

February 8, 2026

"The Mountain of Love" – Bobby Warrenburg

Genesis 22:1-19

1. What strikes you about the wording in verse 2? Why do you think the narrator stacks these phrases? What effect does it have on you as a reader? And what would it have done to Abraham as a listener?
2. Look at verse 5. Abraham tells the servants, "We will worship and then we will come back to you." Why does he say 'we' the second time? Bobby pointed out that Abraham already seems to believe both he and Isaac are coming back down the mountain. Where do you think that confidence came from? What had Abraham's prior journey with God taught him?
3. Isaac's question in verse 7 is one of the most poignant moments in Scripture: "The fire and the wood are here — but where is the lamb?" Abraham answers, "God himself will provide." How is this different from Abraham saying "I have a plan"? What's the distinction between trusting God's provision and having everything figured out?
4. Bobby described the test as revealing Abraham's "fear", *what is ultimate for him*. He defined it this way: "The thing we fear is the thing for which nothing else is withheld." Without giving a churchy answer, what would your life say is on top of your mountain right now? What's the thing you'd have the hardest time laying on the altar?
5. Bobby referenced the Yale theologian's four levels: *habits* → *goals* → *values* → *transcendence*. He suggested that much of our exhaustion, fragmentation, and lack of motivation comes from living only at the surface level without a unifying ultimate aim. Do you identify with this? Where do you feel this most? In your work? Your relationships? Your sense of purpose? What would change if God were genuinely the integrating center?
6. Bobby traced how Abraham's trust wasn't built overnight — it was stacked up over years of smaller provisions. When you look back over your own journey, what are some of the "smaller waves" God has brought you through that have built your capacity to trust him in bigger ones?
7. Bobby told the story of Jan Biggar who faced terminal cancer and said, "Death is just one more wave." She could say that because decades of walking with God had built that trust. What would it take for your faith to grow into that kind of settled confidence? What's one thing that might be holding you back?
8. Bobby drew a series of parallels between Isaac and Jesus: miraculous birth, beloved of the father, wood on the back, ascending the mountain, offered as a sacrifice. But Isaac is spared and Jesus is not. He said we can now say back to God: "Now we know that you love us, because you have not withheld your only son from us." How does the cross change this story from terrifying to freeing? Does it actually feel freeing to you, or does it still feel more like a demand?
9. The open hand. Bobby closed with the image of holding your life in an open hand, the good things, the painful things, all of it, and trusting the hands that come to give and take are scarred hands that were opened for you.

1. What in your life right now are you tempted to close your hand around — either to protect something good or to block something painful?
2. What might it look like, practically, to keep your hand open this week?

10. Bobby said, "You'll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have." That kind of trust usually isn't built alone, it's built in community where people can remind each other of God's faithfulness. How can this group help each other hold our hands open? Is there something specific someone in this group is facing where we can remind them, "On the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided"?