

## Meditations for your week

How have I grown as a disciple since I became a Christian? In what areas do I demonstrate a lack of growth? What goals should I be moving toward to reach maturity in my personal relationship with God, my righteousness, and my mission?

In what situations have I experienced the most growth? What situations set me back in my maturity? What situations should I put myself in to grow and mature? What does it look like to trust in God to bless me in difficult situations?

How long am I willing to endure something so that I can become a better disciple? Why do I expect things to happen more quickly? How does the certainty of eternal life help me to not only persevere but also move forward?

What has God asked me to do that really stretches my comfort zone? What happens to my spirituality if I ignore or refuse the most difficult parts of discipleship? If someone examined my life, what would they say is more important to me than God?



Sermon Notes  
January 31, 2021

*"Make every effort to confirm your calling and election."  
—2 Peter 1:10*

## Testing – Genesis 22

God is not finished after you have been chosen.

Next comes a process for maturity.

Growth can be challenging and painful.

What are the tests for Abraham's becoming?

In what situations will he trust?

How long will he wait?

How far will he go?

Jesus tests his disciples.

Can you fix your eyes on him?

Can you come back?

Can you be faithful to the end?

# Group Discussion Questions

## Open

What was, or would be, the most difficult thing to give up personally in order to get married or to become a parent?

## Dig and Reflect

1. Read Genesis 22:1-19. What are all the ways that God's request to Abraham seems inappropriate? Why do you think that Abraham didn't argue with God? What are all the things you are asked to give up in order to be a disciple? What has been the most difficult to part with?
2. What do you think Isaac's impression was of this whole situation? How do you think he was affected by Abraham's attitude? Who all is on your journey of discipleship with you? What do they need to see from you on this journey? What kind of impact will you have on their journey?
3. What is your opinion of how God tested Abraham? How does this story change your view of how God interacts with us? What are tests that we experience today where the most important result is what it does to us? What are ways that we avoid those tests?
4. In what ways have you received more because of what you were willing to surrender? What is God's ultimate vision of what it is to be a disciple, and what are you willing to pay to reach that?
5. As this story reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus, what does it make you think about Jesus being tested? What does it make you think about God Himself being tested? How does this story give us confidence about our tests?