

# Genesis 22:1-14

## Discipleship



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l'ore d'or de dieu

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship,

and then we will come back to you.’ Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘Father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ He said, ‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’ Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

# What Does it Say?

- Emotional reaction
- What's the setting?
- Who are the characters?
- How would you summarize it?
- What happened before/after?
- What scriptural references do you pick up?





# Questions

- What do you make of it all? Is it just “appalling”?
- “After these things”: what things? What’s the context?
- What is the test? Abraham’s obedience? His ethics?
- What does the passage say about child sacrifice? (practiced by surrounding cultures)



# What Does It Mean?

- God tests
  - Is that barbaric, old fashioned, Old Testament thinking?
- Abraham's faith
  - What does he fundamentally count on?
- God's response
  - God provides a substitute, validating Abraham's faith
- The main theme here is Paradox





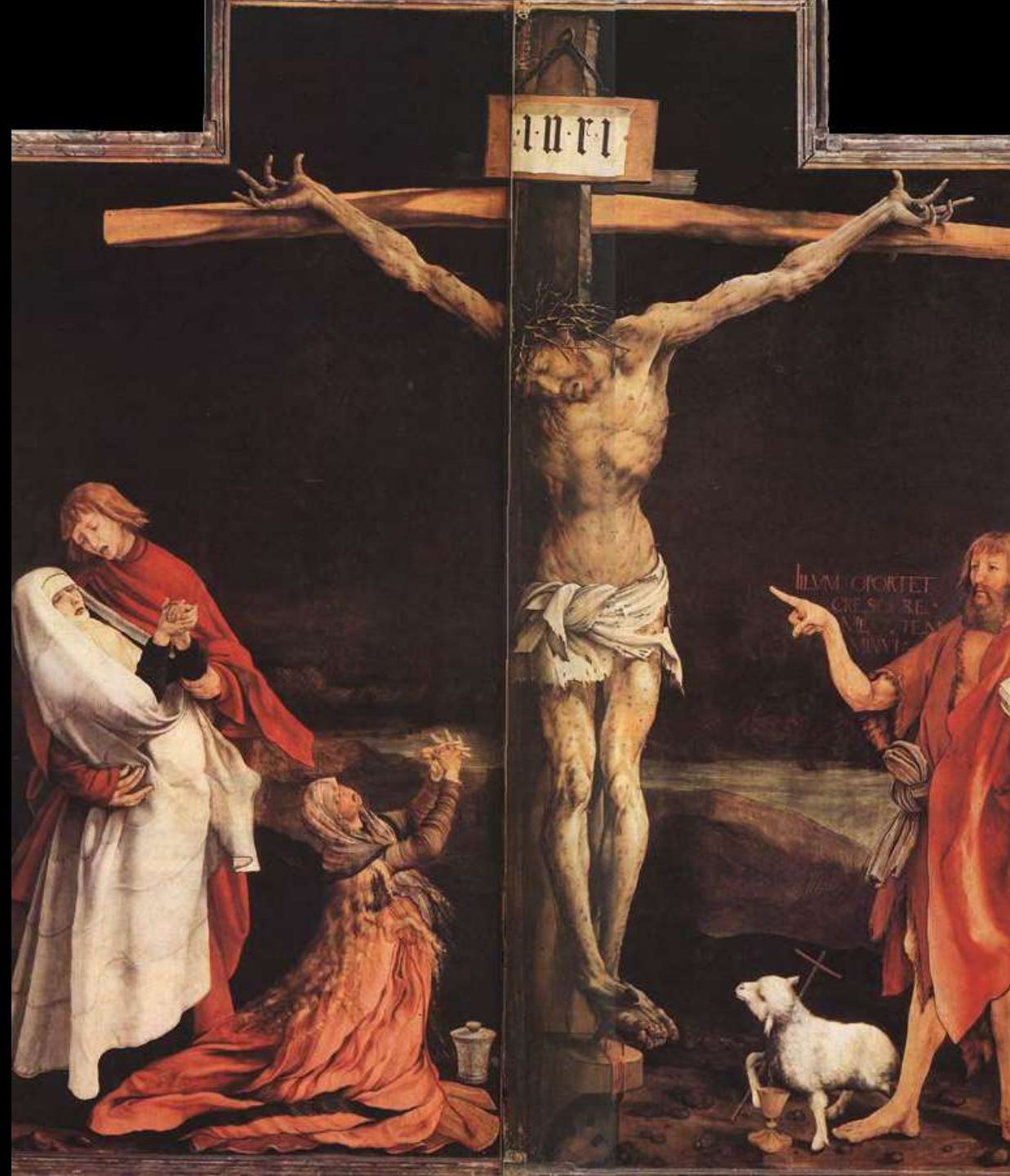
# Questions

- Are there parallels between Jesus' story and this story?
- What does Abraham trust in? Is it reasonable?
- What sort of God is described here?
- What does it mean for being a disciple?



# Theological Note

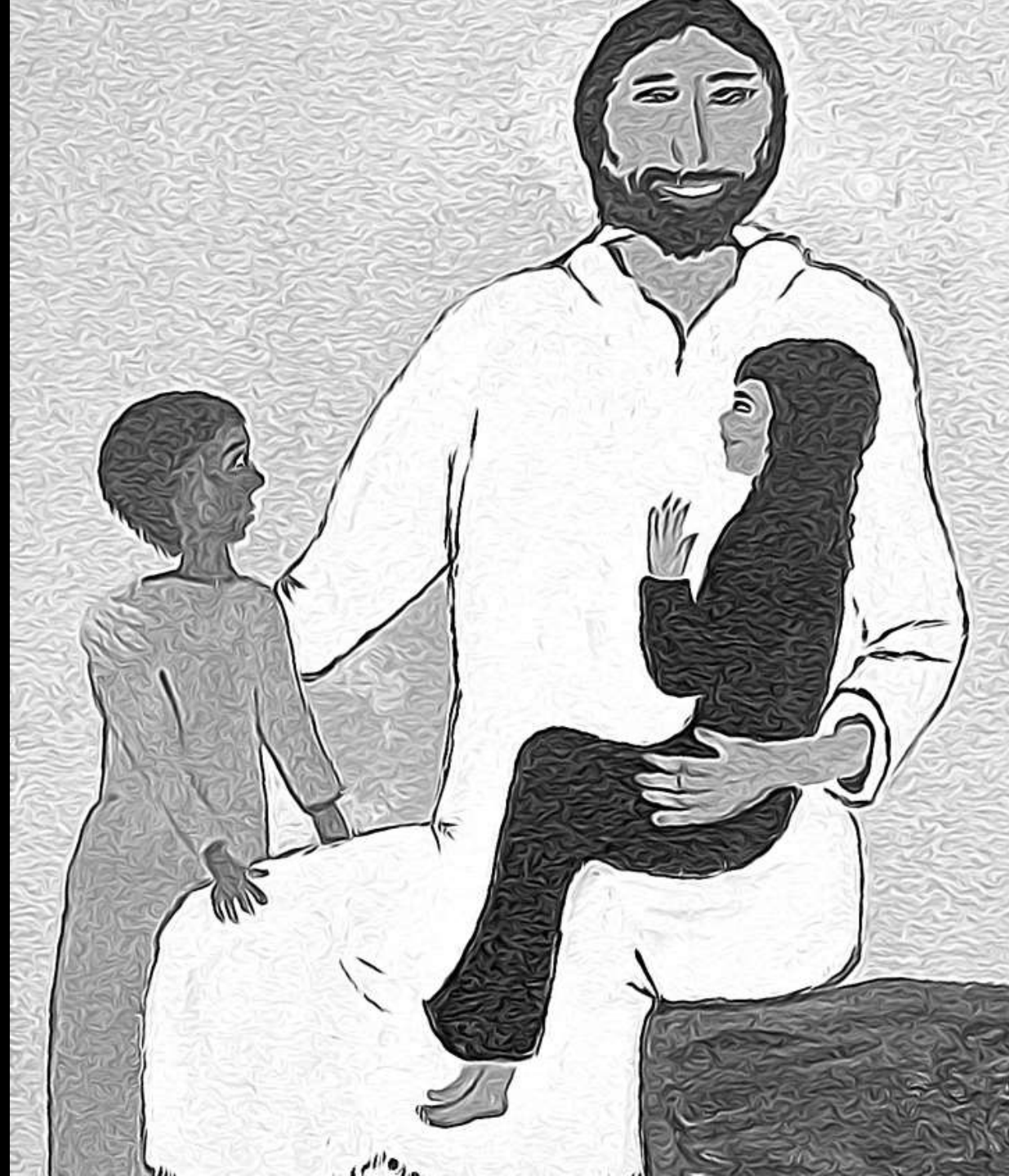
- Testing and Provision -> Crucifixion and Resurrection
- “Fear God” – the beginning of wisdom?
- Gap between the God who tests and the God who provides not humanly bridgeable. Only by God.
- God is inscrutable to Abraham, but trustworthy





