

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION

CORE PASSAGE: EXODUS 16:1-12

CONTEXT

Exodus is a book about God's miraculous deliverance. Through a burning bush, plagues, and an escape through the sea, God revealed His power and faithfulness to Israel. Despite God's assurance that He would provide for their every need, they doubted God's faithfulness. Three days after they worshiped God on the bank of the Red Sea, the Israelites grumbled against God (Exodus 15:24). Unfortunately, this was only the beginning of a cycle of forgetfulness and faithlessness.

KEY CONCEPT

God is our Provider, giving us our daily bread and all we need.

As you examine Exodus 16:1-12:

- Reflect upon the truth that God provides for our needs and wants us to trust Him.
- Note that God always acts in ways that reveal His glory.



TIMELINE

God Sends Ten Plagues Against Egypt (Exodus 7-12)

God Delivers Israel from the Egyptian Army
Through the Red Sea (Exodus 14-15)

**SESSION STUDY: Israel Grumbles,
and God Provides Them with Manna
and Quail (Exodus 16)**

God Leads Israel Out of Slavery in Egypt
(Exodus 13-14)

Israel Grumbles, and God Provides
Them with Water (Exodus 15)

Israel Grumbles, and God Provides Them with Water from a Rock (Exodus 17)

Daily Readings

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Exodus 15:22-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Exodus 16:21-30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Exodus 16:1-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Exodus 16:31-36 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Exodus 16:9-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 13 |



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 16:1-5

EVEN WHEN WE'RE UNGRATEFUL, GOD IS FAITHFUL TO PROVIDE FOR OUR NEEDS.

*Circle all the places mentioned in this passage.
Then underline the references to dates and times.*

1 The entire Israelite community departed from Elim and came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of Egypt. **2** The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!" **4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

GOD THE FATHER: God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Key Concept: God is our Provider, giving us our daily bread and all we need.



It had been a month since God's people fled Egypt. They were tired, hungry, and unsure of where their next meal would come from. God's people longingly looked back at their life in Egypt and came to the conclusion that a full belly in slavery was better than freedom with hunger pangs. And so, they grumbled. Perhaps their low blood sugar had affected their memory.

Yet God was compassionate. Like a tender father with a hurting child, He bent down low and brought relief. Because "as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13-14). He understands our human frailty—He created us. But as frail humans, we must learn to fix our gaze on our compassionate Father and place our trust in His eternal plan and steadfast promises.

Over what in your life are you prone to grumble, and how do you see the sin of unbelief in that response?

God graciously gave His people what would be their forty-year meal plan—daily bread from heaven. The Israelites were to collect only what they needed for the day. On the seventh day, no bread would come, but the divine delivery on the sixth day would be sufficient for two days. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), He undoubtedly meant for us to consider how God faithfully provided for His people daily for four decades.

Some lessons must be learned by doing. We might ace a test on the facts of a subject yet receive a big red "F" on implementing those precepts. It is one thing to say that God is our Provider. It is another thing altogether to rest in God's sufficiency instead of our own. God's provision for Israel didn't come with a forty-year storehouse. It came through daily bread, and each day was a test of the people's faith in the Lord.

How could your everyday habits display your trust that God will give you what you need?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 16:6-12

GOD PROVIDES NOT BECAUSE WE DESERVE IT BUT FOR HIS GLORY.

Circle all references to “the LORD” in this passage.

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you will see the LORD’s glory because he has heard your complaints about him. For who are we that you complain about us?” **8** Moses continued, “The LORD will give you meat to eat this evening and all the bread you want in the morning, for he has heard the complaints that you are raising against him. Who are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.” **9** Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your complaints.’” **10** As Aaron was speaking to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and there in a cloud the LORD’s glory appeared. **11** The LORD spoke to Moses, **12** “I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them: At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.”

WORD STUDY

GLORY: The Hebrew word for “glory” carries the meaning of a great weightiness. The Lord’s glory is a manifestation of His awesome presence. To give glory to God is to rightly affirm His significance and worthiness.¹

Key Concept: God is our Provider, giving us our daily bread and all we need.



God always acts in ways that reveal His glory. The provision of daily bread was not solely for the sake of the people. It was also and ultimately for the fame of God's name. In verse 6, Moses and Aaron declared to the people, "This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt." "The LORD" here refers to God's personal name, Yahweh, which He revealed to Moses at the burning bush.

Yahweh was their rescue. Not some lesser Egyptian god. Not Moses or Aaron. Not the bread. Yahweh alone was their Provider. Therefore, Yahweh alone deserved the glory.

What is the relationship between our complaints and our understanding of God's glory?

Manna was not all that would be provided. The people could expect bread from heaven in the morning, and in the evening, God would send quail for meat (vv. 8,12,13). This predictable pattern further demonstrated God's steadfast love for His people. He had heard their complaints, and through this double-dose of provision, they would be taken care of day after day.

Yet again we see a connection between God's provision and God's glory. Every gift of morning manna and twilight meat showed the Israelites something about God. They would receive the satisfying gifts of grace, and then they would "know that I am the LORD your God" (v. 12). The end goal of God's grace is not merely our receiving undeserved favor. Gaining the gift is meant to move us to worship God. That's the final objective, the only good and right response.

What are some ways you can regularly give God the glory for "every good and perfect gift" (James 1:17)?

CHRIST CONNECTION

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God supernaturally providing manna from heaven foreshadows how Christ is the Bread of Life (John 6:32-35), a supernatural, daily provision for our soul.

GROUP EXPERIENCE

RESPONSE TO GRUMBLING

Consider the phrases of the Israelites' grumbling in Exodus 16:3.
Then record how you would have responded, followed by God's response.

“If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt . . .”	MY RESPONSE	GOD’S RESPONSE
“When we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted . . .”	MY RESPONSE	
“Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!”	MY RESPONSE	

What does our grumbling say about our faith in God? How does grumbling impact our witness to the grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ?

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HEAD

How does remembering the character and work of Christ affect your worship?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 13. Consider how the Israelites' grumbling was different from the approach of the psalmist. Then pray through this psalm about the concerns on your heart, praying with honesty to God and faith in His faithful love.



HEART

When things are hard, what tends to come out of your mouth, and what does this reveal about your heart?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What are some daily rhythms that you can use to stir up gratitude for your Savior?

