



- When the GOing Gets Tough! -

Ice-Breakers:

- When you were in school, did you like tests? Why or why not?
- What are the benefits of tests?

Read Genesis 22:1; James 1:2-3.

God puts us on trial, just like he did Abraham.

God tests us by putting us in a tight spot so that we might develop perseverance.

Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 22:3. Most people have trouble sleeping when they know they have a stressful day ahead of them, so Abraham's confidence is evident in the phrase: *"Abraham got up."* Put yourself in Abraham's shoes here. What would your response to God be in this situation?
2. Read Genesis 22:6-8. What do you suppose was going on in Abraham's mind when he said: *'God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son'?*
3. Read Hebrews 11:6. Why do you think God is so concerned that we have faith in Him?
4. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. How does the writer of Hebrews shine light on Abraham's thought process in being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac?
5. Read Genesis 22:9-10. Do you consider yourself a focused person? How does focusing on God vs. focusing on your problem make it easier to get through your trial?
6. Read Genesis 22:11-18. The magnitude of God's blessings upon Abraham are startling, and God says to Abraham that it was all because... *"you have obeyed me."* Can you think of a time in your past when you may have missed huge blessings because of a lack of obedience?

Application:

What is your current tight spot in life? (see examples below)

Money tight spots (over budget, verge of bankruptcy); marital tight spots (struggles with your spouse); a dating relationship turned sour; working in a job riddled with conflict; health issues that won't go away; being single and seeing no way out; kids that seem distant and losing connection; students struggling in school; taking care of aging parents. Other?

In your 'tight spot,' what is God calling you to GO and do?