

The Year of Discipleship in 3-D

(Further Developing Devoted Followers of Christ)



Welcome! Thanks for choosing to dive more deeply, as a Christian, into a three-dimensional discipleship! Using the diversity and wonder of God's Word, powered by the Holy Spirit and the witness of one another, this time together seeks to raise up more fully-devoted followers of Christ.

Our prayer is that we might all:

Grow Upward in an ever-maturing personal relationship to Christ by becoming more fluent in the "first language of the faith," God's Word!
Grow Outward to neighbor and world – learning to love well, to share faith and witness to others we encounter,
and to lead in more in that which matters to God!
And, **Grow Inward** by discovering a more contemplative prayer and devotional life enriched by silence, listening, and quiet reflection!

The Scripture for Sunday, October 10, 2021

[STUDY LESSON 5]

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Exodus 16:1-18

{1} The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. {2} The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. {3} The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

{4} Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. {5} On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." {6} So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, {7} and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" {8} And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

{9} Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" {10} And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. {11} The LORD spoke to Moses and said, {12} "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

{13} In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. {14} When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. {15} When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. {16} This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.'" {17} The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. {18} But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

DISCUSSION GUIDANCE AND QUESTIONS:

For an overview of Exodus 1-18 consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18/>

1. Open (*or have someone in the group open*) with a prayer inviting the work of the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts and lives of any and all to shape believers into more fully devoted following of Christ.
2. Read (*or have one or more persons read*) the passage printed above (*or from a bible*).
3. As you listen in to the world these days and the people around you, what are some of the major complaints repeatedly expressed? How do you react or respond to people who tend to whine or complain excessively?
4. Name a journey in your life that was particularly rough or unpleasant. What, as you remember, was some of your attitude in that situation?
5. Have you ever experienced spending time in a place that might be described as a wilderness? What do you recall from that experience?
 - a. The desolation?
 - b. The heat?
 - c. The loneliness?
 - d. The sense of being lost?
 - e. The missing of home?
6. Note how the Israelites “looked toward the wilderness” (*Exodus 16:10*) go see God’s glory in the cloud. Often symbolic of hardship (the wilderness), when have you had a “wilderness experience” of hardship and how has God met you in that place and provided renewed sustenance for the journey of life and faith?
7. What are you now needing for God to provide you from heaven (*quail*) and from earth (*manna*) as you make your way through the living of these days?
8. Spend some time talking or reflecting upon God’s abundance provisions for you as part of what it means to follow Christ. If willing, share (*or personally identify within yourself*) an aspect of your life where you believe God is calling you to take greater note of how God provides.
9. Implied in these daily provision from the Lord is the need to trust God! Each twilight quail was provided. Every morning, excepting the Sabbath, manna showed up on the ground. Is there a place where you need to ask for greater trust in what God provides? Speak to that need, if you can.
10. Is there any gripe (or complaint) that you often return to that may hinder your witness to others as a devoted follower of Christ?
11. Consider what is your main discipleship “takeaway” from this text.
12. Can you identify any particular ways your Christian faith and following might be inspired to change in light of this passage from the Bible (and any discussion and/or reflection that may have taken place)?
13. (*Optional*) Read the passage once more. Then, take some time to close (or have someone close) with a prayer.