedient to God, you can expect to be blessed—as long as your heart is on obeying God.

Abraham knew God well enough to trust God in his circumstances. For instance, God had previously promised him that his blessing would come from Isaac, specifically. So even if God had chosen to take Isaac from him, Abraham knew that the Lord would somehow be able to still fulfill His promise. Such faith can only come from knowing the other party involved.

That is why Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:17- 19 ***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.

As followers of Jesus, we should emulate Abraham’s faith and willingly sacrifice the one thing which is required from us by God. This is faith. This is believing that no matter how unreasonable it sounds, God is faithful and will always fulfill His promises.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: What are your strengths and weakness as the pillar of faith in your family? Are you intentionally taking on the role as the spiritual head?</p>
	<p>Family: Ask your family. How can I improve as a father? How can I improve as the spiritual leader of the home?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Share with your discipleship group your struggles as a father, as a pillar of the home.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.