

GOD PROVIDES: INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS GOD PROVIDES?

Throughout history, people have wrestled with the concept of trusting God to meet their needs versus relying on the world. In the Bible, God reveals how He wants to be our ultimate Provider. This film learning experience offers a journey through six short films and a printed Companion Guide (one per family).

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The learning experience is more than short films. Along with a printed Companion Guide, each step is carefully crafted to guide, support, and challenge along the way. We will engage these key areas:

- Our heads – as we view and discuss the films
- Our hearts – as we reflect on the personal implications of these stories
- Our hands – as we apply our discoveries through meaningful activities

THE FILMS

Through the films, timeless principles will leap off the pages of Scripture and into modern lives to teach how to live faithfully with trust in God—the ultimate Provider. [Deuteronomy 8:18a](#)

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

We will meet each week to watch a film, discuss the ramifications, and talk through how we could wear those principles in our lives. Here is our schedule:

DATE	LESSON	TOPIC	PASSAGE	SPEAKER
January 6	Introduction	Who, What, When, Where, Why	Various	Jim Fleming
January 13	Widow and Oil	What Do You Have?	2 Kings 4:1-7	Jim Fleming
January 20	Jeremiah's Call	God's Design for Hope	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Terry Bolden
January 27	Abram's Reward	Making Major Life Choices	Genesis 12:1-15:6	Jim Fleming
February 3	Abraham and Isaac	Mine or His?	Genesis 22:1-18	Jim Fleming
February 10	Rich Man and Lazarus	My Heart Decisions Affect Eternity	Luke 16:19-31	Keith Chrisman
February 17	Lifted Up	My Hope for the Future	John 3:1-17	Jim Fleming

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY

WHO DOES WHAT AROUND HERE? (RESPONSIBILITIES)

1. Breakfast Coordinator (insures breakfast is present) (Lead: Trish Bolden, Backup: Trisha McGarvey)
2. Prayer Coordinator (distributes prayer requests) (Lead: Darla Skinner, Backup: TBD)
3. Inreach Leader (invites missing members) (Lead: Albert Whiting, Backup: TBD)
4. Party Planner (plans parties and organizes meals) (Lead: TBD, Backup: TBD)
5. Teacher (teaches/leads class) (Lead: Jim Fleming, Backup: Various)

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT? (PHILOSOPHY)

1. **1 Corinthians 14:40: Let all things be done decently** [properly, appropriately] **and in order** [place and time].
2. Johari Window

WHAT ARE WE EXPECTED TO DO? (EXPECTATIONS) MATTHEW 6:33A

1. Learner's: _____, vision, and prayer
2. Teacher's: _____, discussion, and feedback

WHEN DO WE MEET?

9:07 am every Sunday morning (except March ____, 2013, December 22, 2013, and December 29, 2013)

WHERE ARE WE GOING? (SCHEDULE)

January - February	God Provides
March	Doing a Great Work (Nehemiah)
April-August	Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians
September - October	<i>Everybody's Normal 'Till You Get to Know Them</i> (tentative)
November - December	Totally Saved (tentative)

WHY ARE WE HERE?

1. Substantive interaction with _____
2. Meaningful _____ with Christians
3. Ministry training with _____

SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR 2013

The Bible (NKJV), *The Purpose Driven Life* (Warren), *Living by the Book* (Hendricks), *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* (Ortberg), all of the Star Wars and Star Trek movies, Duck Dynasty, The Big Bang Theory, and ACS

GOD PROVIDES: WIDOW AND OIL

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

We all experience difficult and often painful circumstances as a result of our actions, other people's actions, or things beyond our control. Major life issues—such as the death of a loved one, loss of employment, serious illness, financial pressures—can be overwhelming.

The God of the Bible, whose ways are far beyond what we can think or imagine, invites us to humble ourselves and turn to Him for help. When we do, He provides answers to our deepest needs. Although God cares about our immediate needs, He is even more concerned about our relationship with Him. He desires for each of us to put our faith and trust in Him and be attentive to His direction.

During this session, we'll learn about a woman who faced an agonizing dilemma. She had meager resources, a seemingly impossible situation and no good solutions. But she did the only thing she could think to do—and her obedient faith and willingness to follow godly counsel led to incredible blessing from God.

