



HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Sacrifice

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **Sneeze Freeze!** Have everyone stand in a circle. One student starts by performing a fake sneeze in the most dramatic way possible. It can be loud, long, exaggerated, or even involve silly movements. The person to their right must then copy the sneeze exactly, including any gestures or sound effects. This continues around the circle until it reaches the original student. For competition, if you laugh, you're out! For extra fun, play multiple rounds where the first sneeze is done in different styles (e.g., "sneeze like a cat," "sneeze like you're in slow motion").

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Have you ever been asked to make a sacrifice? We can understand what it means to sacrifice our time, our money, and maybe even our wants for the good of others, but we don't quite have the cultural context to appreciate the theme of sacrifice in Scripture. In today's video, we're going to talk more about this topic, and learn about the depth of God's love through sacrifice.

 Pre-Video Question: Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- Would you rather always have to wear rollerblades or never wear shoes again?
- If you could live in any time period, when would you live?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

READ + DISCUSS

- What stood out to you in the video this week?
- **Read Genesis 3:21.** What is happening here? Why does God do this? What does this teach us about God?
- **Read Genesis 22:1-5.** Have you ever had to give up something (or someone) that you didn't want to let go of? How do you think Abraham would have felt when God asked him to do this?
- What does it say about Abraham's relationship with God that he was quick to obey?
- **Read Genesis 22:8.** What does Abraham believe God is going to do?
- **Read Genesis 22:12-13.** What does God provide for Abraham and Isaac? How does this moment give us a glimpse of the sacrifice God will make through Jesus on the cross?
- **Read Romans 12:1-2.** What does it mean to be a "living sacrifice"? What is one thing you could do to put that into practice this week?

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Sacrifice

As people living in our time and culture, the idea of sacrifice can come off as a foreign, ancient practice that can seem like it belongs in a history textbook rather than the story of our relational God. But the reality is, the theme of sacrifice in the Bible gives us a picture of just how much God loves His people. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sin against God and try to hide their shame by making their own clothing, but God sacrifices an animal to provide covering for their nakedness.

In today's story, we see God ask Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son – and Abraham trusts God's sovereignty over his own desires or doubts. Despite his circumstances, Abraham relies on God's provision just as he has since he left his home country, and Abraham witnesses an incredible foreshadowing of God's ultimate provision for His people: in a similar manner, thousands of years later, another Son carrying wood on His back would climb a mountain, where He would be sacrificed as the Lamb of God.

Just as we see with Adam, Abraham, and Christ, God always provides the first sacrifice. Now, our sacrifices are not those of flesh and blood but are free offerings of worship; for, "you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." (Psalm 51:16-17)

Leaders, encourage students to discuss God's provision and love for His people!

Read Genesis 3:21 *"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."*

Read Genesis 22:1-5 *"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. ² Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.' ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.'"*

Read Genesis 22:8 *"Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.'" And the two of them went on together."*

Read Genesis 22:12-13 ¹² *"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son."*

Read Romans 12:1-2 *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Genesis Reading Plan

Week 7 | Genesis 25:19-26; 26:34 to 27:35; 32

Day 1 – Genesis 25:19-26

Day 2 – Genesis 26:34-27:29

Day 3 – Genesis 27:30-35

Day 4 – Genesis 32:1-12

Day 5 – Genesis 32:13-21

Day 6 – Genesis 32:22-32

Day 7 – Catch Up/Memorize/Nothing