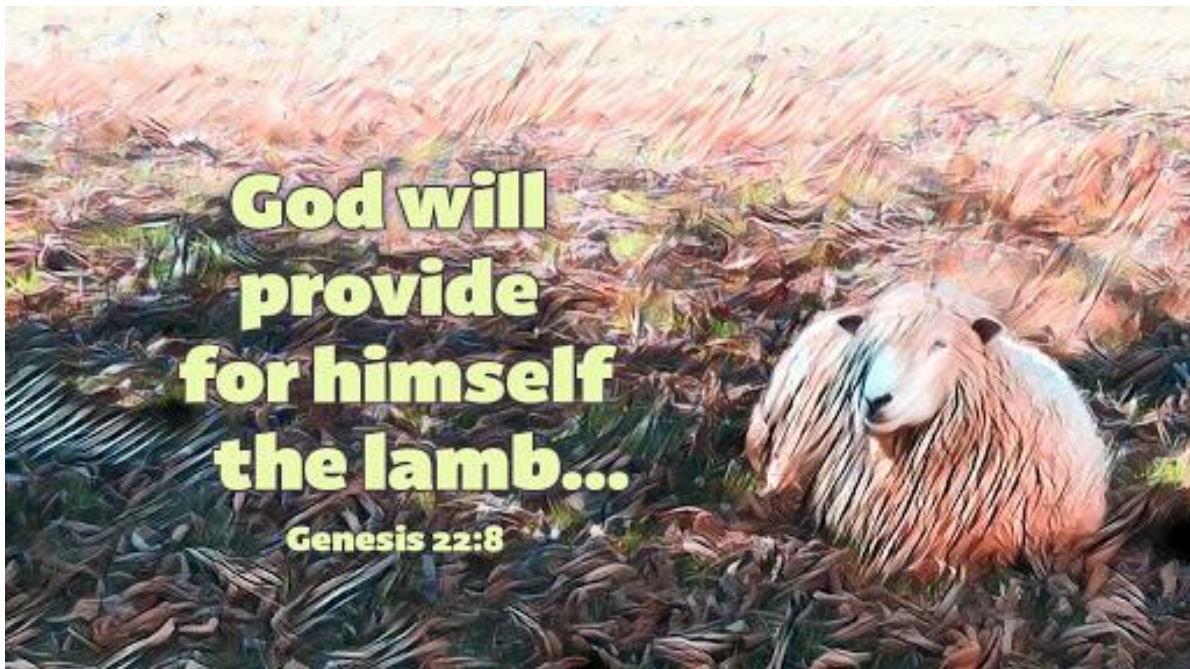


# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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04/10/2020 - Genesis 22

## Trust



All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)

**“Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight..” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Good morning and welcome to this week’s look at Genesis.

**Our hymns today are  
“Cornerstone” & “Trust & Obey”**

### **Cornerstone**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvLxZEU02uI>

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus name

My hope is built on nothing less .....

Christ alone, cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all  
He is Lord, Lord of all

Christ alone, cornerstone .....

When he shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless, stand before the throne

Christ alone, cornerstone.....



### **Trust & Obey**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVMwnW0qYnc>

1 When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way;  
While we do His good will,  
He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

2 Not a shadow can rise,  
Not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear,  
Not a sigh or a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey.

3 Not a burden we bear,  
Not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss,  
Not a frown or a cross,  
But is blest if we trust and obey.

4 But we never can prove  
The delights of His love,  
Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows,  
And the joy He bestows,  
Are for them who will trust and obey.

5 Then in fellowship sweet  
We will sit at His feet,  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do;  
Where He sends, we will go,  
Never fear, only trust and obey.

**Our reading today is Genesis 22:**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+22&version=NIV>

Last week we learned about laughter of disbelief turning into laughter of Joy at the birth of Isaac. Between this story of laughter is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is important because it reveals that sin continues to spread and destroy the lives of people God loves and that God will, sooner or later, bring judgment on sin and evil in order to keep it in check. Abraham intercedes for the cities (Gen. 18:16-33), but their sin is too great. In Genesis 18:20, God says, "the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious." God must act to prevent evil from causing further harm.

