

Teen Devotion

Year B – Lent 1

Rethinking Religion



One truth shared: Painful trials in life are time to hold God's promises even closer.

Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

Genesis 22:14

God, this really hurts, and I still trust you.

Her alarm clock didn't go off on time. It was his turn to bring donuts. They were stuck in a traffic jam. She spilled coffee on her clothes and had to go home to change. Their car just wouldn't start. A man had new shoes and got a blister and stopped for a Band-Aid. These people suffered that morning and then survived the attacks of September 11, 2001. They were blessed with more time on this world through a moment of "unbearable" discomfort and frustration that God provided them. Think about what God does through the tests of life.

It was a huge ask God gave to Abraham. A test to top every other test he had lived through. And God didn't tell him it was a test beforehand. "Go sacrifice your son, your only son, the one you love." Abraham didn't respond how we often do in trials... he didn't complain, yell, procrastinate, curse, or rebel. He held on to something God had taught him through every other moment of his life, "The Lord Will Provide." And that is exactly what happened at the very moment Abraham needed it the most. The Lord provided a ram as a sacrifice instead of his son. Abraham named the place where God spared his son Isaac that very promise he shares with you today, "The Lord Will Provide."

When God allows trials and tests in life, don't get angry or upset. Hold onto the promises of the God who provides his only Son, our Savior. His promises are strong enough to lead us through.

Are you having a test of faith? Don't worry! God will provide the answers for your faith!

Prayer: Dear Lord, it's really easy to get lost in the moment when things are not going my way and I suffer things not going the way I'd like. I'm glad you love me and never leave me. Strengthen my trust that you are the God who provides the best for my life and my soul. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

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Starting the Discussion: This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.

- Brainstorm a list of “First World Problems”—problems that only happen because we live in an affluent part of the world. (For example, my phone didn’t charge last night, my favorite show stopped streaming, my parents want me to load and unload the dishwasher every night....)
- Share why each issue feels like a problem but why someone in a third world country wouldn’t see it as a problem.

Connecting: This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.

We can joke about some of the “big problems of the day” that are really not that big of a deal... but what about serious, change your life kind of problems? How do you support someone going through some serious trials? Where do you turn for support?

Digging In: Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.

- Reread Genesis 22:1-18: Abraham Tested.
- Of all the things Abraham had lived through, what moments of this test would be especially hard to process? (v. 2,7,9)
- The Bible commends Abraham for his confidence in the promises of God. Which verses do you see Abraham’s faith in action? (v. 3 - got up early without hesitation; v. 5 - told his servant we, my son and I, will return; v. 8 - believed God will provide; v. 10 - loving God above all else)
- Put yourself in Abraham’s sandals: Would you respond like Abraham? Why or why not? What gets in the way of faith?
- What makes verse 14 a fitting summary for the section and a good memory verse for your week?
- How does verse 18 apply the promise of verse 14? (God would eventually provide our substitute in Abraham’s offspring, Jesus.)

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

- Discuss how you could use Genesis 22:1-18 to comfort a friend whose parents are getting a divorce (or a friend cut from a team, injured and unable to participate in activities, sick family member, loss of pet, etc.).
- Which aspects of today’s reading reminded you of Jesus? Why? (v. 2,8,13,14,18)