



Parkway Fellowship

YHWH: NAMES OF GOD • Jehovah Jireh • Genesis 22:1-14 • 01/12/2020

MAIN POINT

The LORD is our provider.

INTRODUCTION

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

Can you recall the moment of greatest need in your life?

Did someone intervene on your behalf to meet your need? If so, how did that gesture impact you emotionally, physically, and spiritually?

Regardless of a person's position in the world, in reality no one is beyond the experience of being in need. Rich or poor, young or old, healthy or sick, each of us knows what it is to be in need, and the moments of our greatest need come when we cannot provide for our-selves and must rely on others. These are the moments when our Lord's role as Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, shines brightest.

UNDERSTANDING

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

| Have a volunteer read Genesis 22:1-4.

In verse 1, it says God was testing Abraham. What about him was being tested?

What is the significance of Abraham leaving early the next morning?

Read Deuteronomy 8:2. Why is it important for God to know what is in His people's hearts?

How has God tested your heart in the past? What happened?

God tests the hearts of His people not because He doesn't know the state of our being, but because we need to know. Testing helps us build greater trust in the Lord, to become people who are always in a "yes" position. God wants His people to be men and women who are always ready to surrender all to Him, even when it's hard.

| Have a volunteer read Genesis 22:5-14.

What are a few things we learn about Abraham's faith in this passage?

What do we learn about God?

Why does God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?

Have you, like Abraham, been in a position where you had to let go of something or someone in your life that you cared for deeply? How did that experience impact the way you relate to God?

What is the relationship between your obedience and God's provision?

This is not a story of God changing His mind, as if He was fickle. This is a story of one man's obedience and God's provision. In this passage we see God clearly as Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our Provider. Not much about God's commands made sense to Abraham, but Abraham's default was to obey and worship. God received perfect obedience from Abraham, and so Abraham received perfect provision from Jehovah Jireh.

APPLICATION

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

When do you have difficulty trusting God as Jehovah Jireh, your Provider?

In this week's message, we learned that the way to know God as Jehovah Jireh is to: 1. Pass a test, don't pass on a test. 2. Focus on who, not how. 3. Know that God is Jehovah Jireh for everyone, not just me. Which of these three stand out to you the most personally? Explain.

What is a situation right now where you long to experience God as your Provider? How can this group pray for you about that?

PRAYER

Thank God for His guidance and provision. Ask him to help you trust in him as Provider.

COMMENTARY

| GENESIS 22:1-18

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.

22:15-18. As the Angel of the Lord who had the Lord's authority, the divine emissary delivered a second message (v. 12), this one in the first person. Because Abraham had passed the "priorities test" by obeying God and not withholding his only son, the Lord would indeed bless him with offspring, victory, land, and goodwill.