

Genesis 22:1-14

Jehovah Jireh: How Knowing the Provider Changes Your Perspective

The Summit Church, *This Verse Changed My Life*

MPT: God tests Abraham to prove his faithfulness as provider and to prove the genuineness of Abraham's faith to Isaac.

MPS: Truly understanding God as Provider changes how we view God's promises and life's problems.

INTRODUCTION

How many verses do you think are in the Bible?

- More than 1k? 10k? 20k? 30k?

There are **31,102 verses in the Bible**. Some of you may have read **every single one** of them, while others have maybe **never seen a reason to open a Bible** in your entire life.

- But have you ever considered that all it takes is *one verse, one sentence, one word* to change your life forever?
- One famous pastor said, *"Books don't change people. Sentences do."* One sentence or paragraph may lodge itself so powerfully in our mind that its effect on us is life-changing when all else is forgotten.¹
- Ask any believer how they met God, and you'll often hear about a single **story**, a single **passage**, a single **verse**.
- To this day, God uses his Word to change **people**, to change **lives**, to change **circumstances**, and to change **eternities**.

I believe when God's Word goes forth it does not return empty, but accomplishes that which he purposes. *What do you think? You think he's still doing it with his Word?*

There are a handful of verses that, personally, I **always come back to**...you might call them my **"life verses."** They're the verses that have gotten me through **tough times**; verses that **encourage** me; verses that **remind me** of what's most important...ultimately they are verses that I feel like **God wrote specifically to and for me**.

Today, I'd like to invite you to **turn to Genesis 22** with me and look at one of my life verses together, because **I believe this passage has the potential to change your life the way it has mine**.

- Genesis 22 is the **story of Abraham and Isaac**...
- It's also the story where we are given one of the most famous names of God--Jehovah Jireh.
 - Fun fact: lot of folks ask me about my **tattoos**...

In order to understand the importance of Genesis 22 we need to know what's gotten us to this point...

CONTEXT

Genesis 1-11 sets up basic storyline of the Bible:

- **God created all things** and made humans to **rule the world** on his behalf while **living in relationship** with him.
- Instead of **rule** and **relationship**, humans choose **sin** and **rebellion** and the world spins out of control into **violence** and **death** all leading up to **rebellion** and **scattering at Babel in Genesis 11**.

¹ Piper

So the big question at this point is, “What is God going to do to rescue and redeem his world?” There is a **massive** problem, and it’s natural to wonder what God is going to do to fix it.

Insert Abraham. God promises to bless a man named Abraham with **land** and a **family** and make him into a **great nation** by giving him a son...and through this son the whole world w/b **rescued** and **blessed**, because through his son’s lineage would eventually come **Jesus the Messiah**.

This all *sounds* great, but at the time of the promise in Genesis 12, there are a few things that are a bit off:

- 1) Sarah, Abraham’s wife, is **unable to get pregnant**.
- 2) **They’re both super old**; Abraham is 75 at the time of this promise.

After **25 long years** of waiting, God, as he always does, makes good on his promise and Abraham and Sarah have a son.

- **Which is pretty insane, cuz by this point** Abraham and Sarah were **both 100** when Isaac was born...so, yes, **that year for their birthdays**, Abraham and Isaac **both got diapers**. Exciting stuff.

By the time we arrive to Genesis 22 this is one **happy little family**. They’ve **settled** in, **planted** roots, they’ve been **blessed**, Abraham and Sarah have their **miracle child**. Life is good.

That’s where our story picks up...

WALKTHROUGH

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Pause for a sec. Can I be real for a moment? Two quick things here:

First, it says God “tested” Abraham. This is simply not something we talk about a lot. In fact, what’s often (and unbiblically) taught is that if God loves me and I love him then **nothing bad will ever happen**...I’ll be **blessed** and **highly favored** and I’m promised **health, wealth, and happiness**. Whether we know it or not, **we often think “God’s love” and “comfortable life” are synonyms**. Friend, that could not be farther from the truth.

Second, up to this point Abraham has already shown **radical obedience** to God--in 10 chapters he’s left *everything* and *everyone* that was **comfortable**, he’s **followed faithfully**, and he’s **waited over 25 years** to see a promise fulfilled.

- Honestly , it seems like every time God has called on Abraham he’s asked him to **leave something good**, give up **something he cherishes**, or **attempt something impossible**.

At this point in life, if I were him and God came **knocking at my door** again, I’d be like, *“Babe, turn the lights and TV off! Act like we’re not home! This is the guy who’s always asking for stuff!”*

- I’d feel like Bilbo Baggins when Gandalf and the Dwarves come knocking. Bilbo tells them, *“Nope...I have **no use for adventures**. Nasty, disturbing, uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner!”*

And, sure enough, that's exactly what God does *again*...look at v2...

²He said, "Take your **son**, your **only son** Isaac, **whom you love**, (notice how the **narrative slows down** here. If we had been reading since Genesis 1 everything is moving so quickly, but Moses, the author here, **deliberately slows down** so we can feel the weight of what's being asked of Abraham) **and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."**

I just want to make sure we all understand what's at stake here. As if sacrificing your own child isn't bad enough--your **hopes**, your **dreams**, your **affections**--on top of that **your child's survival** is responsible for the eternal souls of the human race) Because through Isaac is going to eventually come (*let's see if y'all have been listening*).....**JESUS**. And God knocks at his door and says, "**Offer him up to me as a burnt offering!**"

The obvious question here is, "How in the world could God ask something like this? This makes God out to be **capricious**. This seems like an **evil, hypocritical, willy-nilly** God." That's an entire sermon in and of itself, but the simple answer is that **God knew he was never going to let Abraham kill Isaac**.

For now, the way you should read this is that Isaac represents the one thing you **love the most**...the thing you **treasure** the most...the thing you **trust** the most...the thing that **makes life worth living** for you.

And what God is asking Abraham *and you* is, "Are you prepared to love me **completely and unconditionally**? Are you willing to **give me access to what you love most**? Is there **anything** or **anyone** that you love, that if I asked you for, you would say 'no'?"

So I have to ask: *what's that thing for you?* What's the thing that if God asked you right this moment to offer it up to him you would tighten your grip on it?

- A **relationship**...**kids**...**ideal future plans**...where you **live**...where you **work**?

God says:

- Take that **kid** you love so much...
- Take that **career** you love so much...
- That **status** you love so much... "*Get off instagram for the rest of the year*" . . . those followers you love so much...
- Take that **good thing** you've turned into a **god-thing** and offer it up to God because, if you don't, you'll end up **destroying your own life and destroying the idol** because you will put on it a weight that it was never meant to hold.

Abraham is to offer his **son**. His **blessing**. His **future hope**.

³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. (Everyone talks about his **immediate obedience** in waking up early to do this...I think he was just **trying to avoid having to explain to his wife** where he was going or what he was doing!) **And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.** ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt

offering?”⁸ Abraham said, “**God will provide** for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ (this is my life verse) So Abraham called the name of that place, “**The LORD will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Sure, this is a story about faith...but ultimately it's a story about **God's great provision**; “the Lord will provide” is the **theme that dominates** Genesis 22. The hero of this story is not Abraham; it's God. God **provides**. God shows his **love**. God shows his **faithfulness**. God proves his **promises are true**. Jehovah Jireh: the Lord...will...PROVIDE.

In the original translation of Genesis, the Hebrew is more directly, “*The Lord will see to it.*” Think about that attribute--that name--of God. He is **seeing to it**...meaning **he sees you**. He **sees** what is going on in your life. He **knows** what you need. And wherever he sees, he is acting. God is actively, always, at every moment, forevermore **seeing** and **providing** and **acting** in your life.

I've not only come to know and cherish this *name* of God, but I've experienced it over and over again in my life. But I don't believe Jehovah Jireh is just *my* name for the Lord today; I believe the Spirit of God has a **personal word for many of you today, too**. **As sure as CFA is good**, I believe the Lord wants to **show himself** and **prove himself** as Provider today in your life, beginning right this moment.

With that in mind, I wanna share **three ways this name has changed my life--and ways it can change yours too.**

Jehovah Jireh means:

1) I can focus on God's promises even when I don't know the particulars.

Faith is often **doing what God says even when we don't have all the details**.

How many of you are planners? I feel like I'm a planner, but my wife is a whole different level of planner. Went to the beach last week // me packing...”put clothes in bag, close the bag, zip the bag, open the handle, walk downstairs...”

I don't wanna speak for her, but if she was Abraham this story is her worst nightmare:

- God said go. Where? “I'll show you.”
- God said I'll give you a son. How? “I'll take care of that. Just follow me.”
- God said sacrifice your son. Why? “I'll show you later. Just climb.”

For us planners, this is hard, but following God often means **doing what God says** even when we **don't have all the details**.

Now I need you to hear this very clearly: my message today is NOT, "Have more faith. Exercise more faith. Believe better. Trust more." If I'm simply telling you to conjure up more of something inside of yourself then you are **destined to be disappointed**. I'm not here to give a **pep talk to the fervency of your faith**; I'm here to make sure the **object of your faith is the Lord**...because then and only then will you experience **peace** even when you don't have all the **particulars**.

This is why Abraham was so **confident in his obedience**; because he knew who he was obeying he didn't have to know the entire what. It's fascinating, look back at v2...

²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Did you catch it? It's super important, cuz I think **this is exactly how God operates with us still today**. We want exactly where, when, how, and why...but he says, "Go to the land of Moriah." LAND...that could also be translated "region".

- "Go to the **region** I tell you, and once you get there **THEN I'll tell you which mountain**." Not the place, but the region. Don't miss this.
- Oftentimes we want the **final destination** but we're not willing to make the **first faith-step to show our dedication**.

This is haaaaaaard:

- How often does God give you a **direction** but doesn't let you know the **destination**?

- How often do you desire to know the **place** God is taking you but all he'll give you is **promises**?
- How often does God operate by saying, "Go to the **region**, THEN I'll give you the **specifics**"?²

Church, how much more would God show us if we did one thing: walk on the pathway of obedience. Listen, you don't get the **details** before **obedience**.

What Jehovah Jireh--what God--has provided for us is **his Word**. And his Word lays out principles and promises and parameters to live by...and often it's only when we choose to **focus on those promises** and **live by those parameters** and **obey even when we don't have all the details**...often it's **then and only then** that God will reveal to us the **place** he has destined for us.

It's right there in v4, ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

- You'll never see the place if you're not first in the region.
- Many of you have never **scaled the mountain** to experience God's great provision because you've never first taken the steps of obedient faith and ventured to the **region**. You want to know what 'Step 100' is going to look like, but God just wants you to take 'Step 1.'

This is how this can be life-changing for you: Because **it means you don't have to know the entire plan** cuz you know the **Provider** is with you every step of the way. It means **you don't have to have all the details to obey and trust** the Lord's promises that he'll **provide**.

² Owe this section to the insights of Alistair Begg in his sermon...

Knowing God as Jehovah Jireh means my faith doesn't have to be an "I feel like it" faith.

- I don't have to wait until I *feel like* **praying** or **worshipping** or **obeying**; my joy is made full *by* obeying. **John 14:15**, "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*" Joy comes from obedience and **believing God will provide even when I don't have all the details.**

Because the Lord is my Provider, I live by **promises**; not **explanations**. Because, as Jehovah Jireh, I believe he will **prove his promises** even when I don't have all the **particulars**.

*Friend, are you even in the **region of obedience** today? Where do you need to stop **obsessing over the details** and instead believe on God's promises **despite your lack of details**? Where has God called you to obedience now...where have you yet to take the first step yet because you've been waiting on the full details? What area of your life are you holding onto tightly and rationalizing, "Surely God wouldn't call me to give that up..."? If you're honest with yourself today, are you searching for a **place** when you haven't even obeyed in going to the **region**?*

- We have no right to expect the **provision of God** if we are not in the **will of God**. *Where do you find the will of God?...IN THE WORD OF GOD.*
- Friend, you have his promises! They are readily available at your fingertips. **Pray** them! **Pore** over them! **Proclaim** them!

Knowing God as Jehovah Jireh means I can trust his **promises** instead of obsessing over the **particulars**.

Jehovah Jireh means:

2) Problems are opportunities for God to prove his faithfulness.

From Abraham's perspective, what God was going to do **through Isaac** and what God was about to do **to Isaac** stood in **contradiction**. So Abraham faced a problem: *should he go the way of **human wisdom/rationale** or would he walk the **path of faith**?*

Remember, this was a **three day journey**. I can't imagine the **doubts** and **fears** and **questions** that filled his mind during that journey. Three days is plenty of time to **change your mind** and **turn around**...plenty of time to **devise another scheme**...plenty of time to **think of a loophole**...plenty of time to **conjure up a U-turn** and **justify why this makes ZERO sense**.

- Honestly, **how many of us have stepped out on a journey of faith only to turn back within "three days" because we've rationalized why it wouldn't make sense for God to call us to some form of radical obedience?** Can't say **amen** better say **ouch**.

We don't know a ton about that three day journey, what we do know, however, is that over the course of three days Abraham decided that **this problem was an opportunity** for God to **prove his faithfulness** and to **come through on his promises**.

- **Hebrews 11:19** tells us **"Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead."**

He didn't know **how** or **why** or **when** or **what**...but he **focused on God's promise** and **resolved in his heart and mind** that, "*Even if it doesn't make sense now, there's a promise God must fulfill through my son, so he must be able to raise him from the dead if he's commanding me to kill him; because that's who God is--he's provider.*"

To Abraham, **God's instructions** seemed to contradict **God's character and God's promises**. But, instead of disobeying God's instructions and doubting God's promises, Abraham was focused on who he knew God to be--**Jehovah Jireh**--so he got busy brainstorming how God might make it all work together for his good. And the solution he came up with was **resurrection**--*"Perhaps that is what God is going to do...after the sacrifice, God will raise him from the dead. Because God always keeps his promises."*

This is the assurance you can have in life if you come to know God as Jehovah Jireh--you can believe that God will work a **seemingly impossible problem** out and, in the end, **prove his faithfulness**.

*When life gets hard do you have a mind that **defaults to brainstorming the miraculous ways** God might work the situation out...or do you collapse into a pity party and rationalize your way out of radical obedience? Do you have that kind of **faith and assurance** in God today?*

- If you come to know God as Provider, then you'll have **peace** in believing that life's **problems** are **portals** for God to **prove his faithfulness**...because you're relying on **his promises** not on **your picture** of how you believe everything should turn out!³
- Now with that being said, it's important to **hold these holy brainstorms in our mind lightly**. Abraham, for instance, wasn't right in the way he imagined God working...often we won't be either. And that's okay! What I love about the Hebrews 11:19 verse is that **Abraham is commended for his faith EVEN THOUGH he made the wrong guess about what God would do next!**

³ Strassner, K. (2009). Opening up Genesis (pp. 97–98). Leominster: Day One Publications.

If God is Jehovah Jireh then it changes what I spend my **emotional capacity** on...it changes what I spend my **mental capacity** on...it changes **how I view problems**. Because I know that problems are not for the intention of seeing me **perish**, but are opportunities for God to **provide** and **work out the impossible**.

All Abraham knew was that (a) God planned the future around Isaac, and (b) God wanted him to sacrifice Isaac. **He couldn't reconcile the two, but he would obey anyway. That is faith.**

- And **what drove Abraham up the mountain** that day was not the strength of **his own faith**; it was not Abraham saying, *"I can do it!"*... but the strength of God's character and faithfulness: *"God is faithful...He is the Provider!"*

That means for those of you who are, TODAY, walking up that mountain with Isaac: I can't promise that things will be easy. I can't promise that it's all gonna break your way. What I can promise is that God has you. He's there with you. And he's promised to 'see to it.' You may not know how. You may not know when. But God is there, and God will provide.

