

Discussing the Akeda at Services, Rabbi Bonnie Koppell

I had a great discussion of the Akeda during a 3 hour second day RH service.

Divided the whole into groups of three and assigned specific questions to each group.

Each group was then invited to report back to the whole.

Here are the questions I distributed:

#### AKEDA QUESTIONS

1. Why would our liturgy suggest that we read this story every day?
2. Why is this story associated with Rosh HaShana?
3. Have you made sacrifices in your life which you now look back on with regret?
4. Are there sacrifices you wish you had made?
5. Is there anything for which you would sacrifice your life? That of your children?
6. What experiences have made you feel closest to God?
7. When in the past year have you responded as Abraham did, "Hineni"? At other times in your life?
8. Are there times that you should have stood up for a principle and did not?
9. When have you felt tested?
10. What causes you to question God?
11. How do you hope to be different after the High Holidays?
12. Have your children followed in the path you have dreamed of for them? If not, how do you come to accept their decision?
13. How have you been changed by the traumatic moments of your life?
14. How has the trauma of your parents and grandparents affected you?
15. What are the dangers of excessive religious fervor? How do we know when the line between faith and fervor has been crossed?

#### FOR EVERYONE:

1. What new insights, if any, have you gleaned from this study?
2. How does this story speak to you, personally?