

## GOD PROVIDES FOOD AND WATER FOR ISRAEL

*God provides bread from heaven.*



THE STORY: EXODUS 16:1-8

MONDAY

### Israel grumbled against Moses

Israel grumbled against Moses – In spite of all that God had done in leading Israel through the Red Sea and destroying the Egyptians, the people of Israel quickly lost faith and began to complain. Considering the wonders the Lord had done, it is important to view their actions as faithless rebellion rather than simple complaining. We want to remember that this passage has been preserved for us because of our tendency to fall into the same sins they fell into. It is natural for readers to identify with Moses, who had to put up with grumbling. But we probably resemble the people of Israel more than we do Moses. Remembering this will keep us from self-righteous judging. We are like the Israelites who often lacked faith and complained.

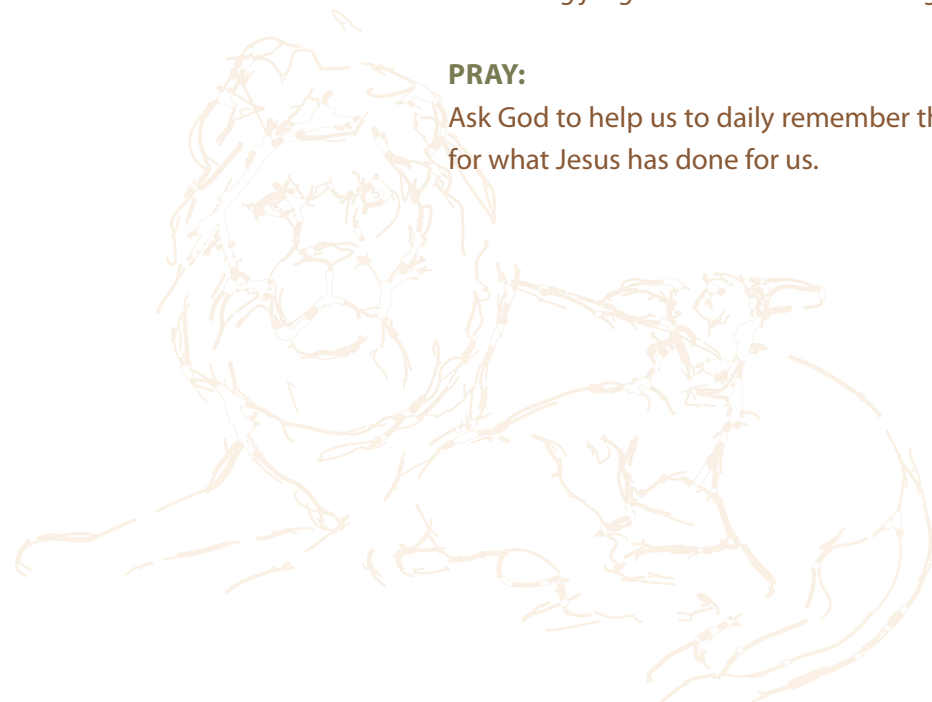
#### TALK ABOUT IT:

How are we like the Israelites? *(Even though God provides wonderfully for us, as soon as we hit a little trial, we often complain just as the Israelites did.)*

What is the answer to a complaining spirit? *(Remember all that Jesus did on the cross! When we reflect on our sin and that Jesus died to purchase our forgiveness, we remember how very good and merciful God has been to us. Even the most difficult of trials on earth are purifying expressions of grace that amount to very little when compared to the everlasting judgment we deserved or the glory that is to come.)*

#### PRAY:

Ask God to help us to daily remember the Gospel and keep a heart of thankfulness for what Jesus has done for us.





## God provided bread from heaven

God provided bread from heaven – In response to the grumbling of the people, God gave them quail and manna. Manna was a kind of bread which God sent from heaven. God was looking forward to the day when he would send Jesus, the “Bread of Life” from heaven, to die on the cross for the sins of His people. Because of this, God overlooked the sins of Israel and gave them the life-giving quail and manna. God provided the manna for forty years until they reached the border of Canaan.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this passage speak of God’s patience toward us? *(In spite of their grumbling, God gave them bread to sustain them. God provided this bread for forty years, even though they continued to sin.)*

How did God honor the Sabbath in the giving of the Manna? *(God allowed them to gather twice as much the day before the Sabbath. During every other day of the week, if they tried to keep more than they needed for the day, it would be full of maggots and stink. But not on the Sabbath! This was a weekly testimony to the active presence of God in their lives.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for the way he is patient with us in spite of our sin.



## Where is Jesus?

God provided food for the Israelites in the desert. This food is a picture of Christ, who is the true spiritual bread from heaven. Just as the Israelites needed to gather bread each day, so we need to draw near to Christ each day for the sustenance which comes from being in His presence. In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Paul tells us that the spiritual rock struck by Moses was Christ. In other words, just as the rock was struck by Moses so that the Israelites were rescued, so Christ was struck by us, and bore the wrath and judgment of God for all our sins so that we might be rescued from everlasting death.

... and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:4, ESV)

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the Bread of Life? (*Jesus*)

What does that mean? (*Bread is a basic food that can keep us alive and sustain us. Without that sustenance we would die. Jesus is the spiritual food we need to keep us alive. Without Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross, we would die a spiritual death and be separated from God forever.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending His Son to provide the kind of bread and water that can sustain and satisfy us forever.



THE STORY: EXODUS 17:1-7

# THURSDAY

## Israel charged God

Israel charged God - The charge brought against Moses was much more serious than grumbling for lack of water. It was not a complaint, but a legal action. Seeing that they were going to die of thirst, the people wanted to stone Moses. If they were going to die in the wilderness, they would stone the one who led them there. Ultimately, their charge was against God because God led them there through Moses. So God called Moses to pass before the people with some of the elders of Israel. God would hold His own trial. Moses was directed to bring the staff that he used to strike the Nile. What God said next is truly amazing. God Himself would stand on trial on behalf of the people. God would stand before Moses to be judged at the rock at Horeb. Moses was instructed to strike the rock. Rather than judge the people, God judged Himself on their behalf. The resulting grace was that water flowed to satisfy their thirst and to save them from impending death. In this event, God gives us a marvelous picture of Jesus, our divine and holy sin substitute.



**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why did the people want to stone Moses? *(They believed they were about to die. They decided to hold Moses accountable for their death by stoning him before they died.)*

What does Moses' staff represent? *(Moses' staff represents the judgment of God.)*

Who were the people really angry with? *(God)* How did God respond to them? What does that tell us about God? *(God responded with mercy and patience. God was looking forward to the sacrificed of His son.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help us remember His provision, Christ, the next time we don't get something that we want.



THE STORY: PSALM 72:1-2

FRIDAY

Jesus is the royal son of righteousness who will judge people in righteousness and justice. See 2 Timothy 4:8.

## On the road to Emmaus.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Solomon, a man of wisdom, was probably praying this for himself, but there is another king who fits the description. Who is that king? *(Jesus is the king of righteousness that fits Solomon's description.)*

How does Jesus fit the description in this passage better than Solomon? *(Solomon, though very wise, was not perfectly righteous in his judgments. Only Christ is perfect in righteousness and all His ways. See Psalm 18:30.)*

**PRAY:**

Thank God for sending His Son Jesus to take the punishment for our sins. If it were not for Jesus bearing our sin, we would be severely judged for our lack of righteousness. We can celebrate the righteous judgments of God without fear because Jesus took our punishment.

