



# BACKSTAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

“Behind the Scenes at Christmas” – Clear Eyes (Genesis 22:1-19)  
December 7, 2014 – TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Begin by reading the devotion inside the bulletin. This is also posted online on facebook.com/fcctown and at fcctown.com/media.php under the sermon video. If you were unable to attend worship on Sunday, please go to fcctown.com and watch Sunday’s sermon prior to meeting with your weekly table group.

## Talk About

At what age do you find children the most adorable? The most exasperating? Do (or did) you like it best when children meekly follow your lead? Or when they act of the own volition, even if that’s contrary to your will?

Pictures of the Savior were seen through the relationship of Israel: Abraham and Isaac, Moses and the Promised Land, David and Goliath and even the establishment of the tabernacle/temple. All of it was preparing the way for our minds to accept the truth and beauty of Jesus. Knowing His creation so well, God knew the jump from sin to salvation would make no sense without the example of real relationships found with Him through time. Every person should believe God’s plan for Christmas because of history’s stories.

## Digging Deeper

Read Genesis 22:1-19 (Abraham and Isaac – The sacrifice)

If you were to give a title to this chapter it would be called?

- a. *A Long Walk* b. *A Ram in the Bush* c. *Broken Heart-Obedient Heart* d. *God’s Family Altar* e. \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 2, what is God emphasizing as He describes Abraham’s relationship with Isaac? Why did he break the news this way?

Knowing God waited 25 years before providing a son for Abraham, how would you expect Abraham to react to God’s instructions in verse 2?

What do you learn about Abraham based on his prompt, Obedient actions (vv. 3-10)?

What did God desire from Abraham?

- a. Unquestioning obedience b. Faithfulness c. To love God more than God’s gifts d. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think Isaac felt as he walked with his father?

What did Isaac learn from this experience? a. Never go with his dad to offer a sacrifice b. His dad’s relationship with God came first c. God is a jealous God d. To be as committed as his dad d. \_\_\_\_\_

How does this story remind you of the Gospel of Jesus?

What would be the hardest thing for you to give to God? (A possession, family member, financial security, health, career, etc.)

How can this story help you better understand the true meaning of Christmas?

## Moving Forward

Considering this week’s teaching and group discussion, what can your group do or pray for you?

If you would like to talk with a minister, please call (270) 765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones [stuart@fcctown.com](mailto:stuart@fcctown.com) Senior Minister  
Chris Kiger [chris@fcctown.com](mailto:chris@fcctown.com) Student Minister  
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Shannon Smith [Shannon@fcctown.com](mailto:Shannon@fcctown.com) Assistant Children’s Director



**What are the purposes of a table group?** To dig deeper into the Biblical principle(s) presented each Sunday morning during the FCC worship hour, to connect and share with other group members and to support one another as we strive to live out each week's teaching.

**What does a table group do?** A group discussion guide will be provided in the bulletin each Sunday and will be available on the FCC Facebook page by noon on Monday. The discussion guide will focus the group and challenge each participant to action.

**Who establishes and makes up a table group?**

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

**Where do they meet?**

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

**How often do they meet?** Weekly (day and time is decided by the group)

**How long should the weekly meeting last?** Varies (decided by the group)

**Who leads a table group?** Leadership can be shared or a leader can be chosen by the group.

**How long does the group stay together?** The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together for another season (6-8 weeks).

**Is a table group an official FCC group?** Table groups are not organized by FCC but are provided as opportunities for individuals to connect and become better followers of Jesus. FCC would like to know how this opportunity is being utilized. When your group establishes a place, time, and participants, please report to Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or [doug@fccetown.com](mailto:doug@fccetown.com).

**Can an individual be a part of more than one table group?** Yes, but our goal is that every individual attending a worship service be a part of at least one table group.

**What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table?** No table group should have more than 10 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 10 participants, there are two options:

- 1) Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 10). Or
- 2) Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants). To establish a life group, contact Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or [doug@fccetown.com](mailto:doug@fccetown.com).