

A/ Teaching

Bible Material – Key Points - based on Luke 12v22-34

[Illustration: Nature, Business]

God as Provider (Luke 12v22-30)

- God is Sovereign and all belongs to him. (Psalm 50v9-11)
- God is your Father and knows your needs (Luke 12v30)
- God will therefore supply your needs (Philippians 4v19)
- It's in his name -Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 22v14)
- How? - Through people! (2 Corinthians 8v14, 2 Thessalonians 3v10)

⇒ Trust Him!

Seeking and Being Given the Kingdom (Luke 12v31-32)

- Seek the Kingdom – the reign of God (last session)
- Given the Kingdom
 - All its benefits for me (Grace, Love, Just, Ultimate)
 - All its responsibilities for me (As above - Live by it)

⇒ Set your heart on the kingdom

Why do I turn elsewhere to Provide? (Luke 12v29-30)

- For our deepest needs (James 4v1-2, Galatians 5v12-18,24-26)
- It's how Satan tempts us (Genesis 3v4-6)
- It's why people worshipped idols (Romans 1v25)

⇒ Crucify the sinful nature & Live by the Spirit (Galatians 5v12-26)

The Marks of those who Love God as Provider – *Practical “How to”*

- Do not worry, but trust him (Luke 12v22)
- Do not hoard, but remember the poor (Luke 12v15,21,33)
- Do not abuse, but be content (James 4v3, Philippians 4v11-12, 1 Timothy 6v6)
- Do not be self-righteous, but accept all (Matthew 5v45)
- Do consider everything you have belongs to God (Deut 8v17, Job 41v11)

Thinking things through:

- Confess ... Repent ... Receive (James 4v7-10)
- “My Needs & God’s Provision” booklet

B/ Personal Reflection & Development - Materials available

Some of the following may help you reflect on these things further:

- Reflect on what the following reveal about the provision of God ...
 - Freedom In Christ cards “Who I am in Christ” & “20 Cans of Success”.
 - Read Philippians and note down what God has done for you, is doing in you and will do for you. Tell God that you put your trust in Him.
 - Look at this website for a list of promises from the books of the Bible.
<https://bible.org/article/selected-promises-god-each-book-bible>
- Read from a selection of people in the Bible who demonstrate Gods’ faithfulness
 - Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
 - Joseph (Genesis 37,39-50)
 - Moses (Leviticus & Numbers)
 - Joshua (Numbers 13, Joshua)
 - David (1 Samuel 16- 1Kings 2)
 - Elijah (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2)
 - Elisha (1 Kings 19, 2Kings 2-9)
 - Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20)
 - Daniel (Daniel 1-9)
 - Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-13)
 - Paul (Acts 9,13-28)
- Find out about the story of some Christians of faith
 - Hudson Taylor (Started global mission 1832-1905)
 - David Brainard (Mission to native Americans 1717-1747)
 - George Muller (Evangelist & orphanage 1805-1898)
 - James Fraser (Pioneer China missionary 1886-1938)
 - CT Studd (Cricketer & missionary 1860-1931)
 - Jim & Elizabeth Elliot (Mission to tribes 1927-2015)
 - John Bunyan (Imprisoned preacher & author 1628-1688)
 - Amy Carmichael (Mission/orphanage in India 1867-1951)
 - William Tyndale (Bible Translator & Martyr 1494-1536)
 - Lord Shaftesbury (Politician/Social Reformer 1801-1885)
 - William Wilberforce (Fought slave trade 1759-1833)
 - George Whitefield (Revival Evangelist 1714-1770)
 - Jonathan Edwards (Revival Evangelist 1703-1758)
 - John Wesley (Founded Methodism 1703-1791)
 - D L Moody (evangelist 1837-1899)
 - Brother Andrew (Bible Smuggler 1928-)
 - John Newton (Transformed slave trader 1725-1807)
 - William Carey (Global mission & education 1761-1834)
 - Corrie Ten Boom (Hid Jews in WW2 1892-1983)
 - Adoniram Judson (Mission to Burma 1788-1850)
- Meditate on some songs:
 - Faithful One
 - Great is your faithfulness
 - God of angel armies
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Proverbs 3v5-6; Luke 12v29,31; Philippians 4v19
- Consider what God’s provision means for where he has placed you right now.
 - Use the “My Needs & God’s Provision” worksheet.
- Thought provoking questions for further study:
 - What is wrong with the “Prosperity Gospel” ?
 - What is wrong with “Asceticism”?
 - What is the difference between God’s provision for those seeking the kingdom of God and his provision for both the righteous and the unrighteous (e.g. God’s covenant with Noah for all people Genesis 9v8-17, or Matthew 5v45) ?
 - To what extent does Jesus expect us to take his words literally in Luke 12v33?

Reflect on some of the “Small Team” and “Pair/Triplet” material before meeting.

C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins) (based on Luke 12v22-32)
 - Understanding God
 - Everything belongs to God – How does that make you feel?
 - In what ways does God provide?
 - In what way is God’s promise to provide conditional? v31
 - Understanding “Seeking and Given the Kingdom”
 - What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God? v31
 - What does it mean to be given the kingdom of God? v32
 - What is meant by treasure in heaven? v33
 - Understanding Ourselves
 - Why did people worship idols (e.g Baal, Ashtoreth, Greek/Roman gods)?
 - Why do we worry about or fear certain things?
 - What things do people seek after today to meet their ‘needs’?
 - Share with each other your favourite stories of people living by faith.
- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (40 mins)
 - Thinking about our deepest needs:
 - What are the things you tend to most worry about or fear?
 - What are the things you most desire or seek after?
 - What do these things highlight about our deepest need?
 - What does it mean for you to seek and receive the kingdom? (NB last session)
 - Thinking about God satisfying our deepest need:
 - What promises does God speak into our deepest needs?
 - How can we keep focused on God’s promises rather than our needs/issues?
 - Thinking about what I have (material, spiritual, mental, emotional ..)
 - Do I see everything I have as belonging to God’s kingdom?
 - What are the implications of this for me and all I have or am?
 - Share how God has provided for you in the past and is providing for you now.
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Let each pray for someone else.
 - Pray for your “*list-of-5*” – pray that God in his sovereignty would provide opportunities and he would reign in your heart as you respond.

D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship.
 - How have you progressed in trusting and exercising God's reign since last time?
 - In what way is God challenging you concerning his provision?
 - In what ways is God challenging you concerning what he has given you?
 - What has this session shown you about your deepest needs?
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or Genesis 22v1-18). (15 mins)
 - If you wish to explore how this incident relates to the ethics of child sacrifice, have a look at the following webpage,
<http://www.jeanejones.net/2011/10/abraham-isaac-child-sacrifice/>
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage and your discussion.
 - Pray for God to enable you to trust him in the things you discussed earlier.
 - Pray for your "list-of-5"