

# BELPRES CHURCH

## Let It Go

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<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. <sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

<sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. <sup>12</sup> "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." <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Genesis 22:1-14

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**Discussion Questions:** Please read Genesis 22:1-14

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1. In verse 2, what is God emphasizing as he describes Abraham's relationship with Isaac? Why this way of breaking the news?
2. Given God's frequent condemnation of child sacrifice in the Bible (for instance, Deuteronomy 12:30-32, Leviticus 20:1-2, Psalm 106:34-41, Jeremiah 19:5 and many more), why does God issue this command to Abraham? What is he trying to achieve?
3. For whose benefit does God see how far Abraham will go? His own? Abraham's? Isaac's? Ours?
4. What do you think Abraham learned from this?
5. What things might you be hanging onto and how could you surrender them to God?