

Use the following thoughts and questions to have one spiritual conversation. You can pick and choose, use them all or just allow the statement to be your guide. The emphasis shouldn't be about having all the answers, but simply having a conversation.

Scripture

Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 11:17-19

1. Opening Statement

Begin your conversation by asking about this main point:

Faith is trusting in God to keep His promise to provide salvation.

This main point is the biblical truth the student's study was built around. Each week there will be one statement that ties the whole study together. These would be great statements to remember together. The hope is that thoughts and ideas will stem from these statements. You can also begin by sharing a thought of your own that you learned during your study of the same session. Ask what thoughts were surprising as the study was taught.

2. Thought From the Study

The theme of substitution is at the heart of Christianity, and the theme of the substitute lamb runs throughout the Bible. Abraham said that God would provide a lamb. As we will see in future sessions, at the Passover a lamb's blood was shed as a substitute for the life of a firstborn son in Israel (firstborn sons just like Isaac). That sacrifice caused the death angel to pass over them. Also, on the Day of Atonement animals were given in place of the Israelites as substitute sacrifices. All of these stories point forward to the moment when the Lord Jesus Himself would die as the sacrifice for our sins (see 1 Cor. 5:7). God provided His only begotten Son as the substitute for the world.

► **Why is it important for us to trust in the provision of God and not in our own work?**

3. Quote for Discussion

Discuss this quote together. How does this change your understanding of a relationship with Jesus?

**"The God who is there does not demand that we sacrifice our children; instead, in sovereign grace He provides a sacrifice."
—D. A. Carson, *The God Who Is There***

4. Conversation Questions

Use these questions to begin thinking through and applying the lessons to your family life:

1. What can our family learn from Abraham's story about obedience to God?
2. Like Abraham, we may not always know when we are being tested. Looking back, when has our family's faith been tested?
3. How can the testing of our faith strengthen our family relationship?
4. In what ways has our family become more obedient to Christ as a result of our faith being tested?