

GOD IS

LEADER GUIDE

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INTRO

Our names are important to us. The first question we often ask a person is, "What is your name?" As we get to know people, their names take on deeper significance and bring to mind the personality and character of the person. Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed different aspects of His holy character, and several names captured the essence of His character. We will look at four of these names, which provide a glimpse into the character of our loving God, and discover who He is in our lives.

This Bible Study Leader Guide is designed to be just that—a guide. It's something you can customize to fit your group and your own teaching style. The best way to prepare is to study the Scripture and use the lessons as your personal Bible study. As you interact with Scripture and the material in the Guide, take notes and answer the questions yourself. Learn from the lessons before you attempt to teach them. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you through this study and then use you to teach your students!

JEHOVAH JIREH THE LORD OUR PROVIDER

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:19

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 22:1-14

NOTES

THE POINT

We can trust God to meet our needs.

ENGAGE

Place students in groups of two or three and give each group a different scenario (e.g., shipwrecked on an island, lost in the jungle, stranded in the desert, etc.). Ask each group to determine a list of ten essentials for survival. Once they finish, allow each group to share their lists out loud.

God promises to provide for our needs, but what we think we need may be different from what God says we need.

INTRO QUESTION

What's one of the toughest things you've been asked to do?

THINK

We are good at getting ourselves into situations where we are in over our heads. And it's that much more difficult when someone else puts you in that position (like when your teacher volunteers you to solve the difficult math problem on the board). Describe a time you've been in over your head.

Discuss with students how God will put us in positions that are bigger than we can deal with. Abraham experienced one of the toughest tests imaginable. But he trusted God, and God came through for him in a remarkable way. As a result, Abraham learned to trust God no matter what.

READ GENESIS 22:1-2.

Throughout his life—filled with both faith and failure—Abraham learned more and more about the God who had called him. Perhaps Abraham gained his greatest understanding of God during his “final exam.”

Ask students to share their thoughts about how God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. God had promised to make Abraham the father of many nations, and against all odds, God had miraculously given Abraham a son in his old age. But then God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. This son was not only dear to Abraham—he was essential to God’s promise and blessing. Yet he was about to be offered as a sacrifice.

Describe a time when you experienced a setback.

What are the purposes of tests in our lives?

READ GENESIS 22:3-10.

NOTES

At times, obedience can be very difficult. When your coach demands you run one more wind sprint, but your lungs scream “No!” When your creative writing teacher orders you to sit quietly and write a two-page essay, but your best pal is sitting next to you.

Discuss with students that when God called, Abraham answered without delay. Though God’s command was mind-boggling, Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering and headed for the mountain. When they arrived three days later, Abraham said to his servants, “You stay here. The boy and I are going to worship.” Then Abraham’s faith was put on full display when he declared—“We’ll come back to you.”

How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in this passage?

Abraham had walked with God for years. He’d certainly made his fair share of mistakes, but along the way he’d learned that no matter how ridiculous God’s commands may have seemed, God’s ways are always best. Obedience will sometimes stretch us to our limits, but obeying God is always right—not just for Abraham, but for us too. And sometimes, when it’s toughest to believe and follow, that’s when we learn the most about God’s character.

When have you been tested to trust God when His provision wasn’t apparent?

How have you demonstrated trust in God? In what specific areas do you need to trust God more fully?

READ GENESIS 22:11-14.

Abraham fully intended to follow through on the Lord’s command, and as he raised the knife to slay Isaac, an angel commanded, “Do not lay a hand on the boy.” Abraham had not only declared his faith—he had demonstrated it. Abraham looked up, and in the bushes a ram was caught by its horns. God had provided a sacrifice.

Describe a time when God has provided for you in His own timing.

Abraham named the place “Jehovah Jireh”—The Lord Will Provide. The Lord continues to provide today, and just as Abraham’s obedience put him in the position to receive God’s blessing, we too, when we live in faithful obedience to God, can trust that He will provide for all of our needs.

End your time with students by focusing on how God has provided for our spiritual needs. Scripture teaches that the greatest need we have is for a Savior, for without a deliverer to rescue us from sin, we will experience God’s wrath forever.

Today, God is calling each of us to sacrifice our lives (Rom. 12:1)—to give up our own selfish desires and instead grow in loving God and His ways. When we do this, just as He did for Abraham, God our Provider supplies the sacrifice to take our place. Jesus gave His life that you and I could experience God’s blessings.

NOTES

How has God provided for your spiritual needs?

How can our actions and attitudes show others that we serve the God who provides?

LIVE IT OUT

CHRIST

A relationship with God is based in large part on a faith which is lived out every day. Prayer is central to a life of faith and is a continual expression of dependence upon God to provide for our needs.

Journal a brief prayer expressing your desire to live in dependence upon God. Make it a point to pray this several times a day throughout the week.

COMMUNITY

God provides for His children in many ways, and one of the biggest ways is through the church.

What needs do you have that could be met by fellow believers, perhaps even others in this group? Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

What needs are you aware of that God may provide for through you? If you aren't aware of any needs, look around—they're definitely there.

CULTURE

God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations—to bless the entire world through him. And this required some pretty big leaps of faith. Abraham trusted and God provided!

What risks or leaps of faith is God calling you to take so that lost people would be blessed through you?

What past experiences help you to trust that God will work through your obedience?

PRAY

To close the session, pray with your students to see how God is calling them to live by faith, and that He would provide all they need to follow Him in obedience. Thank God for providing the ultimate blessing in Jesus Christ. Invite students to pray, and pray for them as well.