

Small Group Guide: Jehovah Jireh -- The Lord Our Provider

Series: The Names of God

Overview

This week's sermon explored the name Jehovah Jireh, meaning "the Lord will provide," as revealed in Genesis 22. Through the story of Abraham and Isaac, we discovered that God's provision is far greater than material blessings. It points ultimately to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Along the way, we examined how God tests, develops, and blesses His people -- and how the greatest provision ever given was not placed in our hands but on a cross.

Key Takeaways

1. God tests His people not to harm them but to develop their faith and reveal what is truly in their hearts.
 2. Failing a test does not disqualify you. God is gracious and continues to work in and through people who fail and return to Him.
 3. God's testings are tailor-made for each of His children. He knows what you can bear and what He needs to refine in you.
 4. There is a difference between testing and temptation. Satan uses pressure to lead us into sin; God uses the same pressure to transform us.
 5. The name Jehovah Jireh means not only "the Lord will provide" but also "He foresees." God knows your needs before you do and sees to it that they are met.
 6. The ram caught in the thicket is a picture of Jesus Christ -- our substitute, caught in the crown of thorns, offered in our place.
 7. The greatest provision God has ever given is not material. It is the sacrifice of His only Son, whom He loved, for the sins of the world.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. The pastor opened by asking who likes taking tests. Think about a test you have faced in life -- academic, relational, physical, or spiritual. What was at stake, and how did it feel to be in the middle of

it?

2. C.S. Lewis wrote that suffering reveals what a person actually believes about God. Have you ever gone through a season where your real beliefs about God came to the surface? What did you discover?
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God Tests

3. The sermon pointed out that God tested Adam and Eve in the garden, Israel in the wilderness, and Abraham on Mount Moriah. Why do you think God tests His people rather than simply telling them what to believe or who to be?
 4. The pastor said that God tests His image bearers to determine what He can entrust to them. Does that idea challenge or encourage you? How does it change the way you might view a current difficulty in your life?
 5. Deuteronomy 8:2 describes God leading Israel through the wilderness to humble them and test what was in their hearts. What do you think God might be trying to surface or refine in you during a difficult season you have experienced?
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God Develops

6. The sermon reminded us that Abraham failed multiple tests -- lying about Sarah, sleeping with Hagar -- yet God never gave up on him. How does it affect your relationship with God to know that failing a test does not disqualify you from His purposes?
 7. The pastor said, "If we try to run from every difficult situation, that same difficult situation will pop up in another season of life in a different way." Have you seen that pattern in your own life? What do you think God was trying to develop in you through it?
 8. Job 23:10 describes Job declaring that when God has tested him, he will come forth as gold. What does it look like practically to hold onto that kind of confidence when God feels distant or silent during a trial?
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God Provides

9. Abraham told Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb." He said this by faith before he had any evidence of how it would happen. What does it look like in your daily life to speak and act in faith before you can see how God will come through?
10. The sermon described how God often waits until the last moment to provide. The pastor suggested this destroys the illusion of control so that the provision is undeniable. Have you experienced a moment where God's timing made His provision impossible to explain away? Share it with the group.

11. The ram caught in the thicket points forward to Jesus -- the King caught in the crown of thorns, offered as our substitute. How does seeing the cross as the ultimate fulfillment of Jehovah Jireh change the way you think about God's provision in your everyday life?
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God Blesses

12. The pastor made a striking statement: "My greatest blessing came because I failed the test. Jesus Christ shows up." How does the gospel reframe the way we think about our failures and shortcomings? How does it affect your sense of worth before God?
13. Jesus faced the ultimate test in the Garden of Gethsemane -- alone, with His disciples asleep around Him -- and submitted to the Father's will. How does knowing that Jesus faced His test alone give you comfort when you feel like you are carrying a burden by yourself?
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Practical Applications

- **Identify the test.** This week, take time to honestly assess a current difficulty in your life. Ask God in prayer whether He is using it to develop something specific in you. Write down what you sense Him saying.
 - **Return if you have failed.** If you have walked away from God or given up on a promise because of a past failure, take a step back toward Him this week. The sermon reminded us that God changed Abraham's name and reaffirmed His promise even after Abraham's failures. His promises over your life are still good.
 - **Anchor yourself in the Word during the test.** The pastor noted that when tests come, worship and the Word of God become more important than ever. Identify one or two promises from Scripture that speak directly to what you are facing and commit them to memory this week.
 - **Reflect on the cross as provision.** Before your next meal, moment of gratitude, or time of worship, pause and acknowledge that the greatest thing God has ever provided for you is not a circumstance but a Savior. Let that reframe what you ask for and what you thank Him for.
 - **Share your burden.** The pastor said he would not make it without some of the people in his life. If you are carrying something alone right now, take a step of vulnerability this week and share it with someone in this group or a trusted friend.
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Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for being Jehovah Jireh -- the One who sees your needs before you do and provides for them.
- Ask for faith to trust Him in the middle of a current test rather than running from it.

- Reflect together on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the ultimate provision and let that produce genuine worship.
 - Pray for any specific needs within the group, trusting that God sees each one and will provide.
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"God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." -- Genesis 22:8

Scriptures

Directly Cited or Quoted

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Genesis 15
- Genesis 22:1-18
- Deuteronomy 8:2-3
- Leviticus 18 and 20
- Micah 6:6-8
- Job 23:8-10
- Hebrews 11:17-19
- James 1:2-3
- James 1:13
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Philippians 4:19
- Romans 8:32

Alluded To or Paraphrased

- Genesis 2-3 (Adam and Eve in the garden)
- Genesis 16 (Hagar and Ishmael)
- Genesis 17 (Abraham's name change)
- Genesis 21 (birth of Isaac)
- Exodus 16 (manna in the wilderness)
- Exodus 17 (water from the rock)
- 1 Kings 11 and 2 Kings 23 (Josiah and child sacrifice to Molech)
- Proverbs 24:16
- Isaiah 53:7
- John 1:18
- Luke 22:42 (Gethsemane)
- 2 Corinthians 5:19
- Colossians 1:15