



Parkway Fellowship

PEAK ENCOUNTERS • MT. MORIAH • GENESIS 22:1-14 • 8/23/2020

MAIN POINT

God has, does, and always will provide for me.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to ask for help when you need it?

Why is it hard for many of us to admit when we need another's wisdom, support, encouragement, or resources? Explain.

What about in your relationship with God? How likely are you to ask Him for help?

What are some ways God provides for you even when you don't ask or realize it?

In our study of mountain peak encounters in God's Word, we learn something important about God that impacts us in the day-to-day. He has, does, and always will provide for us. The pandemic we're enduring now is an example of one of those times where we might not see God's provision right off the bat, but we can be assured now and every day, no matter what our circumstances happen to be, that God is at work and we can trust Him to provide everything we need.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GENESIS 22:1-14.

What is most shocking to you about Genesis 22 and God's command for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?

Has God ever shocked you with one of his commands in Scripture and/or with a life situation? If so, how did you see His provision in that experience?

Given Abraham and Sarah's experience with barrenness and God's earlier promises to them, why would this command come as a shock?

What did Abraham have to believe about God to obey Him in this situation? How do verses 5 and 8 indicate that Abraham believed that Isaac would somehow survive the burnt offering?

Why would God wait until the last moment to intervene in order to prevent Abraham from killing Isaac?

What does it teach us about God's provision when we have to wait to experience it fully?

What does God's providing a ram as a substitute indicate about His character and grace? Why is God within His rights and justice to require Isaac's life?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 CHRONICLES 3:1.

We learned about two more events on Mt. Moriah – this one here in 2 Chronicles 3:1 where God directed Solomon to build the temple and the crucifixion of Christ which also took place there. Why might God choose the same mountain to provide a substitute offering for Abraham, build His temple, and allow His Son Jesus to be crucified?

We learn from these events that God's plans are so intricate that life can't be random. When have you seen the truth of this in your own life?

How does it encourage you to know that God is always at work in your life to provide what you need for abundant life in Him? What can you do when you doubt that truth?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 3:16.

What is the relationship between God's love and His provision as described in John 3:16?

We might wonder how Abraham could have obeyed God in sacrificing his son Isaac. That's the point! As we learned in the sermon message, God willingly did what I would never do. How would you explain why God sacrificed His only Son on the cross to an unbeliever?

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 6:31-33.

Pastor Mike asked, "Since God provided for my sins, will He not provide now?" In what situation(s) do you tend to doubt or worry?

How does this passage speak to you about God's provision in those times when we doubt or worry about it?

Pastor Adam explained, "The devil works hard to distract me from Jesus." Based on today's passages, what are some ways you can know the devil is having his way as he works to distract you from Jesus? What does it look like when a person fixes his or her eyes on Jesus, instead?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Which of these three events—Abraham/Isaac, the Holy of Holies in the Temple, or Jesus' crucifixion—spoke to you the most today? Explain.

Which of the following four points mean the most to you today and why? 1. God's plans are so intricate that life can't be random. 2. God willingly did what I would never do. 3. Since God provided for my sins, will He not provide now? 4. The devil works hard to distract me from Jesus.

What can you do to not be distracted from Jesus?

PRAYER

Thank God for His trustworthy character to always provide for your needs. Ask for His help in trusting His provision even during difficult times. Thank Him for His gracious provision of His only Son, Jesus, through whom blessing and salvation comes to the world.

COMMENTARY

| GENESIS 22:1-14

22:1-2. Abraham's ultimate test of obedience to God is described in 22:1-19. God used this event to affirm the sterling character of Abraham's faith by giving him the incredibly difficult task of sacrificing his son Isaac. Pagans in Canaan during the OT period regularly practiced child sacrifice by making them pass through the fire (2Ki 16:3) to give them as food to their gods

(Ezek 23:37). With this command God was asking Abraham to demonstrate that he was as committed to the Lord God as pagans were to their gods.

22:3-4. Confirmation of Abraham's amazing trust in God is found first in the fact that he was up before sunrise (early in the morning) the next day to begin the journey. His diligence in going to the place God had told him about contrasts sharply with Jonah's actions (Jnh 1:3). Traveling from Beer-sheba, it was not until the third day that Abraham reached the Jerusalem area.

22:5-8. Evidence that Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead (Heb 11:17-18) is found in his comment, we'll come back. Abraham carried the most dangerous elements of the sacrifice—the fire and the sacrificial knife—himself, perhaps as a sign of his protective love for Isaac. Ignorant of God's command and surprised that his father would forget the most important element in an animal sacrifice, Isaac asked Abraham where the lamb was. Abraham's faith-filled response was that God Himself would provide the lamb ("sheep").

22:9-14. Abraham followed the standard procedure for a burnt offering involving a living being. In describing his preparation, the Bible emphasizes only Abraham's systematic acts of obedience, omitting any mention of Abraham's or Isaac's feelings. Just before the knife was put to Isaac's neck, the Angel of the Lord spared him. The patriarch had passed the test, providing experiential evidence that he feared God more than he loved his only son. Exactly as Abraham had predicted (v. 8), God had miraculously provided a sheep—and the most prized variety, a ram. To memorialize the event Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide.