

Love Came Down

Behold, the Lamb of God — Gen. 22:1-14; John 1:29
December 2, 2018

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” —**John 1:29**

I. THE TESTING OF ABRAHAM

- When all seemed to be right for Abraham, God tested him (Gen. 22:1-19; 22:8, 14; Heb. 11:17-19).
- It is relatively easy to be faithful when you have all you want (Job 1:8-11; Psalm 27:21).
- Testing is necessary in our lives in order to produce steadfastness and godliness (Zech. 13:9; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-8).
- Abraham’s obedience was immediate, even though so much was at stake (Gen. 22:3).

II. THE TESTING OF JESUS

- Even Jesus was tested (Isa. 28:16; 1 Peter. 2:4-8; 5:7-10).
- His testing not only “perfected” him, but it helps him to be sympathetic to our own natures (Heb. 4:15).

III. THE LAMB OF GOD

- The apostle John stressed the significance of Jesus as the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29, 36; Rev. 5:6; 7:17; 14:10; 15:3; 19:9; 21:23; 22:1; 22:3).
- Jesus came as our “Passover Lamb” (1 Cor. 5:7).
- Jesus came as a ransom for our sins (Ex. 30:12; Ps. 49:7-8; Hosea 13:14; Mark 10:45; 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 Pet. 1:17-21).

KNOW: The test for Abraham was real and painful; the test for Jesus was the same. On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided—and has been provided—in Jesus Christ. Love came down to us in Jesus, the Lamb of God.

DO: Be ransomed by the blood of the Lamb!

Suggested Reading:

50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die by John Piper (Library #232.96 PIP)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. Is the story of God’s testing of Abraham difficult for you to read/ understand? Why or why not?
2. God provided a substitute for Isaac. Why did he not do so for Jesus?
3. Why did John call Jesus “The Lamb of God”?
4. Jesus came for a purpose. What was that purpose? (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 John 3:8)
5. As you consider all that God provided for us, what does our Advent theme “Love Came Down” mean to you specifically?
6. Abraham was tested; Jesus was tested. Why is it that any tests from God in our lives are often misunderstood or poorly accepted?
7. What steps will you take to prepare your hearts for the celebration of Jesus’ Advent this year?