

Session Six Homework

This week, we will continue our exploration of the names of God as we think about shifting control of our mothering. The name of God we will delve into today is Jehovah-Jireh: God is our provider. Let's go!

Day One

1. Read Genesis 22:1-14. This is certainly a remarkable example of shifting control of a child. You've probably never experienced anything quite like this, but can you describe a time where it felt like it? When you *felt* like God was asking you to lay your child on his altar?
2. In verse 14, Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. In Hebrew, this is Yaweh or Jehovah yireh or jireh. God our provider. Can you think of a time when you were so desperate that you had to lean on God as your provider or the provider for your children?
3. If you're a young woman who does not have children yet, can you think of a time when God was your provider?
4. The literal translation of this in Hebrew is "the Lord will see to it." How would your mothering change, or how would your attitude toward children in your circle of influence change if you really believed that *God* will see to it, whatever the need is?

Amazingly enough, this name of God is used only once in the bible and it is in relation to parenting! According to one bible dictionary, the expression used in Gen. 22:14, "in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen," has been regarded as equivalent to the saying, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

5. How in your life does mothering or being a motherly figure present an "extremity" that is God's opportunity to provide?

6. If you're a young woman, and not yet a mother, how does this impact your perception of your future role as a mom?

Today's prayer:

God, thank you that you are my provider. You give me strength to do hard things and when all seems lost, you do come through. Help me to have unshakable faith and know that you will see to it, no matter the need in my life. Amen.

Day Two

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:1-27, the story of Hannah and her son Samuel.
2. What is the ultimate control shift she made as a mother?
3. What kind of life would Samuel live? (Read Numbers 4:2,3 and 6:1-8)
4. What do you think gave her the power to dedicate her son to this life of service?
5. Read 1Sam 10 and 12 again. This woman prayed so hard, the good priest Eli thought she was drunk. Have you ever prayed so fervently that people thought you were nuts?!
6. Read James 5:13-16. What does this tell us about the power of prayer?
7. Hannah's prayer addressed her personal needs and accomplished God's purpose. Is there a situation in your life, whether as a mother or not, that you need to amp up your prayers for a personal need and have faith that God's purpose will be accomplished?

Today's prayer:

God, I turn the lives of my children (or dear ones close to me) over to you. Help them to discover the way they may serve you, and help me trust you with them. Show me how to equip and encourage them to reveal the life-changing power of Jesus to the world around them.

Day Three

1. Read Proverbs 22:6. We generally think of this verse and rules and regulations come to mind, but the original text implies something very different. Consider this translation from the Amplified Bible: *Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it.* This seems to speak to acknowledging each child's uniqueness. Also, the phrase "when he is old" refers to the age when he can grow hair on his chin. Seriously! In other words, late adolescence, not when that hair has turned gray.

2. Now read Ephesians 6:4. Do not exasperate means not to nag or arbitrarily assert authority. When you take into account these two scriptural concepts together, how does this challenge your tendencies to control?

3. Skim Psalm 119, note how many times God's commands and laws are said to be "good." How can we impress on our children that obedience comes from a heart of love, and results in a life of freedom?

Today's prayer:

Father, help me balance the need to teach my children with teaching them about you and your goodness. Let me live a life that is so in love with you that my children can't help but want to live that life too. Help me appreciate the diversity of my children or the children around me, give me eyes to see the gifts you've given them so I can encourage them to grow into the young people you want them to be.

Day Four

As we wrap up our study of shifting control of our children, it's important to remember what Jesus himself thought about little ones.

1. Read Matthew 18:3, 18:5 and 19:4. How does Jesus view children?
2. The Apostle Paul also describes young people as having dramatic impact. Read Acts 2:17 and 1Timothy 4:12. What do these verses say about the spiritual impact that children can have?
3. How does understanding both children's value *and* potential impact for Jesus change the way I lead and guide them?
4. How might this help me shift control?

Today's prayers are prayers from our children taken from Pray Big for Your Child by Will Davis, Jr.

Numbers 6:24-26: Lord, please bless and keep my child; make your face shine upon him/her and be gracious to him/her; turn your face toward him/her and give him/her peace.

Ephesians 1:3: Jesus, thank you for already giving my child every spiritual blessing that you possess. Please help him to realize how blessed he is and to live the spiritually rich life that you gave him through your death.

1 Timothy 6:12: Lord God, help my children to fight the good fight of the faith. May they take hold of the eternal life to which they were called when they made their good confession in the presence of many witnesses. Father, help me as a woman after your own heart to remember that what you have for my children or the children in my life is so much greater than anything I can ever imagine. Thank you! Amen