You know, when we talk about Jehovah Jireh we always jump straight to v14...but maybe the more **impressive** and more **important** verse is v8. Because in verse 8 God hasn't "provided" anything, yet when Isaac asks about the lamb for the sacrifice (not realizing it's *him*...awkward) Abraham says, **"God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."** So they went both of them together.

You know what I believe Abraham did during his three day journey? I believe he rehearsed the **promises** of God, the **character** of God, the **faithfulness** of God. And when Isaac said, *"Ummm, dad, where is the*

offering?” all of Abraham’s **thoughts** and **ponderings** and **contemplations** and **faith** were summed up in three words, “**God will provide.**”

And can I just say something here specifically to the **parents**: Crawford Loritts says the greatest thing we can do as parents is to:

1. Heighten the Word of God and help your kids keep their minds filled with truth from Scripture.
2. Talk about God’s ability to step into every situation in our lives.

Verse 6 gives us an example of why this is so important. In verse 6 we read that **Isaac, not Abraham, carried the wood**. *Why’s this important?* Because that means **Isaac wasn’t a scrawny little boy; he was no chubby toddler**. This was a big, strapping teenager--some scholars say anywhere from age 16 to 34 actually--which means Isaac could’ve easily **outran, outwrestled, and flatout just got out** of this situation if he wanted to. Not sure about you, but I’m taking the **20 year old** over the **120 year old** if it comes down to a fist fight.

So now you get the picture of what was really happening here. Abraham was only able to tie Isaac down to the altar because Isaac was willing to be tied down! *And why was Isaac willing?* **I have to believe it’s because his father’s faith in the God of the impossible had rubbed off on him**. He believed what his father had said in verse 8: “**God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.**” And if God chose him to be the lamb, then God knew best!

Parents, hear me very clearly: **kids like that do not come out of nowhere.**

- Kids like that don’t come out of families that are **thoroughly moral** but only **marginally Christian**.

- Kids like that come from families where **Christ has come to have first place in everything!**
- Kids like that come from families who **follow the Holy Spirit** and trust in God’s **promises** even when they don’t have all the **particulars**.
- Kids like that come from families who have faith that **problems in life are opportunities for God to prove his faithfulness and provision**.

You see, **young Isaacs** don’t come out of nowhere. Isaac’s come from parents **whom they observe** obeying the Lord even when it is tough. They come from parents who believe—and live as though they believe—that the Lord will provide!⁴

In fact (and I just can’t get over this part...) when God chose to “test” Abraham, **God wasn’t proving Abraham’s faith to God**; God already knew his heart. **Neither was God proving Abraham’s faith to Abraham**; Abraham already knew his own heart.

- *So who was this test for? Who needs to be convinced of Abraham’s faith?* Isaac. The only person present who didn’t have access to the confirmed heart of faith in his dad.
- Moms and dads: you have such an incredible opportunity to demonstrate faith during **crisis, hardship, and fire**.
 - When hard times come you don’t curse God and stop going to church; run toward him.
 - *What is your life teaching your kids about God’s character? Is he truly **Lord of your household**? Does your schedule say that **Jireh** is more important than the **gym**? Do you spend more time discussing the **Messiah** or **material things**?*

⁴ Strassner, K. (2009). Opening up Genesis (pp. 93–94). Leominster: Day One Publications.

- I'll say one more time: Young Isaac's don't come out of families that are **thoroughly moral** but only **marginally Christian**...they come from families where Christ--Jehovah Jireh--has come to have first place in everything.

CONCLUSION (VAMP)

Jehovah Jireh means:

3) No matter what happens in this life, my eternity is secure.

At the end of the day, this is not a story about **Abraham and his faith**; it's not a story about **Isaac and whether he lives or not**; it's a story about Jesus. You see, something more important than Abraham's impressive obedience is demonstrated to us here...it was God's commitment to us.

