Lesson 6: God Is My Provider

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah Jireh; Through faith in Jesus, you can experience God's provision for you in every area of your life.

Bible Story: Abraham and Sarah (Jehovah Jireh)

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1–4, 17, 22:14–17; Galatians 3:13–14

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Write "Jehovah Jireh" on a sticky note and place it under a child's chair.
- Soft ball or object to toss
- 5 nametags: Abram, Abraham, Sarai, Sarah, and Isaac
- Picture of a ram

Classroom Prep:
Make a sign "Jehovah Jireh" to place in the room and each week add the new name of God.

Engage:

Before class, write *Jehovah Jireh* on a sticky note and place it under a child's chair.
We are all given a name when we are born. Call on several children to tell their full names. **Sometimes people have nicknames that family or friends lovingly give.** Let some children share their nicknames. **Sometimes people earn a special name that helps us know more about them, such as doctor, president, or Mrs. tells us someone is married. Look under your chairs to find one of God's special names.** Hold up the note and read the name. **Today, we will begin learning about the seven special names of God. Each name shows God's true nature and points to our redeemer, Jesus Christ. We find each name introduced in the Old Testament**

and fulfilled in the life of Jesus. We call these "redemptive names" because each name shows how Jesus redeems or fixes our relationship with God. The promises of these names are available to believers through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The special name of Jehovah Jireh means "God provides." Place the sign "Jehovah Jireh" on a wall in the room.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the memory verse. Have the group form a large circle, or if your group is large, use two circles. Hand the object to be tossed to a child. Have that child say the first word of the verse, and toss the object to another child, who will say the next word. Continue until the verse has been completed. Repeat several times.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bible Story:

Let's look carefully at God's relationship with a man, who had his name changed by God! Read Genesis 12:1–3. **Who was God talking to?** (Abram) Invite a boy to come up and wear the name tag, Abram. **What did God promise Abram?** (God promised to make him a great nation and bless him so that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him.) **That is an amazingly huge promise to make. The only thing Abram had to do was obey God and go. Where was Abram supposed to go?** (Abram was told to go to a land that God would show him.) **Imagine your family packing up everything in your house and sitting in the moving van with no idea where you're going. Do you think it was easy or hard to leave his home and family and trust that God would show him where to go?** Allow time for responses. Read Genesis 12:4. **Abram did obey God's promise and left. Notice he was 75 years old. That is probably the age of some of your grandparents.**

Read Genesis 17: 1–8. **How old was Abram?** (99) **That is probably the age of your great-grandparents. How many years have passed since God promised to make him a great nation and bless all people through him?** (24 years) **What new name did God give Abram?** (Abraham) Change the nametag, Abram, to Abraham. **What did that new name mean?** (father of many nations) **Every time Abraham heard his name, he was reminded of God's promise to that God made him a father of many nations. These next verses will tell us a huge problem that made it seem impossible for God's promise to come true.**

Read Genesis 17: 15–17. **God also changed Abraham's wife's name.** Invite a girl to wear the Sarai nametag. **What was her new name?** (Sarah) Change the nametag to Sarah. **What promise did God make about Sarah?** (She would be the mother of nations, and kings of people

would come from her.) **How old was Abraham's wife?** (90) **Ninety years old is way too old to have a baby, so Abraham reacted by laughing. Do you think God forgot about Sarah's age?** (No.) **Only God can promise and do things that seem impossible for people to do.**

Read Genesis 17:19. **God told Abraham again that Sarah would have a son. What name did God say their son would be called?** (Isaac) **A covenant is a promise. God promised to keep His promise by blessing Abraham and his son. The next year, Sarah gave birth to a boy, just like God had promised. They used the name God gave the boy, Isaac, which means "to laugh." Now we see the first impossible thing happened exactly like God said it would. Do you think that encouraged Abraham to believe the rest of God's promise about blessing all people through him and his children?** Allow time for responses.

Read Genesis 22: 2–8. **In the Old Testament, they made burnt offerings which meant an animal was sacrificed or killed and that was burned as an offering to God. Abraham obeyed God when God told him to take Isaac and make an offering. What did Isaac realize was missing?** (There was no lamb for the sacrifice.) **Do you think God forgot to tell Abraham to bring a lamb?** (No. God doesn't forget anything.) **What did Abraham say that shows he had faith in God providing a sacrifice?** (God will provide for Himself the lamb.)

