



## Sermon Series: Well Provisioned Week 1

### General Statement and Question

If you just skim the psalms or consider your own life, it is obvious that God does not pave the way for us, give us everything we want/need. All die and that is painful for those who loved them. All are vulnerable to sickness, or evil, and that is painful.

1. How has the lack of provision affected your faith, the faith of those you love?

### Deuteronomy 11:16 NRSV

*Take care, or you will be seduced into turning away, serving other gods and worshiping them,<sup>17</sup> for then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain and the land will yield no fruit; then you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.*

This question is born out of hundreds of conversations with non- believers, and nominal believers.

2. Why is it so common for people who don't follow God or serve God to feel entitled to God's care?

### Habakkuk 3:17 NRSV

*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls,<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation.*

You see this same sentiment from Joseph, Job, Elijah, David, Jesus, Martha, Peter, Paul, and on and on.

3. How can we teach about God's providence without creating a spirit of entitlement and false expectation?
4. How do you react to people who suffer and yet still trust in God? Does it create doubt or inspire faith?