

God Our Provider Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is something that tends to cheer you up, no matter the situation?
2. Would you rather receive cash or a gift card as a gift? Explain.

Read the following passage: Psalm 145.

In many ways, the story of the people of God is one long and surprising story of God's provision. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, and then God used Joseph to save their lives. Moses instructed the Israelites to ask their neighbors for silver, gold, and clothing, and the Egyptians gave it to them. God worked through a young woman from Moab (one of Israel's enemies) to restore everything to a widow named Naomi. In the midst of a severe drought, God sent Elijah to a starving widow for provision. After Jesus was born, Magi from a pagan nation opened their treasures to Joseph and Mary. Jesus fed a crowd of over 5,000 people with the meager supplies of one young boy. Jesus' ministry was sustained by a group of women including a woman who had been plagued by demons and a woman whose husband worked in the court of Herod Antipas, who wanted to kill Jesus!

There are no impossible situations for God. He is always able to get the necessary resources to his people.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Can you think of any times when your needs were met in an unexpected way? Explain.
2. Do you have trouble trusting that God will provide for you? Explain.
3. Read Romans 8:31-32. What is God's posture toward us? How do you think this reality impacted how Paul walked out his life and mission?
4. Read Matthew 6:9-13. Do you pray specifically for provision? Why or why not? Are we being greedy when we ask God for provision? Explain.
5. What's the difference between trusting God for provision and living unwisely, hoping God will clean up our financial mess?
6. Receiving provision from God often involved obeying specific instructions. The Israelites were required to take the bold step of asking their Egyptian neighbors for valuable items. Elijah had to go to the house of a widow in Sidon and ask for something to eat. Peter and his fellow fishermen had to cast out the nets again. Is there anything related to provision that you feel that God is requiring from you,

based either on your understanding of the Scriptures or a specific prompting by God's Spirit? What might hinder us from receiving provision from God?

7. Are there any ways you think God may want to use you as an answer to somebody else's prayers in this season of your life? Explain.
8. What is one thing you can do this week to begin (or continue) to trust God for provision?

Pray