



BIBLE READING NOTES

Bread

PREPARE

In which ways can you testify that God provides?

BIBLE PASSAGE

²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day.....”⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him.....”

¹¹The LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need.’” (verses from Exodus 16)

EXPLORE

- It’s such a human reaction to grumble – especially when we’re hungry! The Israelites had yearned to leave Egypt (where they were slaves....not sitting relaxing round pots of food (v.2!) but when they found out what the alternative was, they longed to go back. What did their grumbling reveal about their attitude to God?





BIBLE READING NOTES

- Resisting the urge to grumble about things (especially at the moment) can be a key witness to the difference our faith makes. However, there is a vital difference between grumbling (complaining) and lamenting (passionately expressing our grief or sorrow). The Bible has little patience with our grumbling, but it urges us to bring our laments before God (one third of the Psalms are laments). What does this tell us about our prayers in this time of crisis?
- Look at verse 16. What did 'gathering just as much as they needed' teach the people? In what ways is it difficult for us to trust in God to provide everything we need? Consider the influence of adverts and societal norms.
- The line in the Lord's Prayer 'Give us this day our daily bread' reminds us of the story of God's daily provision of manna for the hungry people of Israel. What other stories in the Bible can you think of where God faithfully provided using bread so that his people were saved from certain situations?

RESPOND

Is God asking you to trust him with a situation? Ask God to teach you to trust him as provider. Try to bring it before God each day this week as you pray the line from the Lord's prayer 'give us this day our daily bread' – seeking God's provision for just what you need – physically, spiritually, emotionally.

PRAYER

Father God, instead of justifiably becoming angry with the people's grumbling, you answered them by 'raining down bread from heaven'. Help me to see your amazing blessings when I feel like grumbling. In those situations where I desperately need you this week, I ask you to provide so that I have 'just as much as I need'. Thank you.

If you are using these notes, could you let me know, together with any thoughts you may have on them? Thank you!

peter.natasha@hotmail.com

