

# Trust and Obedience

## Getting Started

Think about the people you have to obey. Why do you obey them?

Trust and obedience go together. It is hard to obey our leaders if we don't trust them, especially if we feel that they are asking us to do something unreasonable. But if we trust our leaders, it is easier to do what they ask, even if we don't understand it. Have you ever felt that a leader was telling you to do something unreasonable? Have you ever felt that God was telling you to do something unreasonable?

## Improving Your Vocabulary

obedience (n) – the act of doing what a leader has told you to do

unreasonable (adj) – without purpose or reason

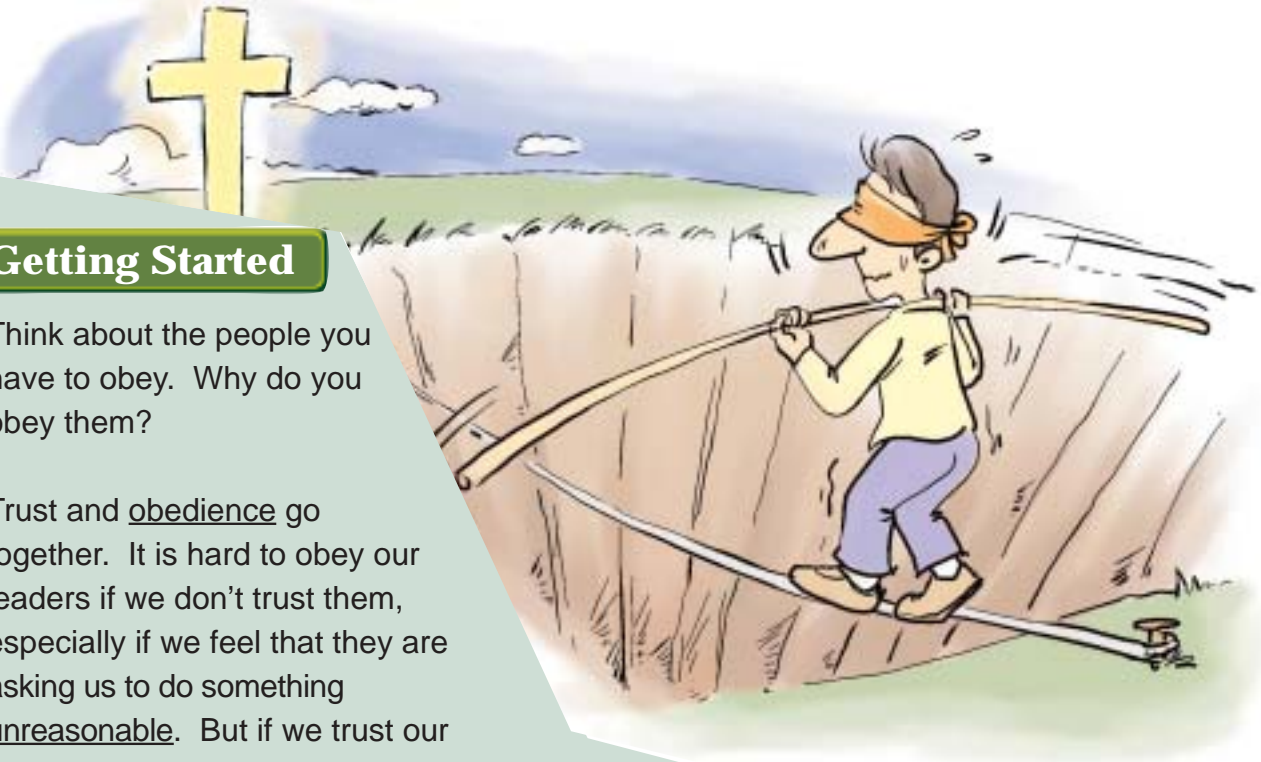
sacrifice (n) – an offering or gift given to God

provide (v) – to give someone what he/she needs

altar (n) – a place where sacrifices are offered to God; a table which is the center of worship

honor (v) – to show respect for

burnt offering (n) – an animal or other offering burned on a altar as an sacrifice



## Reading God's Word

### Genesis 22:1-14

**1** Some time later God tested Abraham; he called to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham answered, "Yes, here I am!" **2** "Take your son," God said, "your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me."

**3** Early the next morning Abraham cut some wood for the sacrifice, loaded his donkey, and took Isaac and two servants with him. They started out for the place that God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham saw the place in the distance. **5** Then he said to the servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and then we will come back to you." **6** Abraham made Isaac carry the wood for the sacrifice, and he himself carried a knife and live coals for starting the fire. As they walked along together, **7** Isaac spoke up, "Father!" He answered, "Yes, my son?" Isaac asked, "I see that you have the coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" **8** Abraham answered, "God himself will provide one." And the two of them walked on together.

**9** When they came to the place which God had told him about, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then he picked up the knife to kill him. **11** But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

He answered, "Yes, here I am." **12** "Don't hurt the boy or do anything to him," he said. "Now I know that you honor and obey God, because you have not kept back your only son from him." **13** Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** Abraham named that place "The Lord Provides." And even today people say, "On the Lord's mountain he provides."

For further study, see Hebrews 11:17-19;  
Proverbs 3:5-6 and 22:17-19.

## Taking a Closer Look

1. What did God tell Abraham to do? Did Abraham question God's order? When did he set out? (22:2-3)

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2. How long did it take to get to Moriah? (22:4) What do you think Abraham was thinking and feeling during that time?

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3. What did Abraham say to the servants? (22:5) What pronoun did he use? What did Abraham believe? (Look at Hebrews 11:17-19 for more help).

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4. What question did Isaac ask his father? How did Abraham respond? (22:7-8)

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5. How do you think Isaac felt when his father tied him up and put him on the altar? Do you think he tried to fight with his father? Why or why not?

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6. What did the angel say? (22:12)

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7. What did God provide for Abraham and Isaac? (22:13)

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8. What was the most important thing in Abraham's life?

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## Taking Action

1. God wants us to obey Him because we truly love and trust Him. Sometimes we obey God, but we do it with a spirit of anger and unwillingness. How can we change our attitudes so we obey God for the right reasons?

2. Abraham's faith pleased God. Abraham trusted God so much he was able to obey a very difficult order. How can we have faith and trust like Abraham's?

## Memory Verse: Philippians 2:13

God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

## Reviewing the Vocabulary

*Discuss your answers to these questions with a classmate.*

1. When you were a child, did you struggle with **obedience**?

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2. Have you ever thought an order was **unreasonable**, and found it was actually good for you?

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3. Today we don't need to offer an animal **sacrifice** to God. What kind of **sacrifices** can we offer him today?

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4. Who **provides** for you? Do you **provide** for anyone?

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5. What was the purpose of an **altar** ?

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