



WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2: First and Best

SERIES OVERVIEW

In our God Gave series we are looking at John 3:16 through the lens of the Christmas story. As we break down this famous verse in John's Gospel, may our hearts and minds be refreshed knowing God's love for us and experiencing his gift of salvation through His son Jesus.

THE BIG IDEA

God gave his first and best for us. In response, we give our first and best to Him.

ICE BREAKER

Looking back at all the Christmas gifts you have given in your life, what gift stands out as your favorite to give.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Genesis 22:1-14

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day .

SCRIPTURE CONTINUED

Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, 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 as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."



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GROUP DISCUSSION

ALL TO HIM: As we approach the 2 year mark of our ATH Discipleship Journey and reflect on all that God has done in and through us, how has God's generosity towards you impacted your generosity towards his Kingdom and people?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

Read John 3:16. Commit this verse to memory. How does this verse tell the Gospel?

Read Genesis 22:1-14 as a group. In verses 1-10, God gives us a test that strengthens our faith along with Abraham and Isaacs.

In verses 1-5 God calls us to surrender. Where in your life is God calling you to surrender to His plan?

In verses 6-8 God compels us to sacrifice. What has been your greatest sacrifice since you have been following Jesus and what role has grace played in your ability to give true sacrifice?

In verses 9-10 God commands us to submit. Share a situation where you had to submit to God even if you didn't understand or didn't know the outcome beforehand.

In verses 11-13 God gave a substitute that displays His love for his people. How does this story foreshadow the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

Read verse 14 and Isaiah 9:6-7. How is God's provision displayed in these verses?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Share your love for God through praise, giving thanks and remembering what He did to prove His love for you.

Closing Prayer(come back together as a group)
God, we are grateful that you gave your first and best in Jesus. May our Christmas be filled with the joy and hope that only Jesus can give. Holy Spirit, show us who we need to share the story of Jesus with and go before us as we invite people to a Christmas gathering. In the hopefilled name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

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