

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

II Corinthians 9:8

Introduction

Genesis 22:12-14, Psalm 23:1, Psalm 34:9-10, Psalm 37:25, Psalm 84:11,
Matthew 6:31-33, Romans 8:32, 2 Corinthians 9:8

- I. The **Power** of God's Promise – “God is able...” – 2 Timothy 1:12, Hebrews 2:18, Hebrews 7:25, Jude 24, 25

- II. The **Potential** of God's Promise – “...to make all grace...” – 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:9

- III. The **Proportion** of God's Promise – “...abound toward you...” – John 10:10

- IV. The **Provision** of God's Promise – “...that you, always having all sufficiency in all things...” – Proverbs 11:24-25, Proverbs 19:17, Philippians 4:19

- V. The **Purpose** of God's Promise – “may have an abundance for every good work”

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Think for a moment about someone you really trust. How has this person come through for you? What is it about that person's character that makes you trust him/her so much? This question will help your group members start thinking about the criteria for trusting another person. Here are some of the things that they may bring up: keeping promises, consistency, showing authentic love and concern for others, etc. Take some time to think through a time when a trusted friend came through for you.

Going Deeper

1. How does trust get built between two people? What are some of the required relational conditions for trust to be established? Brainstorm this a bit with your group. Trust gets built over time or through a history of safe experiences. It forms when we know that *someone is for us* because they show up in our lives consistently and faithfully. There is a component of capability (or strength) in trust, too. For example, as children, many of us learn to trust our fathers because they are strong enough to catch us when we jump. Likewise, we can trust people when they are strong enough to help us carry our burdens in life; we can lean on them and they don't drop us.
2. Talk about some of the characteristics of God that cause us to depend and rely on Him. Look at the following verses and discuss the features of God that make Him trustworthy.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 - God has the heart to take care of the marginalized and vulnerable. He is *for* those of us who are down and out and need help.

Psalms 139:7-10, Matthew 28:20 - He is present. He isn't far off. He's right here, available, and immersed in the details of our lives. Nothing is going to change that (V. 20).

Isaiah 40:11 - Talk a bit about the tenderness of God in this picture. We emphasize the wrath of God at times, but this verse reminds us of the caring side of God.

Isaiah 40:12-18 God is strong and able. Look at the metaphors used in this passage and then contemplate the ability of God to be trusted. This is a God we can lean on.

1 John 4:10, Titus 3:4-5 God is a loving God - it motivates all He does for us. He is a God of mercy.

Matthew 6:25-30 God cares about meeting our needs and is not distracted. If He takes care of the birds and the flowers, He will take care of us too.

3. How do we respond to someone we trust? What is our normal interaction with this type of person? How do you follow, or relate to, someone you trust? You ought to give this some serious thought. How do you act when you come to trust someone who loves you? Here's a realistic list: I follow them, I take risks for them, I bless and honor them, and I invest and give to them.

4. Read the following verses. Discuss the ways these people behaved because they trusted God. Think of these as case studies in trust. Think deeply on these passages and visualize being there. What these people did was amazing... simply crazy trust.

Genesis 6:13-14, 17-18, 22 - Noah built an ark. In a world that rarely, if ever, saw rain.

Genesis 12:1-4 - Abraham leaves everything to follow God to some unknown place...at age 75. He literally walked away from his life and started a new one.

James 2:21-24 - Abraham was promised to be the father of a nation and then God asks him to sacrifice his only son—two mutually exclusive outcomes. What amazing trust to follow through on this act of obedience.

Joshua 2:1-16 - According to Hebrews 11, Rahab trusts God enough to line up on His side of the battle that was coming between the Israelites and her people. What an amazingly risky thing for her to do, especially in a culture that had such little regard for women and such rampant gruesome violence.

Job 1:20-23 - Job loses everything and essentially says, "I still trust you, God. You have your reasons for this and I will trust you."

Daniel 3:16-18 - In the face of execution, these three guys simply lean into God and defy a ruthless, violent king.

5. How does trusting God translate specifically into our tithing and our habits of generosity, especially during difficult times? **Based on the verses we've looked at, it most consistently means giving even when the circumstances don't add up. Most non-Christians think it foolish to give to a church. Maybe some of our people experience that same thing.**

Applying the Message

1. How has God come through for you in the past? How has God come through for people you know? How does that contribute to your ability to trust Him now with your resources? **Pastor Jeremiah said, "If you can trust the God of all grace with your soul, how could you not trust Him with your finances? How would God ever withhold anything?"**

2. Make a list of some of your resources (e.g., time, skills, money, possessions, etc.) that God might be able to use for His purposes. What do you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to use to help build God's kingdom? **He wants us to use our homes for ministry. He wants us to use our money (i.e., tithes and offerings) for people in need. He wants us to give our time to the work and building of His kingdom.**