

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of February 11-17, 2024

## “GOD’S GIFTS: GRATEFUL OR GRUMBLING?”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Is there a unique food that you’ve seen on TV or read about that you want to try? What is it and why?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Read Exodus 16.

1. Read Exodus 14:11-12; 15:22-24; 16:2-3. What do you think was the reason why the Israelites kept grumbling? How would you describe the way they expressed their displeasure? What do you think are the root cause(s) of their complaining attitude?
2. How quickly did the Israelites forget God's deliverance from Egypt and resort to grumbling? (vv. 1-3) How does this relate to your own faith journey? Have you ever doubted God's provision in challenging times? Share an experience or a testimony.
3. How does God respond to the Israelites' complaints? What does his response teach us about his character and his expectations of his people?
4. Think about the significance of God providing manna daily for the Israelites. How does this emphasize our dependence on God's continuous provision? What is the significance of Jesus' teaching about dependence on God for daily bread in Matthew 6:11 and his identification as the "bread of life" in John 6:35?
5. *“Instead of thanking God for what they did have, they complained about what they didn’t have.”* How do you relate to this? How do you guard your heart against the temptation to complain and grumble when faced with challenges or scarcity?

6. How did the Israelites' mistake of hoarding manna demonstrate a lack of trust and contentment in the Lord? (vv. 19-20) How can you cultivate trust and contentment in your own life? (Philippians 4:11-13).
7. Share a testimony on how God has been faithful to you this week.

### NEXT STEPS

*“The meaning of the manna is that all we need is Jesus.” (Philip Ryken)*

- ☐ I will cultivate an attitude of gratitude, especially in times of challenges (1 Thess 5:18).
- ☐ I will trust in God's provisions for my daily needs.
- ☐ I will practice contentment with what God provides, recognizing that his provision is sufficient for my needs.
- ☐ I will avoid comparing myself to others or longing for things beyond what God has given me.
- ☐ I am thankful for Jesus, the Bread of Life.
- ☐ *Don't forget to:*
- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray to be able to live with gratitude and trust in God's faithfulness.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

February 19 Exodus 13  
February 20 Exodus 14  
February 21 Exodus 15:1-21  
February 22 Exodus 15:22-16:10  
February 23 Exodus 16:11-36  
February 24 Isaiah 12:1-6  
February 25 Psalms 8