

WEEKLY REFLECTION

When you choose to follow Jesus, it's not one defining moment that changes your behaviour forever. It's much more than that. That first moment is merely the first time you answer God's call to you. What will follow is a lifetime of opportunities where we continue to respond to His call and say yes to trusting Him. After twenty-five years of waiting, Abraham finally holds the promised son. Then God says, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love... and offer him." The command collides with the promise. How can the God who swore to make a great nation through this boy now ask for him back?

Abraham rises and walks three days with the weight of this command. When Isaac asks where the lamb is, Abraham answers, "God will provide for Himself the lamb." He still does not know how. He simply knows the character of the One who has carried him through every previous failure. On the mountain the knife is stayed, a ram appears, and the place is named: "The Lord will provide."

This is not a story about heroic obedience we must copy. It is a story about a God who proves Himself trustworthy even when we have failed Him again and again. Abraham had lied, manipulated, and taken matters into his own hands. Yet God kept covenant. True trust grows only when we finally see that He is faithful.

We all have an Isaac—the gift we clutch tightly: a career that feels secure, children whose schedules become our idols, the need to control tomorrow. The test is not whether we can manufacture courage, but whether we will release what He has given us back into His hands, believing the Giver is better than the gift.

Isaac's willing walk up the mountain points us forward. Another Son carried wood up another hill. The Father did not spare Him. At the cross, holiness and grace meet. Because He did not leave us there, we can trust Him with whatever He asks of us now.

What is your Isaac?

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What do you think in your life that you have is a gift from God?(i.e. skills, talents, jobs etc.), and how is it a gift?

QUESTION TWO:

Where in your life does God's command currently feel like it collides with His promise—and what fear or "Isaac" (a relationship, career, sense of control, or future hope) are you most afraid to place fully on the altar?

QUESTION THREE:

Abraham's trust grew only after years of seeing God's faithfulness despite his own repeated failures. Looking back over your own journey, where has God proven Himself trustworthy even when you did not trust Him well—and how does the cross of Jesus reframe those places where you still struggle to believe He will provide?

QUESTION FOUR:

When you sense God inviting you to surrender something precious, what usually stops you—fear that He will not provide, the belief that you must first feel ready, or the quiet suspicion that He is less good than the thing you are holding? How might truly seeing Jesus on the cross as the Lamb God provided change the way you approach that moment of release?