

THE REAL OT
ISAAC

The BIG Idea Team, Individual and Family Study Guide

Please take time to run through this study guide with your team, on your own, or with your family so that you can further apply and process the BIG Idea.

Big Idea:

Trust in God even when what He is doing doesn't make sense to us.

Key Verse:

Read Romans 8:31-32 (The Message)

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

The Scoop:

From the story of Abraham and Isaac, we, as observers learn that Abraham was prepared to do anything for God, even it meant killing his son!. Abraham didn't try to resolve the conflict, but moved ahead on faith, realizing that an infinitely perfect God does not make mistakes. Not only did it not make sense for God to ask Abraham to offer the son he loved, but it must have confused him immensely considering Isaac was the son God had promised. Nonetheless, his trust in God is exhibited through his unwavering obedience to the call to action.

Abraham is following God's call for his life – not blindly, but by faith. We can be sure that even when God is working in ways that seem mysterious to us – our God is trustworthy. The same God behind your trials and testing is the God who sacrificed His one and only son Jesus for you, out of sheer love for you. That is how we know we can trust God no matter what.

We need not worry, the fruit and benefit of our obedience may not be immediately obvious to us, but it will most certainly be eternally beneficial to us. Our hope is not grounded in emotion or circumstance or events in our lives, but in the immutable, unchangeable love of God.

1. Are there challenges in your life that have left you bitter, resentful, or angry toward God? How might God use these times for good?
2. Are there areas in our lives that we say we trust God, but our actions might suggest otherwise?
3. How have God's challenges for you developed and strengthened your faith or changed your view of God in a positive way?

What's Next? (take home/further processing/application)

Make a list of the things you struggle with giving up and the things with which you struggle to trust God. Pray daily for one week about those things and then write a response or update to the each item on your list. See how God works through your faith!