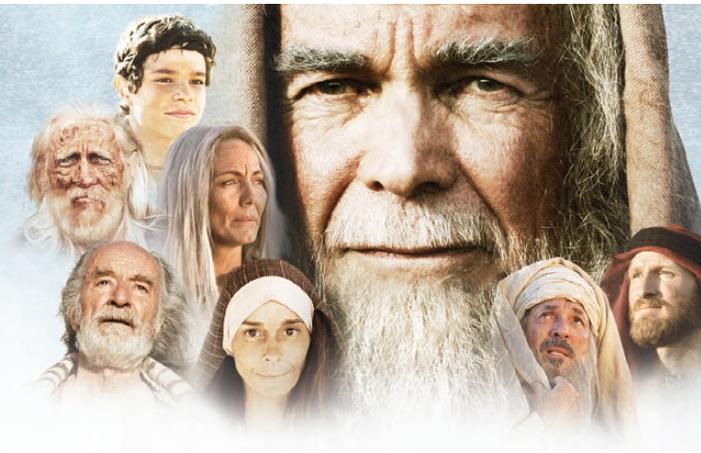


GOD PROVIDES™

A FILM LEARNING EXPERIENCE
FROM CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES®



GOD PROVIDES™ SERMON OUTLINE LIFTED UP

These sermon outlines are provided as part of your Large Group Viewing License*. In addition to showing the films in conjunction with a sermon, consider the other ways you can share the *God Provides*™ message with others.

LARGE GROUP VIEWING IDEAS

- Show one or all of these films in the *God Provides*™ Film Learning Experience to your entire congregation.
- Rent a movie theater and sponsor a local movie night in your community.
- Share the films in conjunction with local mission work.
- Host a “Lunch and Learn Movie Experience” with your coworkers or employees.

LARGE GROUP LICENSE - PACKAGE FEATURES

Don't forget to use all of the materials available with your Large Group Viewing License. Go to Crown.org/GodProvides, click on “Group Licensing,” enter your unique License Code, and download the following materials:

- **Six Downloadable Trailers** for each short film.
- **Sermon Outlines** provide pastors with a message based on each short film.
- **Promotional Materials** such as posters, bulletin inserts, tickets and more are provided in digital format to promote the learning experience.
- **License Certificate** enables unlimited viewings for groups larger than 100.

For additional help or questions, please call 1-800-249-6320 or visit us online at Crown.org/GodProvides.

continued on next page



BEFORE AND AFTER THIS SERMON

- 1** Before using this sermon, contact your local Crown Consultative Servant who can assist you in developing a financial ministry plan to provide ongoing guidance for your church members after the sermons are delivered in your church. Go to Crown.org and click “In My Area” to find a local servant.

- 2** While using this sermon, become familiar with the *God Provides™* Web site. It offers solid biblical insight that can help your church members. In particular, encourage your congregation to do any of the following:
 - a. Purchase a copy of the *God Provides™ Companion Guide*, and continue a personal study of each short film.
 - b. Listen or Podcast Crown’s radio programs for daily wisdom and encouragement.
 - c. Sign up for free e-communication to get monthly articles and advice on a variety of financial topics. Go to Crown.org/SignUp to register.

- 3** After using this sermon, take your church members to the next level in their journey by encouraging them to do some of the following:
 - a. **Start Some *God Provides™* Small Groups** – encourage your church members to go deeper in studying the principles in these films. Small groups can view the films as part of an effective learning experience using the available *God Provides™ Companion Guide*.
 - b. **Encourage Next Step Resources** – encourage your church members to apply the biblical principles they’ve learned in practical ways. **Next Step Resources** from Crown can help them. See the last page of this document for details.

*A large group is defined as showing a short film to more than 100 people at one time. For 100 people or fewer, a large group viewing license is not required. A *God Provides™* Companion Guide is recommended for each participant. Additional Companion Guides are sold separately.



To learn more about *God Provides™* and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

GOD PROVIDES™

A FILM LEARNING EXPERIENCE
FROM CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES®



“MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE”

(referencing the film, *Lifted Up*, adapted from John 3:1-17)

[Note to Pastors: We prayerfully offer this resource material to you, believing that God will use it to guide and bless individuals and families within your congregation and the church body as a whole. Obviously you know your congregation’s specific needs and interests, so feel free to adapt any of this material. This sermon addresses just a facet of the complete *God Provides™ Film Learning Experience*.]

