

### News Story Summary

In opposition to high-stakes standardized school testing, government leaders urged the nation's public schools to limit testing to no more than 2 percent of instructional time and said they should serve a meaningful purpose for student learning.

Outgoing Education Secretary Arne Duncan says, "In too many schools, there is unnecessary testing and not enough clarity of purpose applied to the task of assessing students, consuming too much instructional time and creating undue stress for educators and students. The administration bears some of the responsibility for this, and we are committed to being part of the solution."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using phrases such as "Obama Administration Calls for Cap on Standardized Testing")

### Focus Attention

As the group settles, invite them to share experiences about tests they have taken through the years. Encourage them to share about tests that were frustrating, appeared to be arbitrary, or had an unclear purpose. Share the story about standardized testing, and emphasize the point that testing should "serve a meaningful purpose for student learning." Invite volunteers to comment on what the "meaningful purpose" for a test should be. Transition to the lesson by commenting that in Genesis 22, God administers a meaningful test to Abraham.

### Challenge

Remind the group of the discussion at the beginning of the session. Ask: *Was the test God gave Abraham intended to reinforce what Abraham already knew about God; or was it meant for God to figure out what Abraham didn't know?* (Since God is omniscient, knowing everything, He doesn't need to test us to find out what we don't know. Rather, every test He gives is to help us remember what we already know about His faithfulness, and His character.) Refer to the news story about standardized testing. Emphasize that when tests us, it is deeply personal and every test will "serve a meaningful purpose for student learning." It will contribute to our sanctification by transforming us more into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29); and it will lead us into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Him (Hebrews 12:6).