

## The Ram in The Bush (God's Plans for Your Surprise Seasons) Part 1

October 2, 2022

### Series Summary: Managing Your Spaces and Your Seasons

1. Ram in the Bush (God's Plans for Your Surprise Seasons, Part 1)
2. Understanding the Spaces and the Seasons (Part 2)
3. Being Content in the Seasons (Part 3)
4. Managing a Boring Season (The place prosperity is built, Part 4)
5. A Digital Youth Surprise Service

**Big Question:** What is God's backup plan for your life?

**Side Question:** What is your backup plan for your life?

**Text:** Genesis 22:2–19 (NIV):

### I. The Challenge and the Provision In the Bushes

#### 1. The Challenge: Trust God with Your Family

- 2 Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.**”
- 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him ***two of his servants and his son Isaac.*** When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 ***On the third day*** Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

5 He said 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.**”

#### 2. The Provision: There Is a Ram in the Bushes for Your Family

- 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.
- 12 “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.”

- **13 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. **14 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.”

## II. Five Lessons from The Ram In the Bushes

1. God allows us to face unbelievable and unexplainable **challenges**
2. God always **intervenes** fairly in the end (He does let you sweat)
3. God often has to **point out** the ram in the bushes because we often miss it
4. God does **provide** (what gets me is when he sends it, **11:59pm**)
5. God allows the pressure of the challenge to **mature** us (Romans 5:3-4)
  - 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; 4 and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**.

**Next Time:** Understanding the Spaces and the Seasons (Part 2)

**Read Ahead:** Philippians 4:10-11, NIV

- I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, **for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.**