

## Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 86.1)

### LESSON 9 (CORE)

#### "God Will Provide Himself a Lamb"

Hook	We consider the familiar to be normal. Thus most members will take from this lesson the suggested principles of obedience, sacrifice, and similitude. Education makes the familiar new, however. In the case of this lesson, we are taking a familiar story and making it horrific and shocking. Or rather not making it so, but rather reminding ourselves of its gripping, haunting meaning.
Goal	The goal of this episode is to help listeners gain benefit from one of the most difficult and disturbing stories in the Bible by acknowledging and wrestling with those elements.
Overview	(see below)
Conclusion	

#### Discussion Outline

##### I. Sunday School

- a. Push back against the standard use of this narrative. It has value and power, but it is a terrifying, horrible power that forces us to wrestle with difficult issues.
- b. So what can we learn from this story? (Carefully go through this narrative and note details, not costs to the characters, also look carefully at the way this story is presented in LDS scripture, also ways we can productively apply this story to our own lives (it does relate for example to extreme trials, where God "asks us" for our children)
- c. Did Abraham pass or fail the test?
- d. How are this story and the story of Jesus/Atonement similar and different?
- e. Return to the question of God and goodness
- f. Concluding reflections on obedience and sacrifice, how we can discuss this narrative in a constructive way

#### Resources

In Silence, RadioLab <http://www.radiolab.org/story/91898-in-silence/>

Rational Faiths post <http://rationalfaiths.com/child-abuse-sacrifice-isaac/>  
Mormon Matters <http://mormonmatters.org/2014/01/28/211-genesis-part-4-abraham/>  
Sheldon's podcast