Read Genesis 22:9–13. **Abraham continued to believe God would provide even as he prepared his own son to be a sacrifice. We know that God is life and loves human life and would never ask a human father to sacrifice his son. Abraham knew God's true nature was good and trusted God to provide.** Show the picture of a ram. **An angel called out to Abraham and suddenly Abraham saw a ram with its horns caught in a bush. God had provided the sacrifice just as Abraham knew He would!** Lead the children in a cheer.

Read Genesis 22:14–18. **Notice that Abraham named the place, "The Lord will provide," not "The Lord might possibly provide." This shows that Abraham knew the true nature of God as a faithful provider. The angel reminded Abraham of God's promise of blessing that was on him and his son and all of the relatives born after them. The people of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's obedience to God.**

God's special name, Jehovah Jireh, was found in this Old Testament story of Abraham, but we see that in the New Testament, it mentions another sacrifice and Abraham's blessing. Read Galatians 3:13–14. **God provided the sacrifice for sin through His Son, Jesus, dying on the cross. God was the only Father who sacrificed His Son, and all of the people were blessed with salvation through Him. Abraham's blessing now belongs to all people, not just his relatives. When we believe in Jesus to take away our sins and give us a relationship with God, we become part of Abraham's family and get his blessings also! God promised to provide, and He hasn't broken His promise yet—and He never will! God will provide because He is good, not because we are good. God's true nature is to provide, and we can trust Him to be our provider this week and forever.**

Bible Story Questions:

- **What special name for God tells us something about Him? (**Jehovah Jireh tells us God will provide.)
- **What name changes happened in today's Bible story?** (God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah.)
- **How did God provide a sacrifice for Abraham?** (God provided a ram that caught its horns in a bush.)
- **How did God provide a sacrifice for our sins?** (He sacrificed His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.)
- **How are we part of Abraham's family?** (When we believe in Jesus to take away our sins and give us a relationship with God, we become part of Abraham's family and get his blessings also**!)**
- **How has God provided for you or your family?** Allow time for responses. Affirm each child that God provided because God is good, and providing is part of who God is.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- **God promises to provide for our needs but often blesses us with things we want. Let's play a game to help us know the difference between something we want to have and something we need to have.** Have the children stand in an open area. As you name something from the Want or Need list, the children will do an action to show whether they think it is a Want (jump and wave arms) or a Need (clap while stomping twice). Then, select a child to explain why they felt it was a Want or a Need.
  Examples:
  Want list: expensive new bike, cool sunglasses, name brand sports shoes, video games, favorite fast food, designer clothes, a special breed of dog, go to the theater to see a new movie
  Need list: food, water, clothes, parents, house, shoes, transportation

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids: ★
  Assign each person a partner. As you read one of the following scenarios, have the partners come up with three different ways God could provide in the situation. Have the pairs share their responses. Continue this process with each scenario to build confidence that God can provide for our needs in many different ways.
  Scenarios: a parent loses a job, a family member is in the hospital, and the family car gets wrecked

Craft Ideas:

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Draw a simple outline of a ram on a paper and make copies. Have children glue cotton balls on the ram. Retell the story how God provided the ram for Abraham. Encourage children to look at the picture and say, “God is my provider.”

Worksheet:
Distribute crayons or markers and have the children color the shapes with a dot to reveal the word “Jireh.” Read the first scenario, have the kids write down how God might provide, and share their answers in small groups. Continue with the second scenario. Encourage them to watch this week for ways God provides. On the back of their papers, have them choose one of the scenarios to draw a picture or write a story about how God might provide. Children could also come up with new scenarios to share with others.
Scenario #1: At school, you discovered that you forgot your lunch.
Scenario #2: Your friend told you his bike was stolen.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I trust God to provide for all of my needs.
God provides all I need to do all that He has called me to do.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
A segment of church culture believes in working and earning God's help and provision. God provides because He is good. He knows our needs and provides all we need. Our biblical worldview reminds us not to fear because God is our provider. Encourage the children to show they trust God to provide for them and their families this week by praying and trusting God with any fears or problems. People need to hear the testimonies of God’s provision to help them realize that God is real and that He provides.

