

**Introduction: *Engage your group members' thinking.***

Here's a twist on the Introduction from the Leader Guide (page 94).  
Ask your group members to reflect on these two statements—

- 1) 100 percent of world religions recognize or exalt some deity and express awareness/distress that mankind is separated from that deity;
- 2) Only one of these, the God of the Trinity as revealed in His Son in Holy Scripture, provides a way across the chasm of separation. (All others require man to do works to establish a relationship.)

After 60 seconds, encourage participants to respond to these statements as you guide them in preparation to read Genesis 22.

**Part 1: *Engage your group members in reading/listening.***

Divide your group into two reading or listening teams. (You can do this quickly by gender or based on where folks are seated—e.g., first row is Team Abraham and second row is Team Isaac.) Say something like the following:

*Team Abraham:* As I read Gen 22:1-6 aloud, I want you to listen for insights about Abraham's trust and his obedience.

*Team Isaac:* As I read Gen 22:1-6 aloud, I want you to listen for insights about Isaac's trust and his obedience.

Provide the two groups a chance to discuss their notes (in roughly 3 minutes) and then appoint a spokesperson to share with the class.

**Part 2: *Engage your group members in discussion.***

Here's a quick warm-up to this vital part of the lesson on Genesis 22:7-14 using the following steps:

*Step 1:* Ask the group to take 60 seconds and list ways that we use the term *substitute* in everyday conversation or situations.

Then take another 60 seconds and ask the group to list ways that we use the term *sacrifice* in everyday conversation or situations.

*Step 2:* List under each term as many responses as you can on easel paper or on a whiteboard.

*Step 3:* Look at the responses and compare/contrast ways that our use of these terms fall short of their deep spiritual meanings in this passage.

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

Retention of new ideas/perspectives—which leads to change—takes place when learners are engaged as opposed to remaining passive. In addition, connecting new ideas to prior experience also enhances retention.

[See Judy Willis, *Research-Based Strategies to Ignite Student Learning* (Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2006), 14-15.]