

Don't Miss Him Just in Time

Jesus will always show up just in time (Genesis 22:1-18). The difficulties we face are tests and opportunities for us to fully trust the goodness and provision of God. Our trust and obedience to God amid our struggles produces steadfastness and maturity in us. Just as Jesus – the angel of the LORD – appears to Abraham right as Abraham is about to sacrifice his son Isaac, Jesus will always appear and come through for us in His perfect timing. Though it seemed like a complete contradiction that God was asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac after God promised Abraham to make him the father of many, Abraham trusted and obeyed. He had seen the faithfulness of God before, knew that God was trustworthy, and understood that delayed obedience leads to delayed provision. God was already working and providing for Abraham, and He is still working and providing for us, even when we do not see it.

GET THINGS STARTED

When have you seen God, or someone else in your life, come through in the last second to make an incredible save or win? When have you experienced last minute breakthrough that you thought was impossible? What is it about the last-minute buzzer-beater shot, the game-winning drive, the rescue by the hero (or superhero) at the last possible moment in a movie that stirs our hearts and spirits?

GO DEEPER

1. In Genesis 22:1-7, why do you think God tests Abraham? What was God hoping to show Abraham or produce in him? What is the difference between the tests of God and the temptations of the enemy? How do we know the difference (James 1:1-16)?
2. What are the two faith statements Abraham makes in Genesis 22:5-8? What enabled Abraham to make such statements, and why are faith statements like this important for us today? What faith statements do we as believers need to hear and personally declare in this season?
3. How do we know that the angel of the LORD is Jesus when He speaks and appears to Abraham in Genesis 22:10-12, and why is this Christophany significant? How was Jesus working to provide along Abraham's journey even before His appearing to Abraham?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What situation or struggle are you facing right now? How might it be a test from God, and what does trust in Him and obedience look like for you in that struggle? What might the enemy want to see in you because of your struggle?
2. We experience God's provision through our obedience. How has God's provision been possibly delayed for you because of your delayed obedience? What step does He want you to take next, and what is holding you back from taking that step?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group, in an attitude and posture of prayer, to ask God to help you trust and obey Him in whatever difficulties you may be facing. Ask Him to remind you how He has proven faithful to provide in times past. Declare verbally His goodness and your faith in His goodness, even if you are not seeing or sensing it right now. Declare that He is working and moving in seen and unseen ways, and that you trust His perfect timing. Ask Him to show you what steps you are to take, regardless of how risky or contradictory they may seem, into all that He has for you.