

## Who Is This...

*Not down a few thoughts... use the back too! Consider sharing something with someone near you.*

*Recap: who is this person that's me?*

• **Family of origin:** What was your family like? What do you most remember about growing up? What were relationships with your family members like? As you think about your family tree, what things come to mind, both good and bad?

• **Key relationships:** What people have had a major role in your development as a person, or follower of Jesus, or seeker of truth?

• **Key moments of growth:** What positive experiences have helped you develop into the person that you are today?

• **Key moments of brokenness:** What painful experiences have shaped you? How did these things change your life?

• **What makes you come alive:** What are the things in your life that fill you with excitement or purpose? What brings joy to your bones? What do you have to do because if you don't do it you'll be miserable?

Something more...

<sup>1</sup> *After all this, God tested Abraham. God said, "Abraham!" "Yes?" answered Abraham. "I'm listening." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your dear son Isaac whom you love and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I'll point out to you." <sup>3-5</sup> Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants and his son Isaac. He had split wood for the burnt offering. He set out for the place God had directed him. On the third day he looked up and saw the place in the distance. Abraham told his two young servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going over there to worship; then we'll come back to you."*

<sup>6</sup> *Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and gave it to Isaac his son to carry. He carried the flint and the knife. The two of them went off together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to Abraham his father, "Father?" "Yes, my son." "We have flint and wood, but where's the sheep for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "Son, God will see to it that there's a sheep for the burnt offering." And they kept on walking together. <sup>9-10</sup> They arrived at the place to which God had directed him. Abraham built an altar. He laid out the wood. Then he tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood. Abraham reached out and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup> Just then an angel of GOD called to him out of Heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes, I'm listening." <sup>12</sup> "Don't lay a hand on that boy! Don't touch him! Now I know how fearlessly you fear God; you didn't hesitate to place your son, your dear son, on the altar for me."*

<sup>13</sup> *Abraham looked up. He saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> Abraham named that place GOD-Yireh (GOD-Sees-to-It). That's where we get the saying, "On the mountain of GOD, he sees to it." <sup>15-18</sup> The angel of GOD spoke from Heaven a second time to Abraham: "I swear—GOD's sure word!—because you have gone through with this, and have not refused to give me your son, your dear, dear son, I'll bless you—oh, how I'll bless you! And I'll make sure that your children flourish—like stars in the sky! like sand on the beaches! And your descendants will defeat their enemies. All nations on Earth will find themselves blessed through your descendants because you obeyed me."*  
(Genesis 22:1-18, The Message)

*To read:*

What do people say about Abraham and Isaac?

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=abraham+and+isaac>

I found this one particularly thought-provoking:

<http://speccoll.library.kent.edu/4may70/exhibit/memorials/segal.html>

*To think about:*

How do I picture that which is NOT me? (thou, or it?)

*To do:*

Practice the Prayer of Examen at least once this week.