

Altars

THE PLACE OF BLESSING & SACRIFICE

Altars Part 5 – The Altar of Promise

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references 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 group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

- **The Altar is the place where the Divine meets with humanity**
- **The Altar is the place of covenant and promise**
- **The Altar is the place where the activity of heaven touches earth**
- **The Altar is the place where the fire of God can be found**
- **The altar is the place of forgiveness and right standing**
- **The Altar is the entry point to the presence and purpose of God for our lives**
- **The altar is the place of Cleansing and Commissioning**

When we come to the altar we are touching eternity and our interaction with the eternal prepares and qualifies us to live the lives God has intended for us!- Pastor Dave

The perfect plan of God for your life is on the other side of the altar of worship

[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.

[Titus 3:5]

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

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Now after these things, God tested [the faith and commitment of] Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am." ² God said, "Take now your son, your only son [of promise], whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then he got up and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day [of travel] Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, "Settle down and stay here with the donkey; the young man and I will go over there and

worship [God], and we will come back to you.”⁶ Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire (firepot) in his own hand and the [sacrificial] knife; and the two of them walked on together.⁷ And Isaac said to Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Isaac said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”⁸ Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself a lamb for the burnt offering.” So the two walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood, and bound Isaac his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” He answered, “Here I am.”¹² The Lord said, “Do not reach out [with the knife in] your hand against the boy, and do nothing to [harm] him; for now I know that you fear God [with reverence and profound respect], since you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son [of promise].”¹³ Then Abraham looked up and glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering (ascending sacrifice) instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide. And it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be seen and provided.”

Do not stop trusting in God!

Keys to Living Your Best Life—

1) Complete trust in the faithfulness of God.

All of us are on a journey of trusting God.

[Hebrews 11:17-19]

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Abraham was believing for a miracle that he had never even heard or seen before; he trusted God because he knew His character.

[Genesis 22:5]

Abraham said to his servants, “Settle down and stay here with the donkey; the young man and I will go over there and worship [God], and we will come back to you.”

The Hebrew word for Worship used here:

‘Sha - chah’ = simply means “bow down” - submit to Gods will!

2) Unconditional obedience

[Genesis 22:9]

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there.

We are positioning ourselves for this miracle moment. Our faith and our trust is built on the altar. There, He speaks to us.

[Genesis 22:15 AMP]

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time.

[Genesis 22:15-18, AMP]

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “By Myself (on the basis of Who I Am) I have sworn [an oath], declares the Lord, that since you have done this thing and have not withheld [from Me] your son, your only son [of promise], ¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your descendants like the stars of the heavens and like the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies [as conquerors]. ¹⁸ Through your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have heard and obeyed My voice.”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Thank God for His endless mercy that is new every morning.
2. Reflect on anything you might be holding back from Jesus, any partial obedience.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Read Romans 12.1-2. What does the Body represent? What does it look like to offer your full self?
2. What are some factors that make it easier to trust God? What holds people back from taking God at His Word?
3. In your life, what are some markers of the mercy of God? How would life be different if we kept His mercies at the forefront?
4. How does our culture shape our minds? How does having an active altar experience reshape it?

5. Where do people get stuck in their journey? Why is the perfect plan of God for your life on the other side of worship?
6. How is Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac significant as the first act of worship in the Bible? How can your trusting God be a sacrificial offering of worship?
7. Which mountain are you walking up with the promise of God at stake? Are there any areas where you feel like you've prolonged the promises of God through partial obedience?
8. Where are some places that God has told you to go? Where are some places that God has spoken to you?
9. Pray for each other to have the strength to continually present your life as a sacrifice to God.