Ice Breaker and Introduction of Suggested Film Clip

Jesus, the Son of God, did many unexpected things while He was on earth.

- Touched lepers and then healed them.
- Spoke to a Samaritan woman by a well at a time when Jews despised Samaritans.
- Healed people on the Sabbath—the day set aside for God.
- Read from the scroll of Isaiah in a synagogue and then announced that He was the fulfillment of the prophecy He just read! [Luke 4:17-21]
- Drove moneychangers out of a prayer area in God’s temple in Jerusalem.
- Spent time with tax collectors, who cooperated with Roman authorities and cheated people.
- Kept talking with Pharisees—Jewish religious leaders who tried to reinterpret the Old Testament Scriptures so Jews could live righteous lives before God—even though many Pharisees hated Him and did everything they could to make things difficult for Him.

continued on next page



To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES™ is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV.® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

And one night, Jesus spoke for quite a while with a Pharisee named Nicodemus.

The Bible doesn't reveal why Nicodemus came at night. Was he afraid to be seen with Jesus? It's certainly a possibility given his lofty religious position. One thing can be sure – Nicodemus honestly and openly sought answers from Jesus about His teachings and who He claimed to be.

The first of two short video clips we'll see today, an adaptation of the true story found in John 3:1-21, begins as Nicodemus meets with Jesus that night.

 **Pastor – We encourage you to play the entire film, *Lifted Up*. However, if prefer a shorter film clip, the 2 following clips are suggested.**

Play First Film Clip of *Lifted Up* (1 min. 48 secs. long)

* Start: (3 mins 30 secs. into the film), when Jesus and Nicodemus are on the rooftop.

* End: Nicodemus has listened to Jesus talking about being born again and asks, “How can this be?” (5 mins. 18 secs. into the film)

Key Message

Nicodemus seemed surprised and a bit confused when Jesus talked about being “born again.” Since their talk that night, more than two thousand years ago, countless people have discussed what the words born again mean.

There's another important aspect of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus that is often overlooked—one that affects all of us.

1 God honors the honest seeker. When people anywhere in the world honestly seek to learn more about Jesus and the Christian faith, Jesus will guide them to His life-transforming truth.

As an influential Jewish Pharisee, Nicodemus most likely had memorized all of the Hebrew (Old Testament) Scriptures and was passionately committed to obeying God's commands. He spent plenty of time in synagogues, reading and discussing the Scriptures.

We don't know exactly why he “came to Jesus at night.” But we do know that he felt comfortable asking Jesus sincere questions, which Jesus answered immediately.

continued on next page



To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Today Jesus still invites people:

- To talk with Him—through prayer.
- To check out His life and His truth claims—through reading the Bible.
- To ask followers of Jesus challenging questions—investigating the Christian faith.
- To spend time with Jesus' followers—observing. (Remember, Jesus said that people “will know that you are my disciples if you love one another” [John 13:35].)

Jesus invites people to discover who He really is.

May I get personal for a moment?

- Are you tired of hearing about Jesus—and desire to at least explore a deeper, personal relationship with Him—but you have unanswered questions about Jesus, the Bible, or something else?
 - Do you know about prayer—and realize that Jesus is really waiting to hear from you?
 - Are you troubled by a spiritual issue, or by what “religious” people have said or done to you, and would like to talk with a sincere follower of Jesus about this?
 - Is it hard for you to realize that God loves you and invites you to come to Him as you are—with your pain, confusion, anger . . . ?

As Jesus demonstrated with Nicodemus, He loves that kind of searching and dialogue. Think about all the Pharisees who didn't take time to learn the truth Jesus came to share and continued to pursue wrong spiritual paths.

Jesus longs to be in close relationship with you. If you are genuinely seeking Him, you will find Him.

That's a promise from God!

There's no place Jesus would rather be—nothing He'd rather be doing—than guiding you into a deeper relationship with Himself.

As people such as C. S. Lewis, Charles Colson, and so many others have discovered, God offers true life. True hope. True peace. True Truth . . . in a world in which many people don't even believe Truth exists.

You don't have to come to Jesus at night; you can come to Him anytime. And followers of Jesus will stand with you in finding answers to your questions—and the deep longings of your heart.

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES™ is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV.® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Additional Supporting Scriptures

[These are provided for your convenience. Feel free to select from them or utilize others at your discretion.]