READ THE TEXT: 2 KINGS 4:1-7

ELISHA AND THE WIDOW'S OIL

1 A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves [Adam Clarke: Children . . . were considered the property of their parents, who had a right to dispose of them for the payment of their debts. And in cases of poverty, the law permitted them, expressly, to sell both themselves and their children; Exodus 21:7, and Leviticus 25:39]."

2 So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar [_____, small oil jug] of oil [Coffman: Cooking oil does not appear at all in this narrative. Our modern equivalent . . . is a very desirable and expensive type of perfume]."

3 Then he said, "Go, borrow [ask, borrow, enquire, consult, seek] vessels [receptacles] from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few [to make small, make few, diminish, to give _____.] **4** And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels [Pour in to how many?], and set aside the full ones."

5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her [Did Elisha tell her to engage her sons?]; and she poured *it* out. **6** Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "*There is not another vessel.*" So the oil ceased [stood still, stopped moving, ceased, held its ground]. **7** Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay [complete, finish, make safe, make whole/good, restore, pay] your debt; and you *and your sons live on the rest* [_____, remains, what was left behind]."

EXAMINE THE FILM

Before we watch the first DVD, a disclaimer. The Scriptures _____. Every time. If there is the slightest variance between the text and the DVD, the Scriptures are right.

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

APPLICATION (WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. **Maclaren: You have God in the measure in which you desire Him.**
2. God has the answer for any problem and often engages _____ in the solution
3. Extreme poverty or wealth does not wipe away my debts
4. God provides

PERSONALIZATION (WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT?)

1. Go to God's word (and God's people) for counsel and obey
2. Use what is in my _____
3. Pay my debts
4. Test Him

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

We will meet each week to watch a film, discuss the ramifications, and talk through how we could wear those principles in our lives.

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January 20	Jeremiah's Call	God's Design for Hope	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Terry Bolden
January 27	Abram's Reward	Making Major Life Choices	Genesis 12:1-15:6	Jim Fleming
February 3	Abraham and Isaac	Mine or His?	Genesis 22:1-18	Jim Fleming
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GOD PROVIDES: JEREMIAH'S CALL

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S DESIGN FOR HOPE

More than 2,500 years ago, exiled Jews from Judah were eking out an existence in Babylon. No doubt some remembered how King Nebuchadnezzar had besieged Jerusalem in 605 B.C. and carried some of Judah's gifted young men into exile. Later, more Babylonian troops transported additional Jews from Judah to Babylon and destroyed Jerusalem.

God caused these events because He loved His people too much to abandon them to their sinful ways. He used their hardships to discipline and teach them to obey Him. Only then, He knew, could they find true hope and purposeful living.

In Babylon, false prophets prophesied "*false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds*" (Jeremiah 14:14 NIV) and evidently told the exiles not to serve the king of Babylon and his people.

God, however, had other plans. As illustrated in this session's film, through the prophet Jeremiah God spoke encouraging and unusual words that required the exiles to exercise great faith in God and to do something unprecedented for exiles at that time in history to do.

READ THE TEXT: JEREMIAH 29:1-14

EXAMINE THE FILM

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion (specifically question #3)

1. **What lessons did you learn from this film?**
2. **Prior to the arrival of Jeremiah's message, the exiles must have been tempted to think that life would never return to "normal." How might their feelings compare with those of people who face difficult situations today?**
3. **Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 aloud (see the shaded box). What is significant about the phrase, "I know . . ."? During difficult times, can we always recognize God's ongoing work in our lives and the world around us? Explain your answers. In these verses, what did God ask the exiles to do in order to realize His gift of hope and a future? What does this prophecy of Jeremiah reveal about the heart of God?**
4. **God told His people to settle where they were, build houses, marry, and plant gardens. He didn't rescue them from their problems immediately. What can we learn from this?**
5. **Imagine being the exiles who experienced the Babylonians' savagery. Now God has commanded them to put down roots in Babylon, seek its peace and prosperity, and even pray for it! What emotions do you think surfaced when they understood God's command? Why?**

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

1. **How does a person "seek God with all of his or her heart"? (See Jeremiah 29:13.) Are you doing this? Read these verses before answering: Proverbs 3:5; 4:23-27; Joshua 22:5; Matthew 22:34-37; and Colossians 3:23.**
2. **Do you believe that God hears your prayers, cares about your situation, and wants you to pray for your governmental leaders? What is He teaching you these days about listening to His voice?**
3. **When you feel trapped in difficult circumstances and are losing hope, how might you benefit from remembering God's promise to give the Jewish exiles hope and a future?**

APPLICATION (WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. _____ things happen
2. Answers are always _____
3. Prayer is always _____

PERSONALIZATION (WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT?)

