

Strangers In This Land [Trust God's Provision] Discussion Guide

Summary

In this sermon, Jonathan concludes a series on Abraham's life of faith, focusing on Genesis 22 where God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac. The sermon explores how Abraham, after waiting 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a son, demonstrates extraordinary faith by obeying God's command without hesitation. When Abraham takes Isaac to Mount Moriah, he confidently tells his servants that both he and Isaac will return, showing his complete trust that God would provide a way out, even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead.

Jonathan draws parallels between Isaac and Jesus, highlighting how both were beloved sons, both carried the wood for their sacrifice, and both were delivered on the third day. The sermon emphasizes that God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, just as Jesus became our substitute sacrifice. The key message is that we should trust in God's provision (Jehovah Jireh) rather than putting our confidence in people, and seek God's kingdom above all else, knowing He will provide everything we need.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your faithfulness and provision, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive Your truth. Just as You provided for Abraham in his moment of greatest need, we trust that You will provide what each person in this group needs today. Help us to see where we might be

putting our trust in things other than You. Give us the courage to seek Your kingdom first, knowing that You will take care of everything else. May our discussion lead us to a deeper faith and greater reliance on You as Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when someone surprised you with something you really needed at just the right moment. How did that make you feel?

Key Verses

- Psalm 146:3
- Genesis 22:8
- Genesis 22:14
- Matthew 6:33
- Hebrews 11:17-19

Questions

- Abraham waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a son. When have you had to wait for God's timing in your life, and what did you learn through that process?
- The sermon points out that Abraham didn't always get it right in his faith journey. How does knowing this encourage you in your own walk with God?
- Abraham told his servants, "We will worship there and then we will come right back." What does this statement reveal about Abraham's faith in God?
- What parallels between Isaac and Jesus stood out to you the most, and why do you find them significant?
- Jonathan said, "True faith is not just believing God. True faith is also obeying God." How have you seen this principle at work in your own life?

- In what area of your life are you currently being challenged to trust God's provision?
- What does it practically look like to "seek the kingdom of God above all else" in your daily life?
- Abraham named the place "Yahweh Yireh" (Jehovah Jireh) which means "The Lord Will Provide". What would you name the place where God has shown His provision in your life?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been trusting in your own abilities, other people, or resources rather than God's provision. Write it down and commit it to prayer daily, specifically asking God to help you transfer your trust from these things to Him. Each day, look for ways God is already providing for you in this area, and keep a simple journal of His faithfulness. At the end of the week, reflect on how your perspective has changed and share your experience with at least one other person as a testimony to God's provision.

Key Takeaways

- God is completely trustworthy, while even the most reliable people will sometimes let us down.
- True faith is demonstrated not just through belief but through obedience to God.
- God tests our faith not to harm us but to strengthen us.
- Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He has provided Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins.
- When we seek God's kingdom first and pursue right relationship with Him, He will provide everything we need.

Ending Prayer

Lord God, our Jehovah Jireh, we thank You for being our provider in every circumstance. Thank You for the powerful example of Abraham's faith and obedience, even when faced with the ultimate test. Help us to remember that You are completely trustworthy and that Your timing is perfect. When we face our own tests of faith, give us the courage to obey without hesitation, knowing that You will provide exactly what we need. This week, as we examine areas where we've been trusting in ourselves or others instead of You, give us the strength to surrender those things completely to Your care. May we seek Your kingdom above all else, confident that as we do, You will faithfully provide for our every need. In the name of Jesus, our ultimate provision, we pray. Amen.