



Chapter-By-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture:	Genesis 22	Title:	Trust and Obey
Author:	Samantha Lim		
Summary of Chapter:	In this chapter, God seems to be asking Abraham for the impossible: to sacrifice his only son Isaac, the one in whom all God's promises to Abraham were wrapped up.		
Key Verses (NLT):	How does it speak to me?		
<i>2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."</i>	<p>God said in plain and simple words, "Take your son... and sacrifice him." He knew exactly how much Isaac meant to Abraham. In other words, God was not giving Abraham any options whatsoever in how this burnt offering was to be performed. Isaac was a precious, promised gift, and now God is asking Abraham to return Isaac to Him, yet Abraham obeyed.</p> <p>I struggle with obeying God from time to time. Actually, quite a lot of the time! When the government's budget payout of \$600 to each Singaporean arrived in my bank account, immediately I felt a prompting to give a portion of it away to a local ministry worker who raises his own salary. I struggled with it for an entire week, because I have been painstakingly putting away as much as I can into my savings. I was looking forward to putting an extra \$600 away and imagined the rewarding feeling of watching the numbers increase. So, when God's prompting came, I really hesitated.</p> <p>I wonder if Abraham even hesitated!? I have many questions about the emotional details of how this scene unfolded, but where the Bible doesn't give us these details, it does show us one thing clearly: Abraham simply obeyed, completely and immediately. He did not protest, nor did he question God. He simply packed up the necessary things, and made the journey the very next day.</p> <p>As for you and me, is there something, someone, or some area in our lives that the Lord is asking for us to surrender completely to Him? For me, that area is sometimes about finances, and actually a few other areas too. The more I want to hold onto these tightly, the more uptight and out-of-control I feel! But when I release control, and let God be God and be His wonderful providing self, I find more freedom and joy.</p>		
APPLICATION QUESTIONS:			
Adult:	Is there an Isaac in your life? Something or someone that God wants you to surrender over to Him in complete trust? Ask the Lord to help you surrender.		
Youth:	Are you walking with the Lord and developing your own personal history with Him? Ask the Lord to draw you closer to His heart and reveal His faithfulness to you, so that in future, in good times and bad, you can choose to trust and obey, because you know for yourself who God is to you.		
Child:	Do you find it difficult to obey your parents all the time? Do you respond to them as fast as a racing car? Why or why not? Pray and ask God to help you practice obedience daily in a readily manner, not just towards your parents but also to following the Word of God.		
PRAYER:			
Praying Scripture:	Heavenly Father, are there any areas in my life that I am holding too much control of? Help me to give You every part, without doubts, and without hesitation. I know that You are a faithful Father. Your ways are higher than ours, so help me to trust in Your plans even when I don't understand.		
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I thank You for all the ways that You have provided for me and my family so far. I praise You because You are more than able to do exceedingly above all that we can ask or imagine.		
Intercessory Prayer:	Father, continue to provide for the needs of those around us in these difficult times where getting around is increasingly difficult. Use me to be a blessing to someone else today.		
Salvation Prayer:	I continue to lift up my pre-believing friends and relatives into Your loving hands. Reveal Yourself to them in ways that they can see and understand. All this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.		