

Men in the Bible - Men Like You and Me

In a nutshell: Abraham and Isaac

While Abraham (who probably lived at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC) is one of the main characters of the Old Testament, Isaac only is a marginal figure playing a supporting part. Here, he appears as the second son of Abraham (and only son of Abraham's wife Sara); later, he acts as Rebecca's bridegroom, and finally as the blessing father of Jacob and Esau.

And this is what YOU do:



Read the bible text on page 2. Have a look at page 3 for "Something to Think about".



Share your inspirations.



Discuss your insights.

- What problem did Abraham face, and what problem did Isaac face?
- Which approach to solve it each of the two pursued at first?
- What did become of it?
- How do such problems look today?
- Which approaches to solve them would be available today?
- What might become of it?



Prepare your presentation.

Sum up the results of your discussion in a 5-minute-presentation which can be performed as a role play, an interview, a short talk etc. Be creative!

😊 **Have fun!**

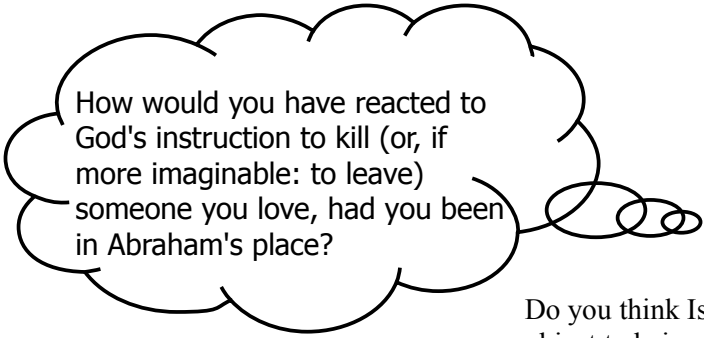
Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22)

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. 2 Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will show you.' 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.'

6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, 7 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. 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham! Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. 12 'Do not lay a hand on the boy,' he said. 'Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.' 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'

15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.' 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

Something to Think About

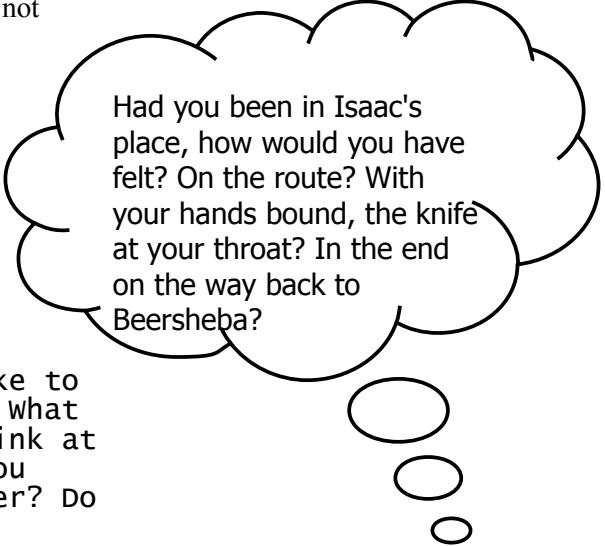


How would you have reacted to God's instruction to kill (or, if more imaginable: to leave) someone you love, had you been in Abraham's place?

Why did Abraham accept God's command without objection?

Do you think Isaac also did not object to being bound?

Had you **been** in **Abraham's** place, how would you have felt? On the route? The knife at the throat of your son? In the end on the way back to Beersheba?



Had you been in Isaac's place, how would you have felt? On the route? With your hands bound, the knife at your throat? In the end on the way back to Beersheba?

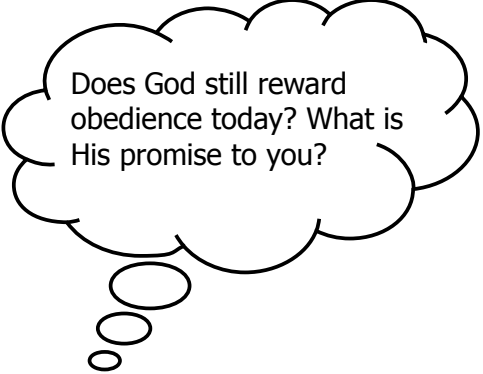
The angel only spoke to Abraham. As Isaac: what do you probably think at this moment? Are you proud of your father? Do you feel ignored?

Do you imagine Abraham and Isaac talked about this incident again later? What might Isaac have said? How did Abraham probably respond?

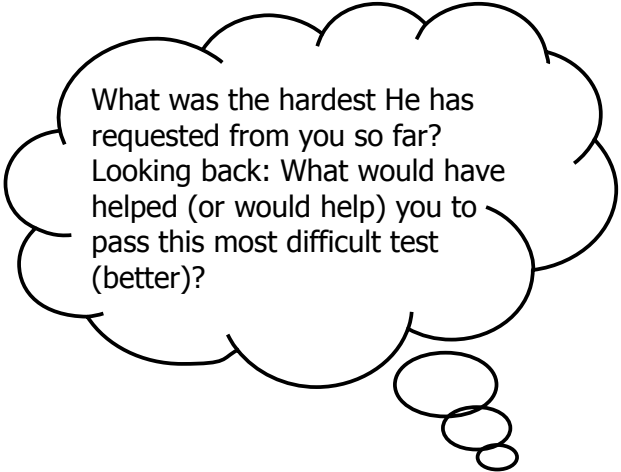
What might Abraham have learned from this incident? What might Isaac have learned?

What are the parallels to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

What do you think of this testing method of God?



Does God still reward obedience today? What is His promise to you?



What was the hardest He has requested from you so far? Looking back: What would have helped (or would help) you to pass this most difficult test (better)?