1. Don't _____
2. Don't _____
3. Don't _____

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

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January 27	Abram's Reward	Making Major Life Choices	Genesis 12:1-15:6	Jim Fleming
February 3	Abraham and Isaac	Mine or His?	Genesis 22:1-18	Jim Fleming
February 10	Rich Man and Lazarus	My Heart Decisions Affect Eternity	Luke 16:19-31	Keith Chrisman
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GOD PROVIDES: ABRAM'S REWARD

INTRODUCTION: MAKING MAJOR LIFE CHOICES

Under God's command, Abram left his home and journeyed to a new land, Canaan, with all his goods, his family, and his nephew Lot. The contrasts between the wise choices of Abram and the foolish choices of Lot provide valuable lessons for us today—contentment with less versus wanting more; loving people versus loving things; and giving versus taking.

Abram illustrated a loving attitude through his care for his nephew Lot, a willingness to take less by allowing Lot to make first choice when dividing the land, and a generous spirit by giving a tenth of the goods he collects in battle to Melchizedek, "priest of God Most High" ([Genesis 14:18](#)).

Lot's superficial decision to choose the beautiful land near Sodom becomes his undoing. Yet Abram displays great trust in God, pursuing the armies of the invading kings with relatively few men in order to rescue Lot.

Like Abram, are you generous? Do you trust God, or is fear preventing you from releasing control of your life to Him? Are you willing to seek the counsel necessary in order to make wise decisions? Let the examples you see in this film encourage you to bring your giving, trust, and decision-making in line with the principles of God's Word.

READ THE TEXT: GENESIS 12:1-15:6

EXAMINE THE FILM

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion

1. **How was Abram's trust in God, love for people, and generosity demonstrated . . .**
 - In his choice to leave his home country?
 - During his discussion with Lot about where to live?
 - In his response to learning about Lot's capture?
 - In his dealings with Melchizedek?
2. **What characteristics did Lot exhibit in decision-making? What consequences resulted? When we talk with God and seek His direction, how do our choices—and our underlying motivations—change?**

3. **What do you think God was emphasizing when He said to Abram, "I am your shield, your very great reward"? (See Genesis 15:1 NIV) In which area(s) of life do you need God to be your "shield"? Why? How highly do people you know value their relationship with God? Do they value Him more highly than any other reward? Why or why not?**
4. **What things tend to hinder us from expressing our deepest longing to God, just as elderly Abram asked God for a child of his own?**

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

1. **Which of Abram's characteristics would you like to demonstrate more often? Why?**
2. **Consider this Scripture passage: "Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16 NASB). Like Lot, could you be making unwise choices that hinder your opportunities to serve the Lord? What might they be?**
3. **Why is it hard to seek God's "reward" rather than the alluring things of this world?**

APPLICATION (WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. _____ > more
2. _____ > possessions
3. _____ > hoarding
4. God provides

PERSONALIZATION (WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT?)

1. Intentionally choose less
2. Intentionally choose people
3. Intentionally choose generosity
4. Trust Him (He will show up in some strange places—like Melchizedek did)

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

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DATE	LESSON	TOPIC	PASSAGE	SPEAKER
February 3	Abraham and Isaac	Mine or His?	Genesis 22:1-18	Jim Fleming
February 10	Rich Man and Lazarus	My Heart Decisions Affect Eternity	Luke 16:19-31	Keith Chrisman
February 17	Lifted Up	My Hope for the Future	John 3:1-17	Jim Fleming

GOD PROVIDES: ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

INTRODUCTION: MINE OR HIS?

