

Lesson 5 / March 29, 2020

Providing Plenty

By Jill Meek

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 5**Focus:**

Jesus acts on our behalf.

Lesson 5**Bible Basis:**

Ephesians 4:8-13;
Romans 8:31-34;
1 John 2:1-2

Lesson 5**Memory Verse:**

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
—Romans 8:31b-32

ECHOES: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
—1 John 2:1

Students will consider the difference good provisions can make as they explore how Jesus acts on our behalf and graciously gives us what we need.

Materials:

Internet access

We live in a world of plenty and a world in need. Although there seems to be plenty to go around, many people don't seem to have what they need. Perhaps you feel that you lack something you need. Perhaps you think if you had that something, it would change everything for you. Perhaps you have looked around and seen others' needs unmet. Perhaps you wanted to do something about it or wondered if you could. Here is a story about someone who saw a need and did something. These are neighbors who have been providing basic needs for others in their community.

Play the following video for your teens [1:50]:

Utah Family Uses Fence to Provide for Homeless, Struggling Families

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6NXSaGw4-Q&list=WL&index=18&t=0s>

➤ **These items on this fence are provided freely. What difference does it make to be offered something without cost or expectation?** (Accept all reasonable answers. This means there are no hoops to jump through to qualify and no burden of repayment. It means you can have what you need regardless of your circumstances. It is a gift. It is gracious.)

➤ **What impact will the provision of clothing and other items have on the recipients?** (Accept all reasonable answers. These items meet a need—perhaps a physical one in the case of clothing or food, or an emotional or social need in the case of toys for children. Having these needs met helps recipients survive. Additionally, with one need met, the recipients may be better able to meet other needs. Having what is needed also provides dignity.)

➤ **Name some things that have been provided for you. How do those provisions impact your life?** (Accept all reasonable answers. These could be the essentials of food, shelter, and clothing, or deeper needs such as friendship, love, or forgiveness. Students may also consider opportunities such as an education, or experiences such as travel, or the financial ability to make choices about college or internships. Some may have stories of scholarships or donations of other kinds that allowed them to do, face, or overcome something.)

It is important to recognize what has been provided for us in life, and it is good to return the favor or pass it on. Some of us begin with more advantages than others. Most of us won't get far on our own, but we benefit from what others provide for us. None of us can earn or obtain on our own the things that God has provided for us. God meets our deepest needs, offers us salvation, and gifts us to do His work.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

high school



Lesson 5 / March 29, 2020

Providing Plenty

for use as
STEP 4

**Lesson 5
Focus:**

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Bible Basis:**

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**Lesson 5
Memory Verse:**

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Materials:

None

God is the greatest gift giver. He knows our needs and provides for us in ways we could not think to ask and could not provide for ourselves. As God has graciously given to and provided plenty for us, we too can see and provide for the needs of others.

➤ **What needs do you see in your community? At your school? Among your friend group?** (Accept all reasonable answers. As in the story from Step 1, there may be people in need of basic necessities or perhaps there is a lack of funding for schools or after-school programs, or community spaces. Maybe there are students or friends in need of necessities, or encouragement, or purpose.)

➤ **God has gifted us to do His work on earth. How can you use your giftedness to provide for others?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Some may have gifts to teach, to encourage, to cook, to host, to sew, to organize, to publicize, etc. Students can use these gifts now and consider how they can continue to use these gifts for good in their personal lives and perhaps their careers.)

➤ **Jesus offered up His very body to provide for our salvation. What are some physical ways you can provide for others?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Many needs are physical—food, clothing, shelter—and students may have items they can give. They can also provide for others in physical ways by helping a friend pack or move, cleaning up after dinner if their parent usually does this, spending time with an elderly neighbor or relative or helping with their shopping, or tending a community garden or building a Habitat for Humanity style house.)

➤ **How can you share about God's gift of salvation with others?** (Accept all reasonable answers. It could be as obvious as leading a Bible study or sharing a testimony. It could be through writing, a performance, or another art form. It could be as natural as a conversation with a friend.)

Building on the previous discussion, encourage your students to choose a particular way they can act to provide for others. Challenge them to follow through in the coming week, month, or year.

Ask your students to think of specific ways they might be able to reach out to others with the love of Jesus during this time of social distancing due to COVID-19. Challenge them to find ways to connect even though they have no physical contact: texting, sending notes of encouragement, video chatting, etc.

Close in prayer.

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