

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 2-8, 2021

“JEHOVAH JIREH: THE LORD WILL PROVIDE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Back when you were a student (or for those who are currently students), how did/do you handle exams?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 22:1-14.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 32:31, Exodus 20:20, Deuteronomy 8:2, 1 Peter 1:6-7. What do the following Scriptures say about the testing of God? Can you describe a time when God tested you? What was its outcome?
2. Take a few moments and try to enter into the mind of Abraham after receiving the command from God to sacrifice Isaac. What is he thinking about? How might he have wrestled with God in prayer after receiving this command?
3. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What do these verses tell us about Abraham's perspective on being tested by God? What are some of the things Abraham had to believe in order to obey God's command? What is the relationship between faith and actions? (see also James 2:18-24).
4. How does God respond to Abraham's obedience? What does it mean to “fear God”? What does this teach us about our own perspective on obedience and to being tested?
5. “God will provide” is the name of the place where the Lord reaffirms his covenant to Abraham. How is this promise and character of God helpful for Abraham? How is this promise helpful to you?

6. Are you ever afraid that God will require you to do something you don't want to do (examples: go to the mission field, give up a relationship, etc.)? How does the story of Abraham and Isaac encourage you to surrender fully to God?

7. (Optional). Read Genesis 22:15-19. What are the three promises concerning Abraham's descendants? According to verse 18, it was because of Abraham's obedience that all this came about. Have you noticed how obedience is so much more often associated with a right relationship with God than love? Why do you think so?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

When God says “let go,” it's always because he promised he will provide.

- I will praise God for his love.
- I will willingly release what God calls me to give to him.
- I will endeavor to grow in my faith and obedience.
- I will trust God for his provision.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that as you go through times of testing, God would enable you to grow in your faith.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.