This session highlights the true story of Abraham and Isaac, his son. Often called “the Father of Faith,” Abraham faced a difficult test when God commanded him to make an unusual and—based on human standards—seemingly nonsensical and cruel sacrifice. God used this test of obedience to see whether or not Abraham trusted Him fully and would, in faith, obediently make everything he had available for God’s use.

Today we each have a choice. Will we listen to God’s voice—through the Bible, prayer, and the wisdom of godly people? Will we not only seek God’s will for our lives but obey Him faithfully—whether or not we know the final outcome? So much of our culture focuses on the “It’s-all-about-me” mentality and demands to know final outcomes ahead of time.

Before facing this hard test, Abraham had already experienced a dynamic relationship with the living God, who told him to move his family to a new land. During all circumstances, God always fulfilled His previous promises to Abraham—including giving Abraham and his wife, Sarah, their beloved son, Isaac.

Like Abraham, we have opportunities to believe God—and that includes having faith that He will keep His promises and allowing Him to carry out His will for our lives. As we trust and obey Him, we will experience His peace and contentment regardless of our outward circumstances.

READ THE TEXT: GENESIS 22:1-18

ABRAHAM’S FAITH CONFIRMED

To help connect the dots from last week’s lesson and to provide context for this week’s lesson, read [Genesis 15-21](#)

2 David Guzik: This is the first mention of love in the Bible

3 Abraham is not walking by reason or by sight or by logic, but by faith

5 Who will come back again?

8 Throughout history, God has always provided

EXAMINE THE FILM

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion

1. **Why do you think God told Abraham to sacrifice his son?**

2. **Do you think God tests followers of Jesus today? Why or why not?**
3. **In what way(s) has your faith in God been tested? What did you learn about yourself and God as a result?**
4. **How has God provided for the needs in your life? Describe a time when God provided in an unusual way. Does God always provide what we need when we want it? Why or why not?**
5. **God challenged Abraham to trust Him with Isaac. When it comes to our possessions, and other gifts and blessings, why is it often difficult to recognize that they ultimately belong to God? Why do some people have a hard time trusting God with their job situations, family problems, health issues, and other things?**

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

1. **In which particular area(s) might God be testing your willingness to obey Him fully and trust Him with your life and all that you have? How are you responding? What adjustments might you need to make?**
2. **Do you *really* believe that God will provide for your needs as He promises? How is this belief affecting the way you live? The lives of other people around you?**
3. **In the film, Abraham said that a sacrifice to God was an “act of worship.” How might this relate to a sacrifice He may want you to make?**

APPLICATION

1. _____ are coming (and they will not be convenient)
2. _____ may not appear to be rational
3. God _____

PERSONALIZATION

1. Build up (_____) the habit of obedience now
2. **David Guzik: Trust the _____ no matter what**
3. Look around for the _____

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

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DATE	LESSON	TOPIC	PASSAGE	SPEAKER
February 10	Rich Man and Lazarus	My Heart Decisions Affect Eternity	Luke 16:19-31	Keith Chrisman
February 17	Lifted Up	My Hope for the Future	John 3:1-17	Jim Fleming

GOD PROVIDES: RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

INTRODUCTION: MY HEART CHOICES AFFECT ETERNITY

Life after death is a hotly debated topic. “What happens after we die? How do our lives on earth affect how we spend eternity?”

This session is based on a parable Jesus told about a rich man and Lazarus, a beggar—and the afterlife. As the film portrays, there is an eternal heaven (Paradise) and a separate and eternal hell—a place of torment. The Bible emphasizes this. However, it also teaches that what we believe and place our faith in during our earthy lives determines our eternal destiny. If we place our faith in money and possessions, for example, we will be left with nothing and spend eternity in hell separated from God. But if we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we will spend eternity in His presence. That is a step of “saving” faith—leading to salvation; no one can earn eternity in heaven by good deeds. (See Ephesians 2:8-9.)

The other key theme of this session deals with riches and poverty. Poor people have coexisted with rich people since humankind’s earliest days. It is not wrong to be rich or poor. However, in the Bible—God’s Word for us today—God says that earthly wealth is temporary and provided to us in order to meet our needs and the needs of others. He commands his followers to lovingly, compassionately, and generously use their resources to help people in need.

