

Study Series: Chasing God

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 Lesson Title: “Name This Place” (pp. 44-53)

Session 04

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The main point of this lesson is: Though we might not see it and though it might not come as we desire, God provides.

Focus on this goal: To help adults acknowledge God as provider, even when they can’t see that He has provided.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 22:1-19

Before the Session

**Enlist** a person to briefly recount the promise and birth of Isaac. (Step 2)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask *participants when another person provided for them*. As time allows, a few learners may respond aloud.

State: As much as we appreciate those who have provided for us in our lives, today’s session reminds us that God is our provider, even when we can’t see that He has provided.

Step 2. Day 1 – Anguish in Misunderstanding

As background to today’s Scripture, **call on** the person enlisted earlier to briefly tell the story of Abraham and Sarah and the birth of their only son, Isaac.

**Enlist** four volunteers to read Genesis 22:1-19, with one person reading as narrator; one, reading the words of God/angel of the Lord; one, reading the words of Abraham, and one, reading the words of Isaac.

**Note** Abraham’s certainty in verse 8 about God providing the lamb for the offering and **discuss** why he was so certain in God’s provision.

**Ask:** *When have you personally had such a certainty regarding God’s provision?*

**Invite** learners to share how Isaiah 55:8-9 encourages them to trust God, even when they don’t understand His ways (Day One, activity 2, p. 45).

Step 3. Day 2 – What I Need

**State** that, just as Isaiah 55:8-9 gives us a glimpse into God’s character, other Scriptures also teach biblical truths about God our provider.

**Write** the five biblical truths listed in Day Two, activity 1 (p. 46) on a whiteboard or poster board.

**Organize** the class into five groups, with each group compiling scriptural support for their assigned biblical truth.

**Call** for one person from each group to write scriptural references on the whiteboard or poster board for their assigned truth.

**Ask:** *Why is it important to understand truth about God when we are experiencing challenging circumstances?*

**Point out** God spoke to Abraham audibly and **discuss** how God speaks to His people today (Day Two, activity 2, p. 47).

**Using** a cell phone as an object lesson, **re-enact** having a bad connection with someone on another phone.

**Ask:** *Although God does not speak audibly to His people today, in what ways can we be just as certain we are hearing and understanding God’s voice—that we don’t have a bad connection with Him?*

Step 4. Day 3 – The Offering

**Invite** learners to imagine themselves in Abraham’s place and to identify emotions or questions that might have gone through his mind.

**Discuss** how we might experience similar emotions or questions when God calls us to obedience. Still, as Abraham was faithful, God calls His people to faithfulness.

**Challenge** learners to identify biblical truths Abraham modeled through his faithfulness and to consider how their lives reflect those biblical truths (Day Three, activity 1, p. 48).

**In the five groups** organized earlier, **encourage** learners to share with each other courageous steps of faith they have taken and what they learned from those experiences.

Step 5. Day 4 – The Lord Will Provide, Part 1

**State** that Abraham’s obedience was remarkable. Today, many believers in our world are being persecuted or even killed for their faith.

**Challenge** learners to share what they have learned about persecuted Christians in the world (Day Four, activity 1, p. 50).

**Pray**, thanking God for Christians worldwide who are living faithful lives in spite of persecution or possible death.

Step 6. Day 5 – The Lord Will Provide, Part 2

**Enlist** volunteers to read the following verses about the Lamb God provided: Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29,36; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

**Briefly express** that Levitical law prescribed a lamb to be sacrificed for atonement to God (Lev. 4:27-35).

**Discuss** if God’s telling Abraham to sacrifice his only son is a prophetic word about God’s future sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, to atone for our sins.

**Ask:** *How does God’s ultimate provision of His Son to atone for our sins teach us to trust Him, even when we can’t see His provision?*

**Guide learners** to list practical ways to focus on God’s provision, even when we can’t see it (Day Five, activity 1, p. 52).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Acknowledge** that sometimes it is easy to not think about God’s provision until we find ourselves at the end of what we consider to be our human or earthly provision. Yet, the Scripture teaches us to trust God as our provider in all of life.

**Close in prayer, thanking** God for the example of Abraham and Isaac and **asking** that we may be reminded to “lift up our eyes” to see God’s provision in our own lives.

After the Session

Pray for those in your class who may be struggling with trusting God’s provision.

Contact those who have been absent.

