

Season 3

Episode 17: Catch-22

Original Air Date: April 18th 2007

Facilitation Date: April 25th 2007

Episode Information:

Desmond coaxes Charlie, Hurley and Jin on a trek across the jungle after experiencing one of his future-prophesizing flashes, but is he purposely-placing Charlie's life in harm's way? Meanwhile, Kate turns to an unwitting Sawyer after seeing Jack alone with Juliet.

Overall Episode Discussion Theme:

- "Catch 22" deals primarily with Desmond's belief that many of his struggles are divine tests. In this particular lesson we will be focusing on him in the context of whether or not God does, in fact, test us.

New Characters:

- Brother Campbell - Monk - Flashback off island
- Ruth - Desmond's ex-fiancé - Flashback off island
- Naomi - Parachutist - On island with possible flashback connections

Key Show Facts:

- Desmond has a vision that leads him to encourage Charlie, Hurley, and Jin to accompany him into the jungle.
- Desmond, Charlie, Hurley, and Jin hear a helicopter crash into the ocean and watch as a parachute beacon descends into the jungle.
- Kate sees Jack eating with Juliet and wastes no time running into Sawyer's tent to be with him.
- Desmond saves Charlie's life from one of Rousseau's booby traps.
- Desmond, Charlie, Hurley, and Jin discover the helicopter evacuee in a tree - still alive, she recognizes Desmond.
- Flashbacks reveal more of Desmond's back-story including a woman he left at the altar and how he came to meet Penelope.

Time for speculation on the show – Sample Topics

- Who is the mysterious person that parachuted out of the helicopter?

If you could look back on last week's show and plan this lesson... what would you focus on?

Review: What do we know about Desmond?

What do we know about Abraham and Isaac?

Scripture: **Genesis 22: 2, 9-12, 15-18 (The Message)**

"God 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." 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. Just then an angel of God called to him out of Heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes, I'm listening." "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." 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."

- What does the teaching mean to you?
 - What is the main theme/point of the passage?
 - What advice does it give?

- How does this teaching relate to what happened in this week's episode?

Clip 1 – The test – 04:27 – 6:00 – “God tests our faith in many ways.”

- What are some free association words that come to mind when you hear the phrase...
- test?

- What is the purpose of testing?

- Definition: **test** *noun*

dictionary.com

1. The means by which the presence, quality, or genuineness of anything is determined; a means of trial.

7. An oath or other confirmation of one's loyalty, religious beliefs, etc.

urbandictionary.com

2. One of the greatest pro-wrestlers to ever grace us with his presence. Has a good habit of getting annoying WWE Diva's OFF of our TV screens, usually by charging at them and booting them in the face.

6. Everything that is put in front of you during any given day.

8. Something that a dirty boyfriend lies about getting - see also STD (ex. Chris said he got a test but the jerk was lying).

- What are some examples of times that you felt “tested”?
- Which ones did you feel as though you passed?
- Which ones did you feel as though you failed?

Clip 2 – Fitting In – 31:49 – 34:12 – “God has different plans...”

- In this episode, Desmond specifically compares himself to Abraham?
- Do you believe that God is testing Desmond?
- Why?
- Why not?
- What is the purpose of his visions then?

- What other examples in the history of the show could have been tests?
- ex. Locke sacrificing Boone?
- ex. Michael sacrificing the survivors?
- What were the outcomes of these “tests”?
- Is the person better off? Have they been “blessed”?

- How is Desmond's situation like that of Abraham?
- It's a catch 22...
- What are the different possible outcomes for Desmond and Abraham?
- Had Desmond allowed Charlie to die - he would have allowed another person to die; which, in general, is viewed as a bad thing. Although, he would have been subjecting to the nature of his visions; which in this case, it seems offered a reward.
- Had Abraham allowed his son to die - he would have allowed another person to die; which, in general, is viewed as a bad thing. Although he would have been subjecting to God's will; which, is usually viewed as a positive thing.
- Since Desmond refused to allow Charlie to die - he gave the gift of continued life; which, normally is a good thing. Although, he went against the nature of his visions; which, may have compromised the outcome.
- Had Abraham refused to kill his son - he would have given the gift of continued life; which, is normally a good thing. But he would have gone against the will of God; generally seen as a bad thing.

