



PARTICIPANT HANDOUT: CLIFFHANGER

Session 1: Mount Moriah

The Binding of Isaac

The story of the binding of Isaac on Mount Moriah, the *Akedah*, is one of the most revered passages in the Hebrew Torah. The Jewish people recite the Genesis 22:1-19 account every single day of the year during their morning prayer in the synagogue. It is also recited during the two-day festival of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which begins ten days of repentance. On Rosh Hashanah, the *shofar*—the ram’s horn—is blown in Jerusalem to recall the binding of Isaac and the substitution of the ram as a sacrifice in Isaac’s place. Each time the story of the binding of Isaac is read, it is preceded by this prayer:

Our God and God of our fathers, remember us in good remembrance before You, and recall in recollection salvation and mercy from the heaven of heavens of old. Remember us, LORD our God, the love of the ancients Abraham, Isaac, and Israel Your servants, the covenant and the mercy and the oath that you swore to Abraham our father on mount Moriah, and the Akedah when he bound Isaac his son on top of the altar.²

² “The Adekah—The Binding of Isaac,” Hebrew for Christians, accessed May 8, 2019, https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Prayers/Daily_Prayers/Akedah/akedah.html.