

# TRANSFORMATION

2020 → Year of Transformation

## Week 2: The Lord Will provide?

### **Introduction:**

Have you ever been traveling, and had car trouble? This can create all kinds of stress. (You can share this story with your group) One summer while (Pastor Robbie) traveling back from Branson, Missouri, my car began sputtering. I didn't know what was wrong, but it was not running well. I had just crossed over the North Carolina line in the mountains and the car got worse. As I was driving, I had a decision to make, pull over and see if I can figure it out, or try to make it to the next exit. I chose to try and make it to the next exit. I had just crested the mountain, and the next town was a couple miles away. I was praying the whole time and asking God to help me out. On the way down, my engine shut off, and I coasted to the next exit.

I pull into a service station around 4:00 pm right off the exit, and tell them what the car was doing. Turns out it was a clogged fuel filter. Luckily for me the station wasn't busy, the guys jumped right on the car to start working on the fuel filter. They got the part off the car, and began to look for the part to fix the car. It is now after 5:00 pm, and many of the local parts places had already closed. The guys in the shop found 2 fuel filters in their inventory. Turns out they had the exact part I needed for my car. They put it on the car and got me back on the road around 7:00 pm.

As I was driving home, I was reflecting on what had just happened. The Lord provided exactly what I needed. What are the chances that the only exit I pull off of had a little service station that wasn't busy, a service guy who knew exactly what the problem was,

a friendly crew who got right to work on the car, and the exact part I needed out of the 2 filters they had in stock? It blew me away and I was so thankful that they didn't charge me an arm and a leg. The shop only charged me \$89 for parts & labor, and the shop owner shared with me that he wanted to help me out. I was in a spirit of praise and thankfulness all the way home. My worship and thankfulness reminded me of his goodness.

This week we will look at how God provides, even when there doesn't seem to be a way. God wants us to trust him in everything, and his desire is that we walk by faith, trusting he is good. This week as you study my prayer is that you can reflect on the goodness of God.

**Scripture: Gen 22:1-19 & 1 Kings 17:8-24**

## Discussion Questions

Question 1: Why would God ask Abraham to take his son that he has been praying for and offer him as burnt offering?

- Does this contradict God's nature?
- Is God playing a cruel game with Abraham?

Question 2: What is something God is asking you to trust him with today? Explain!

Question 3: In verse 5, Abraham is being obedient and tells his servants, "I and the boy will go over to worship and come back to you"? What is the meaning of him saying this phrase?

- What do you think would give him the courage to say that "they would come back again"?
- Did he know what was going to happen?

Question 4: In verse 7, we get a glimpse from Isaac's perspective when he asks, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" What do you think is going through Isaac's mind?

- Why was a sacrifice required?
- Would you have been willing to do this to your child if God asked you too? Why or why not?
- How is your faith revealed and strengthened when under attack?

**(Leader Insight)** God is our provider. Faith requires action and a belief in something we cannot always see. Trusting in God to provide even the little things like food and water, clothing, and a place to live is not always easy, because we cannot see God. We tend to trust in what we can see. Money for example is something we can see and touch. Putting our faith in God should help us to live with a different mindset. The Christian life should not be overwhelmed by worry and stress, but should reflect an inner peace that everything is going to be okay. Abraham knew God would provide something, somehow, even if he actually killed his son Isaac. Abraham had faith that God would be able to redeem a situation that seemed hopeless. God provided a ram as a substitute for his son so that the sacrifice could still be made.

**Read 1 Kings 17:8-24**

Question 5: How did God provide for both Elijah and the woman in verses 8-13?

- What was God showing Elijah and the woman?

Question 6: In verses 13-16, what do you notice about “faith” and “fear”?

- How did Elijah and the woman display that faith was stronger than fear?
- What was the promise that Elijah gave to the woman in verse 15 & 16?

Question 7: In verse 17-24, how do you think these events changed the faith of the woman and the boy?

- How did God provide for her son?
- Would your faith be different if God answered every prayer you have ever prayed?
- Why does God not answer some prayers? Does this show that God didn't provide? Explain

**(Leader Insight)** God is our provider. This story in 1 Kings should help us gain confidence that we can trust God. While this seems like a “miracle”, think about how God has provided for you in your own life. Both Elijah and the widow had to display a certain trust and faith in God even when they didn't know all the details. We get a glimpse of 2 individuals (Elijah & the widow) and how God provided for them both. Elijah represents the person of faith who still had to trust that God was in control, and the widow who represents a person of fear and worry. She had to also put her faith in God because she knew that she only had enough flour and oil for one last meal. She didn't know where her next meal was going to come from literally, and was asked to share her last little bit of flour to make something for a complete stranger. I am sure she was worried and stressed out, but she had a faith anyway. This is the type of living, this fearless, living that God is asking us to partake in. The stronger our faith is in God, the less we have to worry about things like food and water. Both Jesus and Elijah had this inner peace that God was in control.

## Next Steps:

1. Write down how can you walk in confidence that God will provide for you? Give examples from the past.
2. Pray over some specific areas of your life you need to trust God will provide. Share with someone in the group
3. Confess ways you are not trusting God and then ask him to help you trust him in these areas.
4. Read the Bible every day as part of our reading plan.
5. Share with thanksgiving praises on how God is providing.