Missions Connections:
In other cultures, gods don't provide blessings without a sacrifice given. Our God provides because He loves and is always good. Pray that the testimonies of God’s provision will turn the hearts of unbelievers to trust in God.

Family Connection:
Look through family photos and share pictures of situations where God provided for you or someone you know. Talk about how God's blessings to Abraham continue to be seen in your family. End with a family prayer time of thankfulness for the many ways God provides for your family.

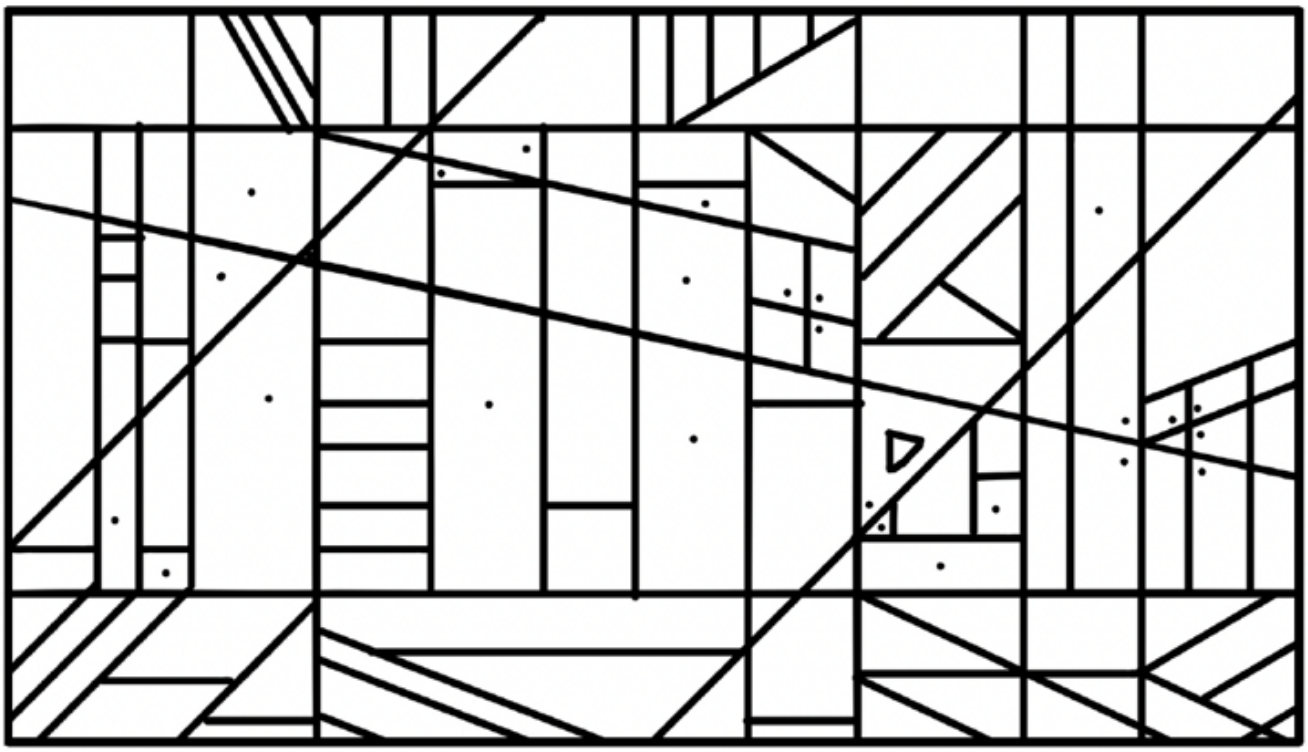
Prayer Points:
Children shouldn't view prayer as a wish list for God to fulfill to make life easy. Remind children to start their prayer by focusing on praising God and thanking Him for His goodness in providing in the past. This builds faith that God can and will provide for today's needs. As children share their prayer requests, allow time for others to share briefly how God provided for a similar need. This builds confidence that God does provide and will be faithful to do it for this child also. Next week ask the children to share how God provided for them. As they share testimonies of God's provision, it encourages everyone to trust God to provide!