# Faith

- Not the God of Therapeutic Moralistic Deism who steps in to make everything alright and is primarily concerned with keeping his hands clean.
- God is unknowable: even though revealed in this story, and through Jesus, as trustworthy.



# What Does It Mean to Me?

- Life makes demands of us. Sometimes reasonable, sometimes not.
- Faith is paradoxical. Sometimes it makes life easier, sometimes harder.
- Where is your faith? Yourself, your resources, your abilities? Society, government, science, etc? God?
- What does this mean for being a disciple?



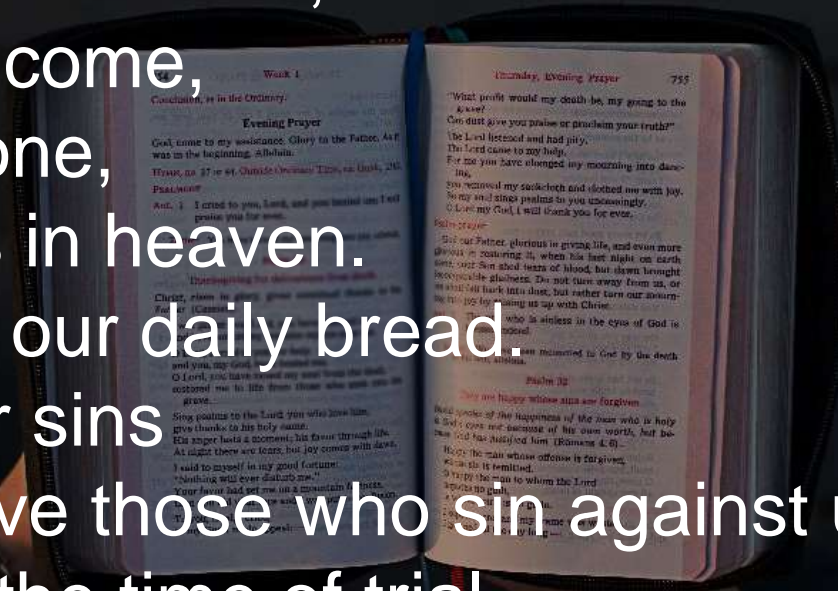


# A Reflective Question

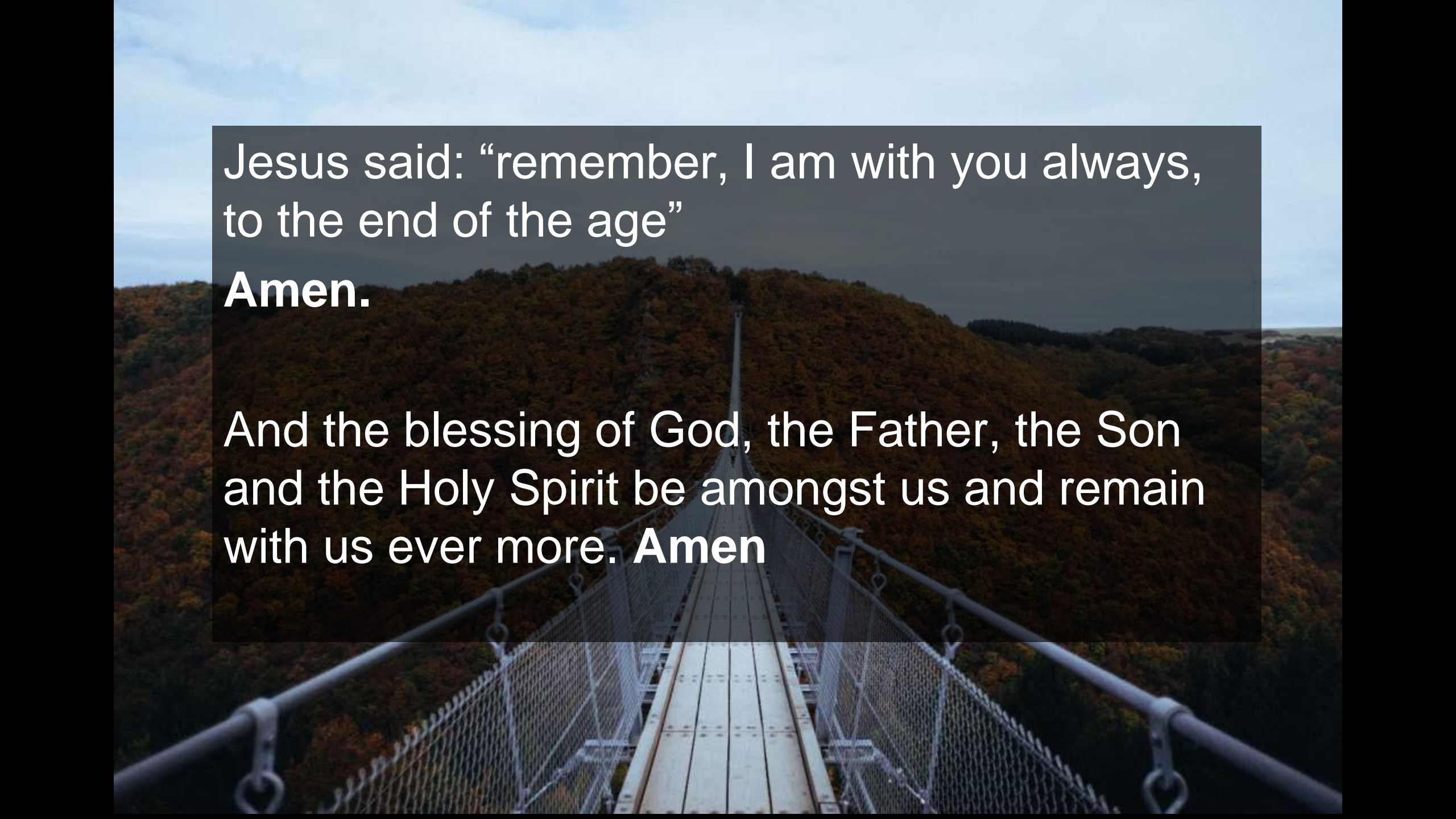
- What does it mean to “have no other gods before God”?
- Is that even possible for me?



Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.





A perspective view of a suspension bridge stretching across a deep, forested valley. The bridge's wooden planks and metal railings lead the eye towards the distant horizon. The surrounding hills are covered in dense trees with autumn foliage in shades of brown and orange. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

Jesus said: “remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age”

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son  
and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain  
with us ever more. **Amen**

