

Sermon Discussion Questions: December 7, 2025

Sermon Series: O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Finding Christmas in the Old Testament

Sermon: *The Second Promise of Christmas*

Passage: Genesis 22:1-18

1. How did you resonate with the idea that God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac?

Add to this that Abraham anticipated all of God's promises to him would be fulfilled through Isaac. What do you think about the tension this created in Abraham's mind and heart?

Share a time when you have anticipated something only to have it fail to happen the way you thought it would. How did you feel about it? How did you feel about God allowing this disappointment to happen? What was the long-term outcome of this disappointment?

2. Consider the fact that God providing the ram (22:8, 13-14) was the first instance of substitutionary sacrifice in the Bible. How do you think Abraham felt when the angel of the Lord stopped him from slaying his son (22:11-12) and provided the ram (22:13)?

Now read Romans 5:6-11. How does this passage relate to the idea of substitutionary atonement? How do you respond to it?

3. Many of us know John 3:16. How does the story of Abraham enhance your appreciation for God giving up his son for us?

How does Isaac's story impact your appreciation for Jesus' willingness to be the sacrifice for our sins (see Matthew 26:39)?

4. How has God used hardships in your life to grow your faith?