

## What Do We Do When Life Is a Dead End?

We often encounter situations in our lives when we feel trapped. These are times when it seems as if life has reached a dead end and there is no way forward. This episode might help us see the light!

### Genesis 22 (story)

*Tension: Abraham must offer up his son*

<sup>2</sup>Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’

*Relief of tension: The Lord provides a lamb*

<sup>12</sup>‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.’

*Result: The Lord promises blessing*

<sup>16</sup>. . . ‘I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore . . .

<sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.’  
(NIV)

The episode in which Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac must have made Abraham doubt God’s logic. How could God ask him to do such a thing? Had not God promised him land and numerous descendents? And now he was to sacrifice his only son. Yet despite his inability to understand, Abraham obeys God. In the end, Abraham sacrifices a ram, not Isaac. Was it a *coincidence* that the ram was there? No, Abraham sees this as a sign that God provides. He calls the place “the Lord will provide.” What seemed like a dead end to Abraham was actually a new beginning.

We often explain things that happen to us as coincidence. Yet this may be God’s way of providing in our lives. We do not have to understand everything, but we should realize that God wants to provide everything for us.

Right now, things may be happening in your life that just do not make sense. You may be asking questions such as, “Why is this happening to me?” or “How will I ever escape this?” Wrestling with God in situations in which there seems to be no way out will give you the opportunity to be like Abraham and say, “The Lord will provide.”



Lord, help me to trust You the way Abraham did, even though I do not always understand where You are leading me.

*The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.*  
—Winston Churchill (1874–1965), *British orator, author and Prime Minister during World War II*