Key Verses:

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
—Psalm 34:8

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. —Matthew 7:7

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. —Revelation 3:20

Additional Verses:

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face! Your face, LORD, I will seek." —Psalm 27:7-8

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. —Proverbs 2:1-5

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. —Proverbs 8:17

Come near to God and he will come near to you. —James 4:8

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."—John 6:35-37

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
—John 20:30-31

I sought the LORD, and he answered me. —Psalm 34:4
The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.



hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

—Acts 17:24-27

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

—Hebrews 11:56

Related Stories from the Bible

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."—Matthew 18:1-4

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

Sir, the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life". —John 4:9-14



* Start: (11 mins. 07 secs. into the film), when Jesus shares what is recorded in John 3:16-17.

* End: Jesus stops sharing what is recorded in John 3:16-17. (12 mins. 12 secs. into the film)

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.



Key Message

These few words from Jesus shattered Nicodemus' perspectives on religion . . . and God Himself!

Nicodemus, and so many Jewish leaders, created religious systems based on human effort to reach God. But Jesus—God's beloved Son, the promised Messiah—came down and reached us.

Rather than allowing all of humanity to suffer under the burden of their sinfulness, which entered the human race through Adam (Genesis) God supernaturally entered our world. He didn't come to condemn us for our sins but to save us from our sins.

2 God sent his Son Jesus to save humankind from sin, not to condemn people. Jesus' death on the cross powerfully demonstrated how much He loves each of us.

For thirty-three years, Jesus lived a sinless life. He then chose to sacrifice Himself on a cross and take all of humanity's sins on Himself.

What a powerful demonstration of love! Through His death, Jesus in effect established a bridge between the holy God and people drowning in their sinfulness. Then God raised Jesus from the dead—triumphing totally over the effects of sin, including physical death.

As Nicodemus and countless people since have discovered, Jesus' death was highly personal.

- Jesus loves you.
- Jesus loves me!
- And Jesus invites each of us to have a personal relationship with God through Him.

All we need to do is:

- Place our personal faith in Jesus.
- Confess to Him that we have committed sins and that we believe He died on the cross and rose again for our sins.
- Invite Him to enter our lives and give us new spiritual life—to give us a “new birth” so we are “born again.”

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.



- ***We do not earn salvation by good works.***
- ***We do not have to hope that somehow God will care about us when so much else is happening in the universe.***
- ***We do not have to carry the heavy guilt of sin.***

We can know, for sure, that once we each place our personal faith and trust in Jesus, God completely forgives our sinfulness. And that the Spirit of Jesus will fill us and empower us to live the way God wants us to live—the way that more closely matches who He created us to be. So our lives receive new purpose and meaning. So we can fulfill the plan God has for each of us.

And, after we die, we will spend eternity with God.

I wonder how much sleep Nicodemus got that night after his conversation with Jesus—and after Jesus died on the cross and Nicodemus helped to prepare Jesus' body for burial—and after Jesus rose from the dead?

Perhaps that one conversation that night not only guided Nicodemus to faith in Jesus but to spending eternity with Him in heaven.

Additional Supporting Scriptures

[These are provided for your convenience. Feel free to select from them or utilize others at your discretion.]

Key Verses:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". —John 14:6

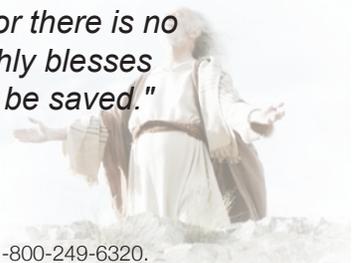
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. —Romans 3:23

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 6:23

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." —Romans 10:9-13

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. —1 John 1:9-10

Additional Verses:

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. —Acts 2:21

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. —Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. —Acts 4:12

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. —1 John 3:16

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. —1 Peter 3:18

Related Stories from the Bible

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." —John 11:21-27

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." —Acts 4:5-11

continued on next page



To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.
—John 19:38-40

3 To be born again is when a person invites Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior. They receive new spiritual life in Jesus and will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

God's transforming power is at work throughout the world. Right now. In the hearts of every person who has chosen to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Once we choose to follow Jesus, God's Spirit within us works in awesome ways:

- To guide us in obeying God, who has our best interests in mind.
- To free us from the slavery of wrongdoing (sin).
- To open our minds and hearts to the truths of the Bible—God's supernatural, inspired Word to us today.
- To change our hearts so we become more like Jesus.
- To confirm that each of us will spend eternity in heaven with God.
- To give us His joy and peace.

