WEEK 5

PACKING LIGHTLY

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Genesis 22:1-19 (NIV)

LET'S GO

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Packing for a backpacking trip is a skill sharpened through trial and error. The goal? Travel light, carrying only essentials. Every extra ounce slows you down, yet deciding what to leave behind is tough. Our instinct whispers, "Pack it, just in case." An extra pair of boots for thieving raccoons? A third flashlight if the first two fail? A second tent for extra space? Maybe an extra camera for that Bigfoot selfie (okay, that's tempting). Don't forget the makeup bag - Bigfoot deserves a glamorous co-star! But those "just in case" items begin to add up, each one weighing us down, making the journey harder than it needs to be.

At times, we must release the heavy burdens that weigh us down. It's a simple concept, yet incredibly difficult to execute. Why? Fear lies at the core - fear of scarcity, failure, being caught off guard, unprepared or in need. Letting go exposes our vulnerability. Yet, in that vulnerable space, we discover the strength to lean into faith. This is what Abraham learned.

God called Abraham to surrender his most cherished possession - his son, Isaac - a request that seemed unimaginable. For 25 years, Abraham and Sarah, both in their nineties, had awaited Isaac's birth, their only child. Beyond being their son, Isaac embodied God's covenant promise to Abraham: to become the "father of a great nation" (Genesis 12).

Isaac was the cornerstone of God's promise to Abraham. Yet, God called Abraham to sacrifice him, to relinquish his beloved son.

Astonishingly, Abraham obeyed, risking everything. Why? His unwavering faith was rooted in the trust that God would provide a different sacrifice. And that's just what God did. At the very last second, the Lord provided a lamb to take Isaac's place and sustain Abraham's faith.

Through a lifetime of trusting God with smaller concerns, Abraham built the faith to entrust God with his greatest trial. Both Abraham and Isaac walked a little lighter on the way home that day. Both had experienced God's provision, protection and promise. They didn't need to worry about the "just in case", that was God's concern, and they were in good hands.

- 1. One of the most remarkable pieces of this passage is found in vs 5. Abraham says to his servants: "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." The faith Abraham displayed in this moment is remarkable. He didn't know how God was going to provide but just that God would provide. Is there something in your life right now that if God asked you to give it up, you're not sure if you could?
- 2. As you look at the pack of your life, are there some things that God is asking you to give to Him, not so that you can be in a vulnerable place, but so that you can travel a little lighter on your journey?
- 3. In Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, and Luke 18:18-30, Jesus confronts a man who held too tightly to his financial status, and it kept him from a closer relationship with Jesus. Jesus never condemns wealth, but does warn that clinging too tightly to it has consequences. As you reflect on these passages, what similarities or differences are there between the young ruler and us?
- 4. What is one thing you're holding on to way too tightly that God is asking you to give to Him as you consider your Let's Go generosity commitment?
- 5. What would it look like for your life to begin the process of letting go and making a commitment like you never have before?

Prayer

Ask God to prompt each person at The Compass Church to make a commitment that will grow their faith and will encourage our church family. Pray that each person will commit to give "thoughtfully and cheerfully" this upcoming Commitment Weekend. (2 Corinthians 9:7)