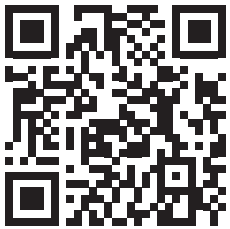




START HERE
GOD BEFRIENDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.



sign up page

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study in the book of JUDE with Jackie Hill Perry. The Study begins on Jan 25 Tuesdays at 9am or 7pm

MENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study called Authentic Manhood. The Study begins on Feb 8 Tuesdays at 7pm

EPHESIANS 5:14

Pastor Derek has instructed all of us to make time either at 5:14 am or pm to focus on the Scripture, Ephesians 5:14. Discuss in your home group ways that you can incorporate that practice into your daily lives and even maybe a way for your home groups to do something together at 5:14?



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GOD BEFRIENDS

Week 23 | Lay It On The Altar | Genesis 22:1-19

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT BUT FOLLOWING CHRIST WILL COST YOU EVERYTHING

There's no question that Abraham loved and worshiped God. To this point, we've seen him take radical steps of faith, walk in righteousness, pray, build altars, and give his possessions in worship. But Abraham had yet to face his biggest test. His love for God encountered its greatest challenge when he was commanded to give his own Son as a sacrifice. Even the great patriarch, at this stage in his life, was being refined by God and learning to love Him above all other things.

While Scripture says that our salvation is a gift of God that comes by His grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9), being a follower of Jesus means that in the hierarchy of loves, nothing has a higher place in our hearts than Him. This is something that will be constantly refined in our spiritual life, and there will always be moments when God calls us to lay something on the altar.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to ask God in prayer to refine your love for Him. Be willing to respond to anything that He may show you.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Pastor Derek said, "Salvation is a free gift, but following Christ will cost you everything." **Describe what you think that means. Do you agree? What Scriptures or stories in Scripture reinforce this point?**

To worship God, we must be willing to lay on the altar, what we love, to ensure that we love God the most.

2. During the teaching, various statements were made about the testing/refining process, such as, "Spiritual tests don't reveal to God what He doesn't see. They reveal to us what we don't see." And also, "The purpose of a test isn't to pass or fail; it's spiritual growth."

How is God refining your faith right now? Are you going through a time of testing? Are you responding the way that God wants you to, or are you holding on to something that God is calling you to lay on the altar?

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

3. Abraham was not only obedient, but He was walking in faith and worshiping God in perhaps, the hardest moment of his life.

According to the teaching, how are obedience, faith, and worship tied to each other?

Obedience is better than disobedience, but worship is the best of all, because worship is not only action, it's also attitude.

4. Describe the connections between this story and the gospel of Christ (John 3:16).

How is Abraham a type of God the Father, and how is Isaac a type of Jesus?



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, identify how you can prioritize God as the greatest love of your life. Maybe you will be called to lay something down or take a step of faith that doesn't altogether make sense. Be bold in what the Holy Spirit directs you to do.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear what God showed you and the steps that you took.