- How do you think the story of Abraham and Isaac affects the faith of religious people today?
 - Do you believe it is an example of how God relates to us?
 - Why?
 - What other father and son relationship in the bible is mirrored by Abraham and Isaac's story?
 - God sacrificing Jesus for the sake of humanity?
 - How are the father's alike?
 - ex. devoted?
 - How are the sons alike?
 - ex. both willing?
 - ex. both carry the wood of their own sacrifice up a hill

Clip 3 – Fitting In – 34:13 – 38:06 – “Except I failed, because I changed what I saw.”

- Is our time on earth a series of random disconnected events or are, at least, some of them truly tests from God?
 - What might be an example of a test?
 - Cancer in a loved one?
 - Severe poverty?
 - What would be the purpose of these in the context of the possibility they were tests?
 - Why do you think God might feel inclined to test his followers?
 - Are there other ways of telling whether a person is committed to their faith in God?
 - Isn't God all knowing?
 - Doesn't God know our hearts? Why would he need to test us?
- If you were God, how might you “assess” your followers?
 - Would you test them?
 - What other resources might you use?
- Back to Desmond...
 - What would you have done if you were Desmond?
 - If God is truly testing Desmond, what does the fact he saved Charlie mean for him now?
- What can we take away from this episode?

Devotional Activity: (5 Minutes)

Have everyone close their eyes and, silently, think of a time when they may have been tested. Depending on what they believe (whether or not it was a test from God or life in general) have them think about how they responded to the test. With their eyes still closed, calmly ask the following questions, allowing time for them to answer in their heads. Was it a catch-22? Would they go back and change it? Do they stand by it? Given how they acted, have them think about what they learned. Did they learn anything? Did it make them stronger? Was it a test they feel as though they failed? Then, with their eyes still closed, have them visualize God, however they may see God. Mention that the beauty of the life God has given us lays in the fact that, even if we make a mistake, life is ongoing - there is time to make amends. Remind them that life provides us plenty of opportunities to show the world the good people we are and that all we have to hold on to is the hope that the next time we're faced with a test we'll do the good that is in our hearts.

Further Speculation:

- Desmond discovers a book in the jungle with his and Penelope's picture in it. The book is titled Ardil-22.
 - What do you think it means?
 - How does it fit into the world of “LOST”?

From Wikipedia: The book Ardil-22 is the Portuguese edition of Catch-22 a satirical, historical fiction novel by the American author Joseph Heller, first published in 1961. The novel, set during the latter stages of the Second World War from 1943 onwards, is frequently cited as one of the great literary works of the Twentieth Century. The novel follows Captain John Yossarian, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bombardier,

and a number of other characters. Most events occur while the airmen of the Fighting 256th (or "two to the fighting eighth power") Squadron are based on the island of Pianosa, west of Italy. Many events in the book are repeatedly described from differing points of view, so the reader learns more about the event from each iteration. Furthermore, the events are referred to as if the reader already knows all about them. The pacing of Catch-22 is frenetic, its tenor intellectual, and its humor largely absurd, but interspersed with grisly moments of realism.

- Mrs. Hawking (the ring dealer in S03E08 "Flashes Before Your Eyes") can be clearly seen in a photograph with Brother Campbell on his desk at the monastery.
- Thoughts?

Clip times refer to episodes presented without commercials (i.e. On a DVD or legally downloaded through iTunes - <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewVideo?id=250671308&p=200507719&s=143441>).

Most recent episode also available at <http://dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing> - streaming only.

Scripture courtesy of <http://www.biblegateway.com>.

Definitions courtesy of <http://www.dictionary.com> and <http://www.urbandictionary.com>.

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