

## THE BIG IDEA: The difference between almost in and all in is obedience.

### The Take-Off

Here we are, 3 weeks into our disCOMFORT series and some of you are still on the fence about whether or not you even want to “diss” the comforts in your life.

I felt that.

It’s ok to be unsure about journeying into unknown places and being a little on the fence about allowing God to use discomfort in our lives to get us where He wants us to be.

What matters most is that GOD isn’t on the fence about it! :)

As I told you in the first week, He IS going to use discomfort in our lives.

There’s no question about that! The question this series is posing is will we begin to see discomfort the same way God does?

Last week we talked about the discomfort of waiting. Anybody else find themselves behind the slow cars this week? Just me?

I’m not sure that this week is going to give us much of a breather, because this week we’re going to talk about the discomfort of obedience.

Obedience has become a cringe-worthy word in church culture, but it’s another way that God prepares us for His promises.

But it does have a price, and I want to show you what happens when we’re willing to pay it.

Here’s the Big Idea first, and then I’ve got some things to show you as far as how it played out in Abraham’s life.

**The difference between almost in and all in is of obedience.**

The story we’re going to look at this morning is in **Genesis 22**, but there’s some backstory we need first.

Let’s get to it.

### 1. A backstory of almost in

- a. I mentioned in the first week that Abraham came from a culture and family of “almost”
- b. The end of Genesis 11 says that they “stopped and settled” halfway to the destination
- c. We could spend a lot of time here, but can I lovingly challenge those of us who have stopped halfway and settled for almost
- d. “He doesn’t love Jesus but he’s nice to me. Besides, it’s not like there’s any one else.”
- e. “I know my employer does a lot of underhanded stuff, but it’s a paycheck.”
- f. “The clothes are comfortable and cheap. Don’t muddy it up by telling me about the sweatshop where they were made.”
- g. What I want you to see is the backstory of how God used the discomfort of Abraham’s journey to work the almost out of him
- h. We’ll end in Genesis 22 with one of the worst climbs in the Bible, but here are some really important stops on the way
  - **Gen. 12:4** / Abraham leaves what was comfortable to live what was possible
  - **Gen. 12:11-16** / Fear and then comfort caused Abraham to live ALMOST about his wife
  - **Gen. 13:8-11** / Lot chooses the place the reminded him of Egypt / ALMOST was in his DNA
  - **Gen. 16** / Abraham sleeps with Hagar / another ALMOST moment
  - **Gen. 18** / Abraham haggles with God
    - This always seemed odd to me, but it makes sense in light of the way God is working ALMOST IN DNA out and replacing it with ALL IN DNA
    - How far would Abraham go? Would he settle?
    - God wasn’t on trial here; Abraham was
  - **Gen. 19** / Sodom is destroyed / v. 16 - Lot hesitates to leave / v. 26 - Lot’s wife looks back (ALMOST)
  - **Gen. 20** / Abraham is afraid and reverts to an ALMOST IN mentality, saying his wife is his sister again
  - **Gen. 21** / 25 years after the promise, Isaac is born because God is always ALL IN on His Word
- i. All this brings us to Gen. 22 where we find God asking Abraham to climb a mountain to do the unthinkable

### 2. Climbing all in

- a. This story seems mean - why would God ask anyone to kill their son (\*SPOILER ALERT\* Isaac doesn’t die)

- b. First, it's a foreshadowing of the cross - a time when a Father WILL sacrifice His Son
- c. In fact, many scholars believe that the story we're reading took place in the same spot as Jesus' death
- d. But it's also the final test to see if Abraham would finally be ALL IN instead of ALMOST IN
- e. Let's see how he did...
  - **Gen. 22:3** / "The next morning Abraham ***got up early.***"
    - ALMOST IN would have waited
  - **Gen. 22:4-5** / "the place was ***still in the distance*** ... the boy and ***I will travel a little farther***"
    - ALMOST IN would have "stopped and settled"
  - **Gen. 22:7-8** / "Where is the sheep...? ***God will provide.***"
    - ALMOST IN might have tried to make the promise happen (remember Hagar??)
  - **Gen. 22:10** / "And ***Abraham picked up the knife*** to kill his son..."
    - ALMOST IN would have hesitated (remember Lot??)
  - **Gen. 22:10** / "And Abraham picked up the knife ***to kill his son...***"
    - ALMOST IN would have questioned the command
    - **Heb. 11:19** / the man who laughed at God promising a new son now believed that God would resurrect a dead son

## The Landing

Remember our Big Idea: the difference between ALMOST IN and ALL IN is obedience.

A lot of us don't like paying a price without knowing what we'll get in return, so let's talk about some takeaways that can give us a lot of hope as we obey:

1. **God's provision was in the place of obedience / The ram was provided where Abraham was told to go**
2. **Every step of obedience moves us closer to the provision / So keep walking in obedience**
3. **Greater revelation is often on the other side of obedience / **Genesis 22:15-18****

Obviously, obedience is worth it!

Let's pray.