INTRODUCTION:
This week Pastor Mark taught us about Jehovah Jireh – The LORD Will Provide. You can find the sermon notes and summary here, and listen to the sermon by clicking here.

SCRIPTURE:
Turn to Genesis 22:1-19 in your Bible, or click here.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Abraham demonstrated his faith through obedience to God. He was willing to lose his only son believing that, no matter what, God would provide—even if he had to raise Isaac back from the dead (c.f. Heb. 11:17–19). This is why God said to him, “now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” (Gen 22:12, c.f. James 2:18–26). It’s not that God didn’t “know,” it was that God saw the fruit of Abraham’s faith displayed by his obedience. Let’s demonstrate our faith by obedience.

2. Abraham told his servants “I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you. (5)” On the way to the place where he would attempt to offer Isaac as a sacrifice he tells Isaac, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son. (8)” God’s promise of blessing was through Isaac, but now God was asking Abraham to give him back to God. When Abraham didn’t understand the circumstances, he remembered and trusted God’s promises. When we are overwhelmed by our circumstances, we ought to remember the promises of God, walking by faith in obedience. God can be trusted.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:
God designs tests to prove the quality of our faith. To pass the test, we must pay attention to the sequence. In Abraham’s case, the sequence was OBEY ... GOD PROVIDES. Often, we want to change the order. We think “If God provides, then I will obey,” but God calls us to obey and trust him. Abraham remembers the lesson by naming the place, Jehovah Jireh, The Lord Will Provide. We should be intentional about remembering what God has done for us, and passing on the stories of his faithfulness to others. (Click here for a guide on developing your testimony). Not only does God provide the ram for the sacrifice, he also expands the scope of his blessings to Abraham. Abraham discovered that Jehovah Jireh provides all we need and more besides.

AT A GLANCE:
“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. 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.” (Genesis 22:13–14 ESV)

1 https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/07/17/jehovah-jireh-the-lord-will-provide/
2 http://firstcentral.church/sermons/thenamesofgod.html
4 Extracted and adapted from pastor Mark’s sermon notes.