Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Trust God! His provision really is sufficient for us. What He has promised He will indeed do. Rest in Him and obey His commands.

Thank Him for His Goodness to Us! He is good in all His ways. Thank Him in the morning, at midday, and in the evening.

Pray! Ask the Lord to continue to expand our sense of wonder and praise for all His greatness.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of Hebrews was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Morning Service: Genesis 22: 1 – 19

Where's the Lamb?!

1. God Tests Abraham's Obedience.

2. Abraham Obeys God Through Faith in the Resurrection.

3. Christ's Provided for Us too. Let's Obey Him in Faith!

God told Abraham that his descendants would be counted through Isaac. Abraham had doubted Him when He said they would come through his own seed. He had doubted when He said they would come through Sarah. He doubted at every step of the way. But now God tested Abraham's faith and made him faithful. How could this stumbling doubter trust God?! God Himself will do it!

Evening Service: Hebrews 3: 1 – 6

Fix Our Eyes on Jesus!

1. Consider Christ for Who He Is.

2. Consider Christ's Faithful Sonship.

3. We Should Demonstrate Our Family's Courage & Hope.

Seeing Christ as He truly is helps us to *see everything* with eyes of faith—to recognize reality. Jesus is faithful as a Son over God's house. He is victorious and glorious and has called us His glorious brothers and sisters. It is this reality that enables us to act accordingly with courage and hope.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

This passage of Scripture is referred to in Jewish literature as the "Aqedah" or "binding" of Isaac. Unfortunately so much attention is focused on conjecture about who knew how much between Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac instead of the text's emphasis on God's miraculous provision and the radically transformed life of faith of Abraham.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**. DISCUSS, Why is God testing Abraham's faith? Hasn't he already failed the test several times already?! How does this show Abraham and Isaac that the Lord will provide? How are you currently struggling to trust God? PRAY for God to embolden us to trust Him even when we are very much afraid. Ask Him to enliven our faith in Christ who alone saves us.

Sunday PM
READ today's passage: **Hebrews 3:1-6**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to fix our eyes on Christ? How do we do this? PRAISE Christ for being so uniquely qualified as our Savior.

Monday
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**. DISCUSS, In what ways is God's love contingent? On what is it contingent? Why? PRAY for God to transform us. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them the grace Christ has lavished upon you.

Tuesday
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**; **James 2:14-26**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between faith and works? True faith in Christ saves us and true faith is never alone, but is always accompanied by good works. How do we see this demonstrated in the whole Abraham episode (Gen 12-22)? PRAY, "Father God, we praise You. Jesus, we thank You for coming to save us. Holy Spirit, empower us to live out this faith!"

Wednesday
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**; **Hebrews 11:17-19**. DISCUSS, Do you believe that God will raise you from the dead? What about your daily life demonstrates that belief? What evidence is there that you in fact believe it? PRAY, ask God to radically transform your life so that no one could mistake the fact that you are trusting in Christ to raise you from the dead.

Thursday
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**; **Acts 13:26-39**. CONSIDER God's amazing blessing in promising us resurrection power in Christ. PRAY, "Jesus, You have blessed us in spite of all our disobedience. You are faithful and we are not. You know our weakness better than we know ourselves. Forgive us. Change us by Your grace to make us more like You, Jesus."

Friday
READ **Genesis 22:1-19**. How have you been learning from this passage this week? Ask for the Holy Spirit to make more and more abundantly clear that the resurrection of Christ is our only hope. Thank Him for the certainty of this victory. REJOICE for Christ has risen from the grave and secured our resurrection. PRAY for your neighbors to know this same delight that God has blessed you to know. Ask the Lord to open their eyes to His goodness and wonder.

Saturday
PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can today so that you will be less rushed tomorrow. READ **Genesis 23:1-20**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.