



HOLY
BIBLE

CENTERED
in our UNCHANGING God

SMALL GROUP
QUESTIONS

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CENTERED *in the God who Sees - El Roi*

- What are you grateful for coming out of this past week?
- What has been challenging in this past week?
Pray briefly thanking God for the good things and committing the challenges to Him

In Gen 16:1-16 Hagar gives Yhwh the name El Roi, which literally means the God who sees.

- What stands out to you about people and the way they respond in this story?
- What stands out to you about Yhwh and the way that He responds?

Read the following passages:

Psalm 33:13-15, 18-19 says:

*The Lord looks down from heaven;
He sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned he watches
All the inhabitants of the earth –
He who fashions the hearts of them all,
And observes all their deeds....
Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
On those who hope in his steadfast love,
To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*

Psalm 121:3, 5-6 says:

*He will not let your foot slip –
He who watches over you will not slumber....
The Lord watches over you –
The Lord is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.*

2 Chron 16:9 says:

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

- What do you observe about God in these passages?
- Which parts give you comfort?
- Is there anything that makes you feel uncomfortable? (Why?)

A led meditation to centre on the God who sees... *(group leader to lead slowly through)*

With the challenge that you had in the past week (that you shared at the beginning) or perhaps another area of challenge for you right now, each sit silently with the Lord for a few minutes. Start by imagining yourself in the Lord's presence (picture where he is and what he is doing. Picture where you are and what you are doing)....

Now imagine that you are holding that challenge in your hands....

He sees what it is...

He sees the weight that it is to carry....

He cares...

How does he respond to you? Is there something he says or does?....

If you haven't already, hand the challenge that you are holding to him?

Finish the meditation by reading Ps 23 over your group

CENTERED *in the God who Provides – Jhwh (Yahweh) Jireh*

- When you think of God as Provider, who does he provide for and what are the ways that he provides?
- What are one or two ways that you personally have experienced God's provision.

Read Genesis 22:1-18.

- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- Why do you think God would ask Abraham to do this?
- What do we learn about Abraham from this passage?
- What do you think Abraham was thinking as he obeyed the LORD? (refer to Hebrews 11:17-19)

Abraham names the place (a mountain in the region of Moriah), Jhwh Jireh, "The LORD will provide". In the Hebrew, "Jireh" carries the meaning of "sees to it". How does this shape our understanding of the way that God is our provider?

- How does this complement last week's study on El Roi, the God who sees?

Read Matthew 6 (yes, the whole chapter)

- Look again at verses 25-34, where Jesus begins by saying 'Therefore'. What is Jesus asking us to do?
- According to Jesus, why is God able to be trusted?
- Why do we (and why have we since the beginning of humankind) struggle to trust God?

Throughout chapter 6, Jesus has also spoken about giving, praying, fasting and our attitude toward possessions. How are each of these aligned closer to God's purposes when they are approached with a conviction of God being our trustworthy provider for all things?

- What personal response to Jesus' words in chapter 6 do you have?
- Is there a practical response that you can make this week?

We do not know where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, other than that it was on a mountain in the region of Moriah. There is a lovely (somewhat unlikely) tradition that it is the same mountain upon which Solomon built his temple where sacrifices were offered to the Lord. And 400m away, hundreds of years later, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God would be killed for the sins of the world.

Meditate on Romans 5:1-11.

Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the love of our Heavenly Father who provided his only Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Spend time in prayer and thanksgiving to the God who provides all that we need.

CENTERED *in the God who is our Banner – Yhwh (Yahweh) Nissi*

- Share the last time you faced an obstacle that felt overwhelming?
- How did you face it?

Read Exodus 17:8-15

- What does this passage tell us about the character of God?
- What lesson would Moses, Joshua and the people of Israel learn from this conflict?
- Why was it so important that it be remembered?
- How could the name Yhwh Nissi (the LORD is my banner) be significant for us as Christians?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

- What does this passage tell us about the character of God?
- Why does Paul refer to “the full armour of God” twice in this passage?
- What is the weapon that is given to us?
- Why does Paul call for us to be alert? To what?
- What strikes you about what Paul requests prayer for?

Read Romans 8:1-11 and 31-39

- What are the promises that Paul speaks of?
- What are the realities of following Jesus that he also speaks of?
- What does this passage tell us about how we overcome our struggles?

From all the passages...

- What encouragements and/or challenges do you take away from these passages?
- What will you do in response to them?

- When was the last time you felt you needed somewhere to shelter, either physically or emotionally?
- What was it that you felt the need to shelter from?
- When you feel attacked or simply overwhelmed in life, who do you (or what do you) usually turn to?

Read 2 Samuel 22

- What were the things that David sought shelter from?
- What emotions did he experience?
- How similar or different are the things that come against us?

What emotions do these cause us to feel?

- What words does David use to describe the character of God in this passage?

What do they convey about the character of God?

Read Psalm 62:1-8

- What strikes you as similar in this Psalm to David's song in 2 Samuel 22?
- What does it convey about David's heart for God, both during the 'battle' he was facing and afterward?

Read Psalm 118:1-14

- Again, what similar emotions, responses and declarations does David express in this Psalm?
- What wisdom can we find in it?

Which of these names of God do you engage with the most? Why?

Magen (shield)

Metsuda (fortress)

Migal (strong tower)

Machesh (refuge)

Is there one of these names of God that you would like to engage with more?