READ THE TEXT: LUKE 16:19-31

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

19 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. **20** But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, **21** desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. **23** And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ **25** But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. **26** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, **28** for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ **29** Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ **30** And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31** But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

EXAMINE THE FILM

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion

1. **What did you think about and feel as you watched the film? Why?**
2. **How might a person's use of money and other resources reflect his/her perspective on the afterlife?**
3. **In what ways does society favor wealthy people and discriminate against poor people? Why does this happen? Why don't more people help the poor?**
4. **In Jesus' parable, Abraham told the formerly rich man that if his brothers would not listen to Moses and the prophets they would not listen to someone raised from the dead. Do you agree? Why or why not?**
5. **What attitudes and beliefs can hinder us from helping people in need? How can we know when we are giving enough—of our time, money, other resources—to needy people?**

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

1. **What is your "take-away" truth from this session?**
2. **Just as Lazarus lay at the rich man's gate, people in need may be near your "gate." How will you help one or more of them—in small or large ways?**
3. **In the same way that the rich man influenced his five brothers, you are influencing other people through your beliefs and use of resources. What kind of example are you setting for your friends, family, and coworkers?**

APPLICATION

1. The Word of God is not something you just read over and over, but it should be ingested and made a part of who we are

PERSONALIZATION

1. **Who is your Lazarus?**

THE SCHEDULE: GOD PROVIDES

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DATE	LESSON	TOPIC	PASSAGE	SPEAKER
February 17	Lifted Up	My Hope for the Future	John 3:1-17	Jim Fleming

GOD PROVIDES: LIFTED UP

INTRODUCTION: MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

After God miraculously delivered the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they rebelled against Him and spent forty years wandering in the wilderness. Then, as the remaining Israelites neared the land God chose for them, they spoke against Him again—and against Moses, their leader.

As the film for this session portrays, God sent poisonous snakes to bite these rebellious people. Confessing that they were wrong, the people asked Moses to pray for God to remove the snakes. Following God's directions, Moses put a bronze snake on a pole, and anybody dying of snakebite who looked at the pole lived. God mercifully provided a way for those people to escape the consequences of their sin (wrongdoing).

Many years later, Jesus—the Son of God—came to earth to save us from our sins and give us spiritual life—salvation. One night, a religious leader named Nicodemus visited Jesus. Their conversation reveals that any person can be spiritually transformed and enjoy a personal relationship with the living God of the universe.

The Israelites looked at the bronze snake lifted up on a pole, believing in God's remedy for their condition. In the same way, people today can believe in Jesus, who was lifted up on a cross to bear the sins of humankind, died, and rose from the dead. Through Jesus' loving sacrifice, each of us can receive forgiveness for sin, a spiritual rebirth, a new life being transformed by God, and the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

READ THE TEXT: JOHN 3:1-17

THE NEW BIRTH

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? **11** Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

EXAMINE THE FILM

DISCUSS

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your table time discussion

1. God sent snakes among the ancient Israelites when they rebelled against God. What are some ways people rebel against God today? What are some of the consequences you’ve seen as a result?
2. The people were healed when they confessed their sins and turned back to God. Have you ever confessed your sins to God? What issues keep people from doing that today?
3. What did Nicodemus struggle to understand about Jesus and His teachings? In what way(s) did you identify with Nicodemus? Why?
4. Jesus said that God loved and wanted to save the world, not condemn it. How did His being “lifted up” make this possible?

REFLECT

See the questions in your Companion Guide for your homework

If you are not following Jesus . . . Do you find it easy or hard to understand and receive God’s love, which He demonstrated by sending Jesus to be lifted up on a cross for your sin? Why? Is there anything keeping you from responding to His invitation to be “born again”?

If you follow Jesus . . . Think about your current walk with Jesus. What things might there be which keep you from going deeper with Him? How committed are you to knowing Jesus better—through fellowship with other followers of Jesus, Bible study, prayer, obedience?

APPLICATION

1. Tullian Tchividjian: The gospel doesn't offer a second chance to get things right. It offers a **substitute**.
2. God **provides**

PERSONALIZATION

1. Look to Jesus and **live** (and stop trying to do it on your own—you will fail)
2. Give **back**