God is my provider

Name _____

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Color the shapes with a dot to reveal a hidden word.



Finish the sentences.

Scenario #1 At school, you discovered that you forgot your lunch.

God could provide by _____

_____.

Scenario #2 Your friend told you his bike was stolen.

God could provide by _____

_____

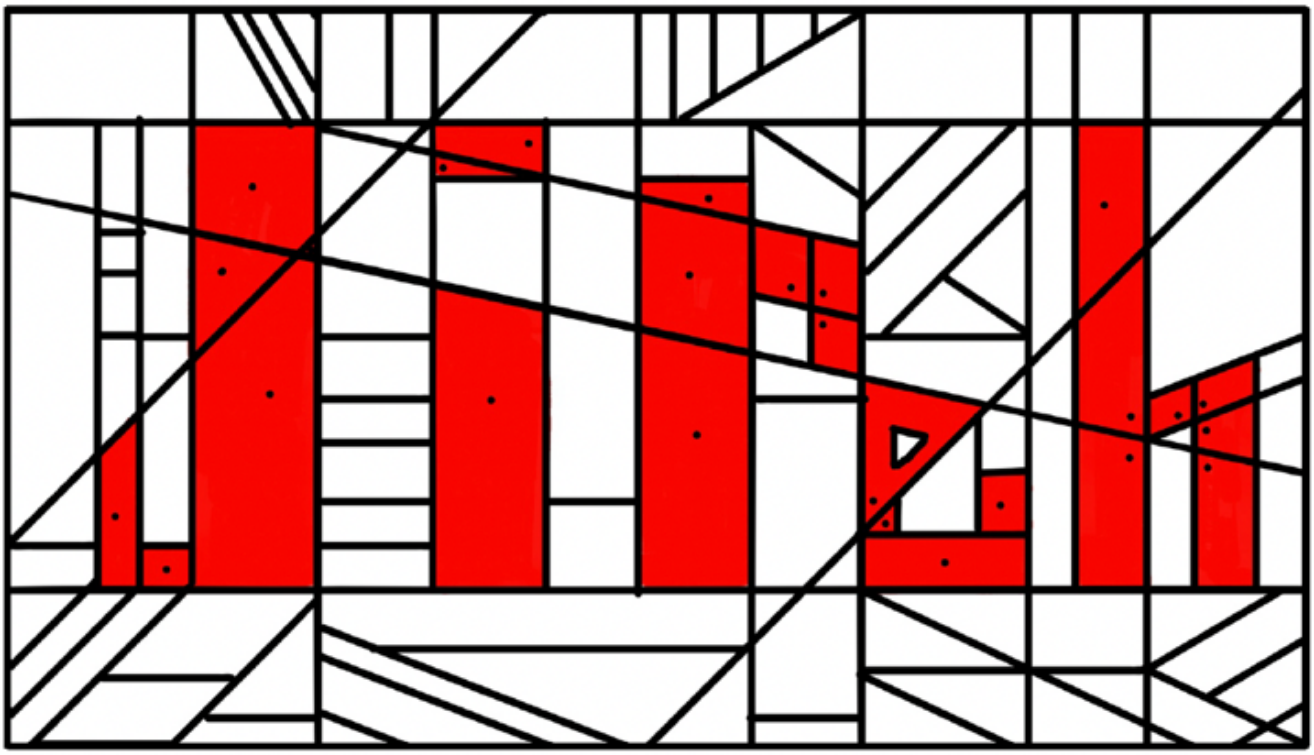
BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write a story about how God might provide for one of the scenarios. You can also write a new scenario and answer how God might provide for it.*

God is my provider

ANSWERS:

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Color the shapes with a dot to reveal a hidden word.



Finish the sentences.

Scenario #1 At school, you discovered that you forgot your lunch.

God could provide by _____

_____.

Scenario #2 Your friend told you his bike was stolen.

God could provide by _____

_____

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write a story about how God might provide for one of the scenarios. You can also write a new scenario and answer how God might provide for it.*

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