

Pastor Tim Bittle
The Invitation Part 3
Swords Out of Water

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Genesis 22:1-12]

“Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.” “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.” 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. On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. “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.” 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, 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?” “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. 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. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven,

“Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!” “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.””

[Luke 9:23-24]

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.””

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you have the opportunity to be the invitation last week?
What did that look like?
2. Go around the room and fill in the blank
"God is greater than _____"
3. Have you experienced the "cost" of the invitation to follow Jesus? What has it cost you?
4. Giving God our weakness and pain is easy but giving him our desires and future is not as simple. What is our issue when it comes to placing everything on the alter?
5. What are somethings you have brought with you, when you began to follow Jesus, that you need to give to Him?
6. Spend some time discussing what God could put in your hands in place of the things that currently fill them?
7. Giving up these things is an appropriate response to our love for Christ. Our love for Christ is amplified when we understand His love for us. Spend some time talking about Gods great love for us.
8. Pray for each other for a fresh revelation of Gods love for you. Declare that our love for Him will out shine our love for our stuff.