

Table Talk MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 22, 2019

Genesis 22:1-19, 15; John 3:16—The Offering of Isaac

This week, the lesson was entitled “The Offering of Isaac.” The lesson’s purpose was to get students thinking about the idea of faithfulness, even to the point of sacrificing life. We emphasized how God provides to those who are faithful to Him.

NEXT STEPS: During the next week as you have time to talk with your student, consider asking the following questions:

- So, God provides for those who are faithful to Him. What surprises you the most about how the whole thing went down with Abraham, Isaac, and the ram? (Share your perspective too.)
- How do you think this event affected Abraham? How about Isaac? (Get real. This is messy stuff that makes you think and grow.)
- How is this story like the story of Jesus’ sacrifice? (The ram stood in the gap for Isaac. Jesus stood in the gap for us by dying on the cross for our sins.)

Table Talk HIGH SCHOOL

September 22, 2019

Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 13:8-10—Love Isn’t Always Easy

Last week we talked about the great commandment where Jesus lifted up the idea of loving God and loving others. This week we shifted focus to loving those who may be difficult to love. It’s a hard teaching, for sure, but one Jesus was pretty straightforward about. Your teenager was challenged to consider those people in his or her life who may be tough to love, and to consider ways to show these individuals the love of Christ.

NEXT STEPS: Loving those who are mean or hateful, especially if that hate is directed at us, is difficult at best. Jesus loved those who hated Him. We’re told to do the same. Here are some ideas to help engage your teenager in the conversation about loving the unlovable:

- Ask your teenager if he or she can think of some unlovable people in their life right now. Ask why he or she would classify that person as unlovable.
- Ask what is the easiest thing to do in regards to people who make it difficult to love them. Engage in a discussion about why loving these people is so difficult.
- Guide your teenager to consider why Jesus wanted us to love those who are tough to love. (Answers might include because His love is perfect, because His love is the only thing that can change that person, or because God wants to teach us something through loving others.)
- Be ready to share your experiences with loving difficult people and share some ideas that helped you show love to those who are hard to love. Especially point out that this kind of love can only be shown through the power of God’s Holy Spirit living in us.