The Bible says, literally, that we are “a new creation” as soon as we choose to follow Jesus. Certainly our bodies look the same—same hair color, same skin. We still have our basic personalities. We still make mistakes. But the Spirit of God now lives within each of us—guiding, teaching, encouraging, providing

And until we die and are with God in heaven, He will continue to transform us—from the inside out. Just as He evidently transformed Nicodemus.

Additional Supporting Scriptures

[These are provided for your convenience. Feel free to select from them or utilize others at your discretion.]

continued on next page

To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES™ is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV.® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Key Verses:

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. —John 5:24

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. —John 14:1-4

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. —1 John 5:12-13

Additional Verses:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. —2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. —2 Corinthians 5:1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you. —1 Peter 1:3-4

Pastoral Challenge

Are you experiencing the true life God, through Jesus, offers you?

Are you discovering more about Jesus and the Christian faith? What may God be saying to you right now about your relationship with Him—and His willingness to meet you wherever you are in your spiritual journey?

As Nicodemus discovered, relationship with Jesus is not based on religion—us reaching up to God—but on the historical fact that God, through Jesus, reached down to us.

continued on next page



To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES™ is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV.® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Wrap Up and Close

[We recommend bringing in a short, modern-day illustration to close. For example:

- **C.S. Lewis** (A devout atheist, Lewis was confronted with the claims of Christ, was converted, and became one of the most influential apologists for God.)
- **Chuck Colson** (Of Watergate fame, Colson gave his life to Christ while in prison and has faithfully "lifted up" Christ to millions.)

Or, someone in the congregation might share a short, illustrative testimony—live or via video.]

Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®.

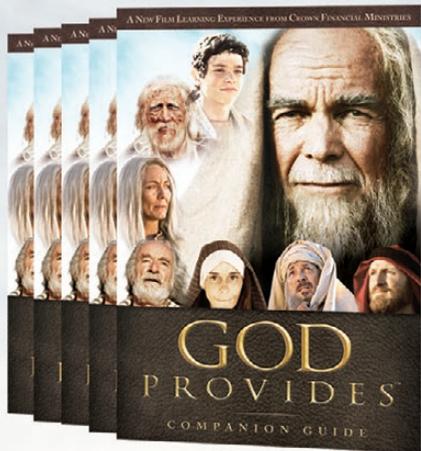
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



To learn more about God Provides™ and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES™ is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV.® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Take *God Provides*[™] to the Next Level!

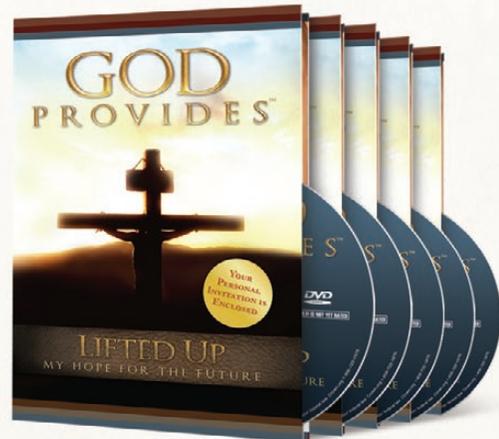


God Provides[™] Companion Guide

When using *God Provides*[™] in a group setting, a Companion Guide is recommended for each person. Purchase additional Companion Guides at your local Christian retailer or contact Crown.

Lifted Up - A Personal Invitation

Share the ultimate act of God's provision for all people—His gift of salvation and new life. This evangelistic packet features the short film *Lifted Up*, along with a special video invitation to Jesus Christ. Contact Crown for bulk purchase options.



Online Companion



/ Connect with Others

Join *God Provides*[™] Facebook group and read about people's experiences on the *God Provides*[™] blog.

/ Additional Exploration

God Provides[™] is just a step in your journey. Learn more about free practical tools that can help you.

/ Facilitator Tools

Are you facilitating *God Provides*[™] in your family or church? Obtain free additional information and tips to enhance your experience.

/ Next Steps

Find a Christian retailer in your local area that offers the *God Provides*[™] Learning Experience resources, or purchase them direct from Crown.

/ Ideas for Large Group Screening

Want to show *God Provides*[™] to groups larger than 100 people? Purchase a large group viewing license.

Crown.org/GodProvides 1-800-249-6320

To learn more about *God Provides*[™] and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

Copyright ©2009 Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. GOD PROVIDES[™] is a trademark of Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version[®] NIV. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Version 1.1 - 0909