



FEATS Module 4: Genesis/Exodus  
Homework to be Completed  
Prior to Learning Session #2

Reading Assignments

Read Genesis through again, using Alter or your regular Bible

Written Assignments

1. A close reading\* of Genesis 2:4 – 3: 24
2. A close reading of Genesis 22:1-19.

Along with the close reading, think about how Abraham is portrayed here. Some writers, both ancient and modern have suggested that Abraham's "test" is to find out if he would plead for Isaac in the same way he pled for Lot, Sodom, Ishmael, knowing that he had Ishmael as a backup heir if Isaac died. Remember that earlier (17:18) Abraham wanted Ishmael to be his heir, even after the Lord had promised Isaac.

3. A close reading of Genesis 32:22-32

Discussion Topics

1. On the first close reading, the key question is: "What is this passage about?"
2. On the second close reading, what are the implications of understanding Abraham's response one way or the other.
3. On the third close reading, be ready to discuss why there is so much in this passage that is so unclear or left unresolved.

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\* Use the handout from the first learning session, "A Guide to Close Reading" for the format and scope of this exercise. Use the handout format for all the "close readings" in the homework.