

Small Group Discussion Guide

Next: For the week of July 12 - 18, 2020

Main Thoughts and Scripture: *From Exodus 16:1-15 ESV*

God led the Israelites out of bondage and into the promised land by way of the wilderness to test them and to build their faith and dependency on Him. Their journey provides valuable lessons for us as we navigate challenges and change as well.

"And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, 'Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'" (v. 2-3)

- **We must resist the natural drift to crave the past.** When their food ran out, instead of looking to God who delivered them, they grumbled against Him and resolved to go back to Egypt.
- Don't let your present challenges overwhelm the promise of future blessings.

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- **Guard the health of your soul.** Change brought stress resulting in an unhealthy confession. The "whole congregation" implies that there was no one with a godly perspective and healthy soul to process with.
- During seasons of change process with people who have a godly perspective.

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.'" (v. 4)

- **Prepare to experience provision differently** as we resolve to trust in God as our ultimate provider.
- Trust that results in obedience will eventually result in blessing.

"...At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning, dew lay around the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground...And Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'" (v. 12-15)

- **Know that when we are close to breaking down, God is close to breaking through.**
- As we resolve to trust and obey God, He will provide and will lead us into our new normal.

Discussion Questions: *(select those that apply)*

- As you reflect on the main scriptures and thoughts above, what stands out to you and why?
- What kinds of unhealthy confession or grumbling against God have come out of you recently? What do you think God is trying to teach you?
- How have you seen God provide for you in the past as you trusted in Him? How is He challenging you to trust in Him in a new and greater way today? Explain.

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to trust in God to provide and for breakthrough amid specific changes and challenges.
- Pray for one friend or family member that they too will come to trust in God as their provider as well.