

Lifeline

BELONG

ICE-BREAKER

What's your favorite winter weather trick?

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Genesis 22:1-18 NLT

Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." 3 The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back." 6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" 8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. 9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" 12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." 13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." 15 Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. 16 "This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17 I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

BE

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT. Do you believe this? Why or why not? Does your life look like you believe this?

Read Genesis 22:1-18 NLT. What stands out to you? What questions do you have?

Try and recount the numerous experiences Abraham has had up to this point in his story. As he is walking up the hill, his son trailing behind him, what thoughts or feelings do you think Abraham might have had?

What promises does God give to Abraham?

What is the significance of this passage in relationship to the promise of the coming Messiah? What parallels do you see between Abraham and Isaac and God the Father and Jesus?

What do you learn about God from this passage?

What do you learn about human beings from this passage?

What will you do in response to this passage?

DO

Begin by thanking the Lord for His promise and provision. Give thanks that the same favor God gave to Abraham is now too your inheritance. In fact, your inheritance is even better, because of Jesus!

Spend time remembering your own life, the trials and tribulations, the moments that it was clear the Lord had provided.

Then, invite people to share out loud any moments from their life that demonstrate God's goodness.

Ask each person that shares to then pray for and bless someone else in the group.

Conclude with thanksgiving that God can be trusted.