Then as Isaac grows we have the situation where Abraham is called to give up Isaac as a sacrifice. Some may see this as God encouraging sin, however it is the greatest story of trust.

This is a difficult scripture. How did a story of human sacrifice get into the Bible? How could God order the sacrifice of Isaac—the son for whom Abraham and Sarah had waited for so long—the son of their old age—the gift from God who had been born only after "it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women."

None of us want to take a human life. We would agonize if we were required to throw an executioner's switch. Taking the life of our own child would be unthinkable.

This is not a story about human sacrifice. It is, in fact, the opposite. Abraham felt called to sacrifice Isaac, but God stopped him. God did not want a human sacrifice.

I believe that Abraham expected God to stop him. In verse five, Abraham said to his servants: "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go yonder. **We** will worship and come back to you." (22:5).

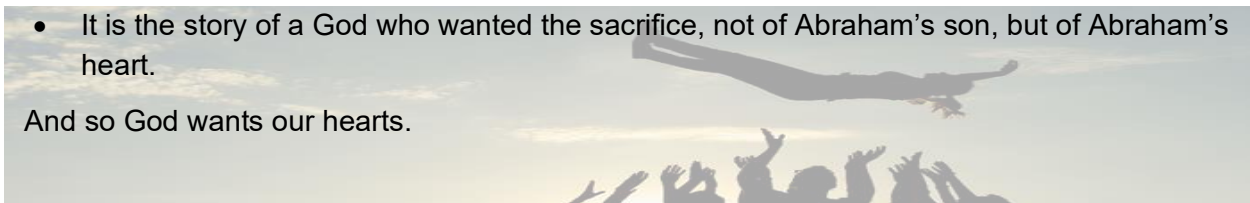
Abraham had no need to deceive his servants. They were accountable to them, not he to them.

Furthermore, when Isaac asked where they would get the lamb for the sacrifice, Abraham answered, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son" (22:8).

God will provide the lamb. No! This is not a story about human sacrifice. This is a story about trust.

- It is not a story of a God who wanted human sacrifice. It is a story of a God who prevented human sacrifice.
- It is the story of a God who loved Abraham, and wanted Abraham to trust him.
- It is the story of a God who wanted Abraham to believe that God would cause the sun to rise—even though the night might be terribly dark.
- It is the story of a God who stood ready to reward Abraham's obedience.
- It is the story of a God who wanted the sacrifice, not of Abraham's son, but of Abraham's heart.

And so God wants our hearts.



## Let's pray.

We thank you Lord that we can trust you to be in all that we do. Help us to give you our hearts and help us through you to show others our trust in you. Amen.

**Word Search for  
Abraham Was Called to Sacrifice Isaac**

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I	T	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	A	I	D	
U	N	T	A	L	A	T	N	E	K	I	T	
L	O	R	E	R	T	E	G	D	N	T	O	
N	U	L	A	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	
B	O	N	S	M	S	C	L	L	F	A	N	
D	U	E	V	E	L	R	I	R	E	U	R	
L	A	R	O	F	F	S	P	R	I	N	G	
I	U	M	N	N	E	E	T	A	T	V	E	
S	T	N	I	T	T	N	I	S	M	O	D	
A	I	O	N	S	E	G	I	A	M	V	E	
A	A	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	T	E
C	U	E	D	O	L	A	L	T	A	R	U	

ABRAHAM	ANGEL	ISAAC	OFFERING	RAM
ALTAR	BURNT	KNIFE	OFFSPRING	SACRIFICE

*May God's blessing surround you each day.*

*As we trust in and walk in His way;*

*May His presence within,*

*Guard and keep us from sin;*

*Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.*



## Prayers for Bethel Harvest and Children's Promotion

As pointed out last week would have been harvest at Bethel and the week before our Children's promotion.

Today we've added prayers so we do not forget these special events in our diary.

Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving

We give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment.

We give thanks for those who provide the food into our homes: Farmers, warehouse workers, drivers, shopkeepers and our families.

Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.

Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all. Amen.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of children.

Please watch over our children as they go back to school and start university this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that You are right there with them in their classrooms. Help them soak up knowledge. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts. Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in You

Help and guide the teachers and all the school workers not only to give our children the best possible education but to help them feel safe in these strange times.

Amen

