

# EXODUS

PART 2: IDENTITY



JANUARY 27, 2018 | **COMMUNITY** GROWTH GUIDE

## Developing a Heavenly Appetite

Exodus 15:22-16:36

### Message Big Idea

God sovereignly uses earthly tests to develop a heavenly appetite in us.

### Belong

1. Did you witness any examples of God's providence this week, either in your life or in the life of someone you know? What happened?
2. Have you ever gone through a season where you felt a lack of God's direct physical or emotional providence? Maybe you're feeling this way right now...? How do/did you feel in this time? Did this affect your view of God or the church?
3. Have you ever received a gift (anonymous or otherwise) from someone that you know was prompted by God? In other words, has God ever used another person to provide a need or a want in your life?

### Grow

1. In Exodus 15:22-27, the Israelites, who just witnessed God's immense power and provision through their exodus from Egypt, are faced with their first trial - thirst. For the first 3 days after crossing the Red Sea, they went without water, and quickly began grumbling. How do you think you would have behaved had you been in the situation? Would God's recent provision have been enough to keep you from grumbling, or would 3 days be enough time for you to begin doubting Him?
2. As the story continues in chapter 16, a month-and-a-half passes in the wilderness with God providing for their daily needs. But again, the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and

Aaron...this time due to hunger. Have a member of your group read Exodus 16:1-3 and discuss the people's complaint. Does this sound familiar to you?

- a. "We had plenty to eat back in Egypt! Why did you bring us out here?"
  - b. "My neighbor can afford the new car they want! Why don't we make enough to buy one?"
  - c. "Our appliances keep breaking...why can't we make it a week without having issues?"
  - d. "This relationship is challenging! Why don't we seem to be as happy our friends?"
  - e. "I keep putting in overtime to show my boss my effort! Why do I keep getting passed up for the promotion?"
3. What do you typically do when you start to have these thoughts? Do you intentionally re-focus on showing gratitude, or is it easy for you to get lost in thoughts of doubt and grumbling?
  4. Have someone from your group read Exodus 16:4-13. How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw the bread from Heaven? Was it with a sense of sheer relief and expectation of food to eat? Or was it with utter awe and wonder at the power of God? Do you think they were grateful for the meal, or ashamed that they ever doubted a God so powerful that He can part the Red Sea and rain bread from Heaven?
  5. Do you ever allow your hard times or difficulties to cloud the wonder and immense gratitude for all God does continue to provide for you (or what He has provided in the past)? How can we retain our gratitude even through difficult seasons in order to avoid the pattern of doubt and grumbling that we see in the Israelites?

## Reach

1. Are there any blessings in your life for which you need to offer more gratitude to God this week?
2. Is God calling you to bless someone else this week (with a gift, a note, a text, etc.)? Take some time to pray over that this week, asking God to show you if there is a need that He would like you to meet for someone else in your life.

*"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." –Oprah Winfrey*