

This is our story. Part 5—The Grumbling Text: Exodus 16:1-17:7

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What are you tired of hearing people grumble about?*
2. *What are you tired of hearing yourself grumble about?*

Digging In

After God parts the Reed Sea and leads the people through to freedom in the wilderness, the people burst into song and dance.

Read **Exodus 15:1-21**.

Questions:

1. *What do you hear the people of God praising God for in these songs?*
2. *What emotions do you imagine the people experiencing throughout the process of escaping Egypt and passing through the Reed Sea?*
3. *Tell us about a time you experienced a kind of God-given freedom. What emotions do you remember from that time?*

Immediately following the rescue from Egypt, notice what happens next: Read **Exodus 15:22-16:3**.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think the people of God were so quick to turn their singing and dancing into grumbling?*
2. *What do you think causes grumbling among those of us who have experienced God's freedom?*

Notice, now, God's response to a grumbling people: Read **Exodus 16:4-12**.

Questions:

1. *What is God's response to a grumbling people?*
2. *What response would you have expected God to have toward the people He had just rescued?*
3. *What do you learn about the character of God from this account?*

Sending Out

Read **Exodus 16:13-26**.

Some scholars have pointed out that this manna—also called “the bread of heaven”—has special properties. In other words, the provision that comes from God is always enough, is always enough for everyone, discourages greed, and encourages a Sabbath rest.

The early Christians took this to mean that the gift of manna was meant to shape the kinds of bread/gifts/provisions they gave: Read **2 Corinthians 8:13-15**.

Questions:

1. *Tell us about a time when you experienced God's provision being enough for you.*
2. *In what ways can we reflect God's provision of manna in the wilderness?*

Jesus calls himself the “bread of life” in the Gospel of John. Many believe this is a reference to the manna miracle in the Exodus. Many also believe that when Jesus teaches us to pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” Jesus is referencing this wilderness miracle.

Questions:

1. *How does the gift of manna in the wilderness help us to better understand who Jesus is in our life?*
2. *How does the manna miracle help us better understand what Jesus is asking of us when we pray “give **us** this day **our** daily bread”?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, “*What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?*”

Close with prayer.