



Week 7 Session Guide

Jehovah Jireh “The Lord our Provider”

Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. Gen. 22:8

OLD TESTAMENT

This particular name of God is attached to one of the craziest stories in the Scriptures. Abraham is living life and God shows up and makes a gut wrenching request.

“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” Gen. 22:2.

What!!! How could God ask such a thing of Abraham? And remember this isn't just anyone. This is the son of promise, Isaac, the one who was miraculously born to a barren Sarah and an aged Abraham. The son from whom was going to come the nation of Israel. God doesn't seem to be making sense. His request of Abraham appears to contradict his promise. What was God doing?

We are clued in on what God is doing in vs. 1. God was testing Abraham and was about to teach him about the nature of Yahweh. Remember at this time there was no Bible, no church, no pastors. Abraham was the great Patriarch (Father) of our faith. He was the first and God was revealing himself. Interestingly enough Abraham does not argue, he doesn't fight, rather he begins to obey what God said.

It's hard to imagine what Abraham (and Isaac for that matter) was thinking as he walked up to the top of Mount Moriah. In one painful moment Isaac asks “Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” To which Abraham replied “God will provide for himself the lamb...” He tied up his son, raised a knife, and at the moment he was about to plunge the knife down sent an angel to stay him.

What was the test? This is very important. The Angel said “Do no lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from me.” (22:12) God asked Abraham to give up his most cherished possession to see if he would withhold Isaac from Him. Abraham didn't, and God knew Abraham level of faith, trust, and obedience. If he would give his only son, he would give anything wouldn't he? Wait, what about the sacrifice? Scripture says Abraham “raised his eyes” and he saw there was a ram caught in the thicket, which they offered as a burnt offering.

So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide” (Jehovah Jireh); as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” Gen. 22:14

Our great God never wanted Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but he did want to test his heart and to teach us that He is the one that provides the sacrifice.

NEW TESTAMENT

We were dead in our sins, in need of a righteous sacrifice. We needed a sacrifice. The Father provided.

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Rom. 8:31-32)

You might be saying "I'm thankful for the cross, but I have specific needs today. Financial need, health needs, relational needs ..." I want you to answer this question that Paul asks in the book of Romans.

If the Father gave His son for you, what else will He withhold? The answer was the same as Abraham's ... Nothing! Look to Him, trust Him, ask Him. The word "Jireh" (provide) in Hebrew comes from the root word "to see." The word "provide" - "provision" means that something was seen beforehand and thus provided for. God saw Abraham's future obedience and he provided the ram. If Abraham had not been obedient he never would have experienced the Lord's provision. Many times we miss out on God's blessed provision in our lives because we are not obedient to what He has asked us to do. We cannot go halfway with God. We must trust him and obey and then we will know God as Jehovah Jireh.

Whatever it is that you're holding on to so tightly - whether it's your career, family, marriage, health, finances, search for a mate - you have to let that go in order to experience Jehovah Jireh. You will see Him provide for you as God sees you put Him above all else.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Has God ever asked you to do something difficult or that you didn't understand at the time, yet you now see His hand of provision in that situation?**
- 2. In what area(s) do you struggle to trust God?**
- 3. Read Matthew 6:25-34. What do the words of Jesus teach us about God's heart towards the practical needs we have in our lives. What do you have need of today? Pray for each other.**