Just as Abraham was about to drop the knife on Isaac, at the last moment, God shouts STOP and supplies a sacrifice--a ram. So, v14, ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "**The LORD will provide**"; as it is said to this day, "**On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.**"

Man, I just love this. Abraham names this anonymous mountain-top not by a name that will remind him of his **problem**, but by a name that proclaims God's **provision**--Jehovah Jireh.

- He didn't name it something about his **trials** or even about his **own obedience**; he named it to **reflect God's faithfulness and provision**.⁵

I told you earlier Jehovah Jireh is directly translated, "The Lord will see to it." IOW, yes, God will provide *and he'll see to it*...and, in seeing to it, **will be seen**. He sees a need; he supplies the need; and in supplying the need he is seen as having seen to our need. He's our provider.

The lesson for both Abraham and for us is frustratingly simple: God provides at our worst point of need, which should beg the question "*If God will provide even this, then what else would he not provide?*"

- **Romans 8:32** answers that question, "*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*"

See, Isaac is a picture of the sacrifice God would one day make on our behalf, because of our sin, with Jesus. Think about it:

- Isaac and Jesus were both **sons of a promise** given many years before their birth; they were both **born of miracles**; and they were both **firstborns loved by their fathers**.
- Isaac and Jesus both went on a **three-day journey to arrive at their place of sacrifice** (Gen. 22:4) and carried their **sacrificial wood on their own back** (Gen. 22:6, John 19:17).
- Isaac and Jesus each **willingly laid down their lives to their father/Father**.
- Isaac and Jesus each **asked a question** at the moment they were to be sacrificed (Gen. 22:7, Matt. 27:46).
- Isaac was **brought back from the dead figuratively** while Jesus Christ was **brought back from death literally** (Hebrews 11:19, Matt. 28).⁶

Abraham promised Isaac that a lamb would be provided...friend, Jesus Christ is that lamb...and that's where the similarities b/t Isaac and

⁵ <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/jehovah-jireh-the-lord-will-provide.html>

⁶ <https://davidkreklau.wordpress.com/2014/02/02/abraham-and-isaac-shadows-of-a-future-christ/>

Jesus end. Cuz for Jesus there was no ram in the thicket...for Jesus there was no substitute.

God the Father went through with what Abraham the father didn't have to--God sacrificed his Son, his one and only Son, for the sake of sinners. **John 3:16**. **God did not spare his own Son but delivered him up on a cross for us all...for all of our sin...for all of our shame...for all of our guilt...for all of our doubt.** For Jesus there couldn't be a substitute because Jesus *was* our substitute. He took *your* place on the cross; he took *my* place on the cross. He **was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

You need to hear this because no matter how much faith we have, no matter how much good we do, no matter how many times we attend church, we cannot erase the fact that we're sinners and we stand guilty before a holy God. Which means, apart from God, we sit in the place of Isaac in verse 10--with God's knife of judgment raised above us, ready to come down on our throats as a just penalty for our sins against his holiness and justice.

But God showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. . . For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Sin, like anything else, cannot be in two places at once: if God took my sin, and laid it on his Son, then it cannot be on me any more. If Jesus bore the wrath of God for me, I cannot bear that wrath.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son to bear the wrath we deserved...

He *gave*. He *provided*. We needed a Savior, he sent his Son. Jehovah Jireh. And now we give glory to the **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**⁷

But we can only have him if we, like Abraham, trust that "God will provide the lamb." We can only have him if we, like Abraham, stop trying to create our own solutions and submit ourselves to God's. Have you done that? If not, then today you can know who God is and how he has provided, and you can believe and behold "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"⁸

BOW HEADS

- 1) Those who don't know Jesus...know that God has provided your greatest need.
- 2) Those who need to know God *today* as Provider.
 - a) Pain. Loss. Health. Hurt.

[Ask these groups to stand... those around to pray for them...close in prayer...]

⁷ John 1:29

⁸ Strassner, K. (2009). *Opening up Genesis* (pp. 93–94). Leominster: Day One Publications.