The Way of the Cross
The Lord who Provides

God provides every need as we radically follow Him (John 19:28-30). With three words on the cross – *it is finished* – Jesus makes it clear that God is *Yahweh Yireh*, the LORD who provides. Jesus on the cross has many parallels to Genesis 22:1-14, where Abraham obeys God and demonstrates great faith in taking steps to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Just as Abraham takes his knife and is about to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, God stops him. God sees the radical obedience and faith of Abraham and provides a ram for him to sacrifice instead of Isaac. From this experience, Abraham names that place *Yahweh Yireh*. Jesus, through the cross, is our ultimate once-for-all sacrifice that God has provided (Hebrews 10:1-18). Through Jesus and the cross, God provides for our physical needs, our need for emotional security and happiness, and our need for significance (Matthew 6:31). Through Jesus, God vanquishes our fears of lack. When we pursue Jesus – His kingdom and His righteousness – God provides *all* that need (Matthew 6:33).

VISION FOR THIS WEEK
To fully believe that God provides for our physical, emotional, and relational needs.

GET THINGS STARTED
The foundation of all our fears is the fear we will *lack* something we need in life. What are the top one or two things you do not have right now that weigh heavy on your mind?

GO DEEPER WITH SCRIPTURE
1. When Jesus declares that *it is finished* in John 19:28-30, what is He referring to? What is Jesus accomplishing through His death on the cross and His resurrection, and why is that so significant for us as His followers?
2. According to Hebrews 11:17-19, what does Abraham believe about God as he takes steps to obey and sacrifice his son, Isaac? What had been promised to Abraham that he was holding onto in his obedience? What has been promised to us as followers of Jesus that we need to hold on to and trust God to provide in?
3. How does Jesus' instruction to not worry about what we will eat, drink or wear in Matthew 6:31 speak to the broader ways God provides for us? What is required of us to receive *all* these things in Matthew 6:33?

MAKE IT PERSONAL
1. While it may be easier to affirm that God provides generally for us, to what level do you believe that God will provide in those specific areas that are heavy on your heart and mind in this season, in those particular areas of lack right now?
2. What needs to change so that you are more actively seeking God's kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33)? What is one step you can take this week to pursue Jesus more and begin to receive more of His provision?
3. What is a promise of God to you that you need to hold on to in this season? Is there a specific promise from Scripture that God is highlighting, or a specific promise He has made to you (e.g., prophetically or in prayer) that He is bringing to the forefront?

PRAYER AS A GROUP
Take time as a group, in prayer, to verbally affirm that God is *the LORD who provides*. Take time to verbally remember and affirm the ways God has provided in the past, how He has been faithful to fulfill His promises. Then invite Him to increase your faith and trust in Him to provide in the future, especially in those areas of lack right now that are heavy on your heart and mind. Ask God to show you how to pursue Him more, to radically follow Him and His kingdom. Ask Him to displace fear and to replace it with confidence in His heart and character.