



GOD IS ABLE TO PROVIDE, Part 3
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

A couple of big questions, we all face in life is

- "Can I provide for myself and my family?"
- "Will their be enough?"

Once we leave home we all have a "financial epiphany" of what it cost to survive, much less to live as well as our parents provided for us.

As people of faith this life-long concern for provision becomes a question of God's ability to be involved in my financial life. We struggle with questions like, "Will God provide for me? Is He concerned with my finances? Can I trust Him with my money and what does that look like?"

I think the real question we all have to wrestle with is, "Am I my provider or is God my provider"

In part 3 of God Is Able, we want to discuss how to release and live in supernatural provision.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is **able to generously provide** all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

1. God is Able to Provide , because that's just who He is!

Just as it is in your heart, to generously provide for those you love, so God wants to generously provide for you

There are **8 main compound names of God** in the O. T. Each one of these Names are a revelation of the Character of God that were revealed the first time in the middle of a situation , an experience or event where God's character was made known to people

(Example)

Exo 17: Moses is at war against the Amalakites and God gives him a battle plan... and Moses discovers who God is.

- Jehovah-Nissi - "The Lord is my banner / victory"
- Jehovah-Rophe - "The Lord who Heals"
- Jehovah-M'Kaddesh - "the Lord Who makes you Holy "
- Jehovah-Shalom - "The Lord is Peace"
- Jehovah-Tsidkenu - "The Lord our righteousness"
- Jehovah-Shammah - "The Lord who is there"
- Jehovah-Rohi - "The Lord is my Shepherd"

Genesis 22:

The story of Abraham going to sacrifice his son Issac to God and God stops him and provides a ram for the sacrifice... This is the first time we hear God referred to as

- Jehovah-Jireh, (*yeer-eh*) "The Lord Provides."

In the place of the "test" God reveals Himself as our source of provision.

2. We have The Sure promise of Jesus

We live in a culture that feeds us worry and fear about our future, but this is what Jesus has to say about it.

Matthew 6: 24,25,31-33

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear.

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

(Gods promises are conditional)

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

“The supernatural provision of God is on the other side of faith-filled obedience”

Lets look at the Bible and see how God’s provision works... During a drought the prophet Elijah goes to a village...

1 Kings 17

⁸ Then the LORD said to Elijah, ⁹ “Go and live in the village of **Zarephath**, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”

Zaraphath = to test, the place of testing

Before we enter the test God has already sent instruction in the midst of it. We don't have to fear being left high and dry because even before we see the test God has prepared a plan of victory and provision.

¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?”

¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.”

¹² But she said, “I swear by the LORD your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.”

How much faith is required to walk in the provision of God? Only enough to be obedient to the word of God.

¹³ But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!”

She wasn't given an abundance of food but for three years, as she obeyed the word of God, she was provided for.

“The test always comes before the provision.

Let's look at her moment of decision and see what God was "NOT" asking her to do.

- GOD is not asking her for what she doesn't have
- God is not asking her for something that she is incapable of providing
- God is not asking in order to make her suffer or do without!!!!

God will not ask **you** to do anything outside of your abilities.

Let's look at her response to Gods instructions.

¹⁵ **So she did** as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her son continued to eat for many days. ¹⁶ There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

Faithful obedience opens the door for supernatural provision, but there will be a test involved.

When we pass the test of giving, we end up with a testimony of God's ability and faithfulness.

But you cant live off of someone else's testimony, you must have your own!

Look around... There is an opportunity to obey God in the middle of your test which will give you a testimony that empowers you to have strength and faith during the next test.

Biblical Principles for supernatural provision!

God's principles of provision do not work in isolation, these principles support each other so do them all.

1. Be diligent and work hard!

Ephesians 4:28

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the lazy *man* will be put to forced labor.

2. Set a high standard for your work performance.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, rather than for people.

3. Bring God the first and the best = the Tithe (first 10%)

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your crops;
¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

4. Share your resources with hurting people!

1 John 3:17-18

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? *(it's not!)*

¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Proverbs 19:17

If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD—
and he will repay you!

5. Get out of debt & stay out!

Proverbs 22:7

Just as the rich rule the poor,
so the borrower is a slave to the lender.

6. Diligently develop savings and investments

Proverbs 13:11

Dishonest money dwindles away,
but whoever gathers money **little by little makes it grow.**

Proverbs 21:20

The wise store up precious treasure and oil
but fools spend whatever they get.

7. Practice integrity in all financial matters

Titus 1:7 ... “never pursue dishonest gain”

Proverbs 11:3

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their dishonesty.

8. Invest in the eternal

Job. “Naked I came into the world, naked I will leave” (*you can't take it with you!*)

Matthew 6:20

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Discussion Questions

1. Before talking about our finances discuss why it is such a touchy subject?
2. Do you trust God to provide for you? What can you do this week to move yourself and your family in the direction of full trust and understanding of Gods provision for you?
3. Why do we struggle so much with fully trusting God to provide for us?
4. Why is the tithe such a big deal to God? Why is it such a big deal for us?
5. What does the revelation, "work as unto the Lord" mean to you? What can you do, that you are not currently doing, that will help to align your life with this principle?
6. If you were living a life according to 2 Corinthians 9:8, and had "plenty left over to share with others" who would you share with? What has God put in your heart to do for the hurt and under resourced?