



YES, NO & MAYBE

10

1. I would love to be able to read the thoughts of everyone here.
2. I praise God that the people sitting next to me cannot read my thoughts!
3. God knows every single thought in my head.
4. God has tested me in the past to see whether I would remain faithful.
5. God tests us, because He really does not know what we might decide to do.

DIG DEEP

READ: Genesis 22:1-2 (NLT)

1 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

2 "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."

∞ How much does God know? Does He know our thoughts? Does He know how we will respond in any situation?

° If God already knows our thoughts and can accurately predict our actions, why would He ever test us to see what we *might* do?

« **tested**- [נִסָּה, - nisa] to give experience, to train, to make an attempt.

READ: Genesis 22:3-14 (NLT)

3 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. 4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 "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." 6 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, 7 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?"

8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. 9 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. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

12 "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." 13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

» **How
GOD
LEADS** »

DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

∞ CLUES OF WHAT GOD MIGHT BE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE:

- Your only beloved son -
- One of the mountains of Moriah, to an exact spot which God will show you -
- The son is the sacrifice -
- A donkey and two servants [Luke 19:28-34] -
- Third day of their journey -
- Leaving the servants to go up the mount -
- “We will come back” -
- The wood on Isaac’s shoulders -
- “God will provide the sheep” -
- Tied the sacrifice [Luke 19:37,38/Psalm 118:25-27] -
- Ram’s horns -

» Vs. 12: “*for now I know that you truly fear God*” - **know** [literally: have known - *yadati*] - to understand; to grasp or ascertain; especially to be familiar or acquainted with a person or thing.

fear [yaré] - to stand in awe; become reverent.

« Yahweh-Yireh - The word **yireh** can be a play on the Hebrew word “to see,” which in 22:8 we normally translate “provide.” So this may be the place where “*Yahweh is seen*” or “*Yahweh provides*” or both!

NOTES

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How have the tough experiences of my life helped me to know God more?
2. What things in my past have I falsely attributed to God testing my resolve?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?



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