



## Sermon Overview

God's salvation at the Red Sea put a song in Israel's heart. But it was quickly crowded out by discontent. Israel's singing and celebration soon turned into sourness and complaining. They had convinced themselves that there were only two options: dying in Egypt with full stomachs or dying in the desert with empty stomachs (16:3). They had already discounted any divine interaction in their lives. What distorted memories they have of slavery in Egypt!

Even through the Israelites grumbled, God chose to show his grace. God's provision of food and water was given without merit to his people. The Israelites simply needed to trust and obey.

God's faithful protection for the Israelites was more than a series of temporary solutions. God was continuing his pattern of provision. As he promised, God created for himself a people, God liberated his people and is with his people every step of the way. God still provides this same pattern of provision for his people today – he has created us, rescued us and is with us. But like the Israelites, God has not set us free to pursue our fleeting desires but to find all our desires satisfied in him. God instructs and provides for us that we may return his grace as worship.

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## Getting Started

Share a time when an eagerly anticipated event didn't go as planned. What circumstances were unexpected? How did this change your experience?

## Starting with God

1. Read Exodus 15:22-27. This scene is a true picture of grace. While the people ungratefully grumble against Moses, God responds by providing their needs and also revealing more about himself. What is it?

2. Read John 6:1-13, 22-59. What further purpose can we see in Israel's history for the provision of manna, which comes to light in this passage?

### Living God's Word

3. In Exodus 16, what is God's part and the Israelites' part in the provision of manna in the wilderness?
4. Compare Exodus 16:4 with Deuteronomy 8:3. What does this reveal about God's purpose for feeding his people with manna for forty years? What does this say about God's desire for us? Is he more concerned with our happiness or our holiness?
5. God put people in Moses' life that loved him enough to tell him what he was doing was not good. Who in your life has the navigation and freedom to speak God's wisdom into your life? How can you surround yourself with people like Moses did in 18:21?

### Prayer

*Father God, we confess that we are helpless to provide for ourselves the things we really need. Please give us joy in dependence on you. Please form our hearts to desire you more than anything else, and follow you with joyful perseverance.*