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WEEK 4 | WORSHIP

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I desire to learn how to worship you as you deserve. Help me, Lord, to grow into the sort of worshipper that you are seeking; one who worships you in spirit and in truth. I pray that my life may be one that honours you in all I say and all I do, in all the circumstances of life, throughout the day, and as I drift into sleep at night. Lord, I pray that I may learn to walk in all of your ways, to serve you with all of my being, and to learn to love you as you have loved me. Teach me, Lord, how to worship you in the beauty of holiness, so that I may be one that bows my heart before you in spirit and truth, to your honour and glory. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[-Prayers for Worship](#)

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Would you rather always be OVERDRESSED or UNDERDRESSED?

PRAYER

WORD

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 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."¹⁵

GENESIS 22:1-14

"Living by faith often means we grit our teeth and press on in obedience to the Lord's command, despite our turmoil over it. Our spouses may hurt us deeply, and we may feel like responding in kind, but we strive to do otherwise, for the sake of marriage vows made in the name of our triune Lord. Since God demands it (1 Peter 2:18), we go the extra mile for that boss who never thanks us even when our natural inclination is to do the job only half-way. Because we know the Lord wants us to keep our commitments (Eccl. 5:1-7), we join an orthodox church and serve the body, even if our favourite pastor leaves or we do not like all of the music. True faith, Abraham shows us, serves God, even if it is the last thing we feel like doing.

We do not need a major tragedy to make us feel as if we are clinging to God's promises by our fingernails. Sometimes our daily problems can build to the point where we hardly feel like keeping the promises we have made to the Lord and others. However, faith means doing what is right, even if we do not feel like it, because we trust God's promise to bless His servants. Today, do the right thing -- keep that commitment you have been putting off."

- RC SPOUL, *A Knife is Drawn* (Genesis 22)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how would you rate your capacity to sacrifice something that means a lot to you? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. When you think about someone in your life who sacrificed a lot for others, who comes to mind? What makes you think of this person?
3. In Romans 12:1, Paul the Apostle, tells the church at Rome that they should offer themselves as "living sacrifices", as this is what worship is. What do you think is the link between worship and sacrifice?
4. If you can tell what a person worships by what they are willing to sacrifice for, would you say that you are a worshiper of Jesus? Why or why not?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust him? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NOTES