

## Further Study – May 2, 2021

Read: Hebrews 11:17-19 and Genesis 22:1-19

If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

### Understanding Questions:

- What does the writer of Hebrews have to say about Abraham's willingness to offer up his one and only son to God? Why does God's previous promise to Abraham make this even more remarkable?
- After God's command, where did Abraham bring Isaac? How long did it take for them to get there? What did Abraham give Isaac to carry?
- What did the angel say to Abraham as he was about to sacrifice Isaac? What did Abraham then see in the bushes? After it was over, what did Abraham name the place where it all happened?
- What promises does God reiterate to Abraham at the end of this episode?

### Application Questions:

- Has God ever tested your faith? If so, how was it done and what was the effect? Did that moment change you and, if so, how?
- What, if anything, do you find troubling about this episode from Genesis? What if someone attempted to do such a thing today? How could a different response be justified?
- In what ways have you received God's promises because of the faith of others who have come before you?

Notes:

The location of Moriah is uncertain, but it may refer to the later site of Jerusalem and is traditionally associated with the Temple Mount there (see 2 Chronicles 3:1).

Abraham trusts God will keep the promise made to Abraham (that he will have a son and heir and many descendants), so Abraham can proceed in faith (see 22.8). He trusts that God will not fail to keep earlier promises regarding Isaac (see Genesis 17.9), though he does not know how God will work things out. Martin Luther colorfully expresses Abraham's faith this way: "Faith ... has the power to kill death, to condemn hell, to be sin for sin, to be devil for the devil to such an extent that death is not death ... Of this Abraham is sure. He thinks: 'I am reducing my son to ashes. Nevertheless he is not dying. Indeed, those ashes will be my heir.'" (LW 4:117).