

# The Miracle of God's Provision

## A Different Kind of Miracle

### The Story

Matthew 14:13-21/ Luke 9:6-17/ John 6:1-13

### The Miracle of God's Provision

#### How it works:

- (1) Seek the **PROVIDER**, not the **PROVISION**.

Matthew 6:33/ Genesis 22:14/ James 1:16-17

- (2) Give God **WHAT YOU HAVE**.

Mark 6:38 & Matthew 14:17-18/ Luke 16:10 & Philippians 4:15-19/  
Mark 6:41 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- (3) Do whatever the Lord **SAYS**.

Mark 6:39-42/ 1 Corinthians 10:13/ Proverbs 3:5-6

- (4) Save the **LEFTOVERS**.

John 6:12-13 & Mark 6:50-52

# Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 12, 2019

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1 Larry reminded us it always starts with giving him what we have. When you think about what you have and what you give, what comes to mind?

2 Where is gratitude expressed most clearly in your life? Can you think of any areas where gratitude is harder to see?

3 This weekend we were reminded in our study of Mark that there are times where we need to rest and there are other times where we need to push through and work harder. As you think through the ministry\* you're doing, do you think you're a person who needs more rest or a person who needs to work harder? Why?

*\*Ministry: Serving people directly or behind the scenes, taking care of sick family and friends, telling people about Jesus, allowing yourself to be interrupted by people, giving money, helping fix broken things or broken people.*

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 This weekend we heard the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. Another story that includes a miraculous feeding can be found in Exodus. As you read through both stories in Exodus 16 and Mark 6:30-44 write down a word or two that sums up each paragraph. (Feel free to write this in the margin of your Bible). Next, answer the following questions:

*(NIV – New International Version)*

**Exodus 16** - And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." <sup>6</sup> Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?" <sup>8</sup> Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD." <sup>9</sup> Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'" <sup>10</sup> Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" <sup>13</sup> So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. <sup>14</sup> And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup> This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'" <sup>17</sup> Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup> So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. <sup>19</sup> And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." <sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>21</sup> So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted. <sup>22</sup> And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a

holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake *today*, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’”<sup>24</sup> So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.<sup>25</sup> Then Moses said, “Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.”<sup>26</sup> Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.”<sup>27</sup> Now it happened *that some* of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.<sup>28</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?<sup>29</sup> See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”<sup>30</sup> So the people rested on the seventh day.<sup>31</sup> And the house of Israel called its name **☩**Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers *made* with honey.<sup>32</sup> Then Moses said, “This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: ‘Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’”<sup>33</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, “Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.”<sup>34</sup> As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.<sup>35</sup> And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.<sup>36</sup> Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.

**Mark 6:30-44** - <sup>30</sup> Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. <sup>31</sup> And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. <sup>32</sup> So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves. <sup>33</sup> But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. <sup>36</sup> Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves **☩**bread; for they have nothing to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?” <sup>38</sup> But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. <sup>41</sup> And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. <sup>42</sup> So they all ate and were filled. <sup>43</sup> And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Now those who had eaten the loaves were **☩**about five thousand men.

What “messes” do the followers face in each story? Are there any similarities in their responses? Can you think of any times you had a similar response to God when facing a mess?

How does Deuteronomy 8:2-3 help explain Exodus 16?

**Deuteronomy 8:2-3** - <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

What might be a correlation between daily manna and our faith today?

How might Exodus 16 be different if the Israelites were thankful for what God provided? Do you think you’re typically aware of when God provides for you? If so, how do you express your thankfulness?

2

After reading the prior passages in Exodus and Mark it would be easy to think God’s provision is about meeting our needs for food or even shelter. Because of that, it’s easy to doubt God’s goodness when God doesn’t provide in our timeline or the way we want him to. How could John 6:25-40 help us in our doubt and shed light on what God’s provision really looks like?

**John 6:25-40** - <sup>25</sup> And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." <sup>28</sup> Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." <sup>30</sup> Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?" <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." <sup>35</sup> And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will <sup>38</sup> by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

How does God's provision for you impact how you view your relationship with him?

## TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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