



2. When is the best time to praise God? Take a look at the references below and jot down what you observe.
  - a. Psalm 72:15b
  - b. Psalm 71:6 and 14
  - c. Psalm 119:164
  - d. Psalm 35:28
  - e. Psalm 119:62 (See Acts 16:25–26 for an example of what praise produces.)
  - f. Psalm 146:2

### *Look closer . . .*

The deliverance from slavery that God brought about through Moses foreshadows the deliverance from sin that He brought about through the Lamb—Jesus Christ. One day all who have experienced *His deliverance* will gather at another sea—the “sea of glass” (Revelation 15:2) and sing another song. What is this song called? What about it stands out to you? See Revelation 15:2–4.

3. Personal: Has God given you a reason to celebrate? Have you made *worship* a part of your celebration? Combine what you’ve learned today with your life experience to compose a personal praise song to God. When you are finished, offer it to Him.

*Heartbeat . . .* “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.’” John 6:35

## *Day Two:*

## Look to the Tree!

Have you ever passed through a hard time only to find just around the corner there is another test or trial? Following the procession out of Egypt and passing through the Red Sea produced songs of triumph. Perhaps the Israelites thought that they would now have an easy journey to the Promised Land; but three days into the wilderness they could find no water. Once they did find it, they realized it wasn't suitable for drinking. What lesson did God want to teach His people next?

Read Exodus 15:22–27.

1. Where did the people find water? What made it unsuitable? v. 23
  
2. To whom did the people turn next—with what attitude of heart? v. 24
  
3. Notice where Moses turned first. v. 25
  - a. What did the Lord show him?
  
  - b. What took place when Moses cast the tree into the waters?

As the people were complaining, Moses turned to the Lord and the Lord turned to him—right there at Marah—the place of bitterness. It wasn't a mistake that had brought them there; God had purposely directed His people into a difficult circumstance.

4. What was God's purpose in leading His people to Marah? vv. 25–26
  - a. What was the condition of His promise to them?
  
  - b. Who did God tell the people He was to them?
  
5. Where did God take His people after Marah? What does this reveal to you about God's character?

Are you thirsty and perhaps tired of the journey? Have you been looking for the answer to your problem only to find it was a mirage all along? Have you found yourself grumbling because you've become bitter? Sooner or later the pathway along your journey will bring you to a *Marah* experience. It is not a matter of *if* but *when*. Keep in mind that you may not be able to control your circumstances, but you can control how you handle yourself in those circumstances and where you look for help!

The tree did not suddenly appear to Moses; rather it was there all the time. God just had to point it out to him. The same is true for us: the remedy for our bitterness is not something new; it has been there all the time. The Cross of Calvary is every person's *Tree of Life*. Today God is pointing you toward it!

*Selah . . .*

Are you being tested right now? Think about it, do you want to become *bitter* or *better*? It is only when you put the *tree*—the Cross—in the midst of your circumstances that you will find God and know peace. Whatever you are dealing with right now, will you turn to the *Cross* and receive God's grace to meet your need? Please record your thoughts.

*Review this week's memory verse.*

### *Day Three:*                    Heaven's Daily Bread

One month into the journey, already the heart of Moses was becoming weighed down with the responsibility of leading two million people. Add to that the repeated outbreaks of murmuring spreading throughout the camp, and you have a faithful leader who is driven to depend upon the Lord. The lips that had eagerly joined Moses in singing praises to God were now quickly used to whine and complain against him. Once again God will miraculously provide for His people but will test them in the process.

Read Exodus 16:1-36.

1. Briefly describe what is taking place in vv. 1–3.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How utterly marvelous is the grace of God! He would be justified in giving His people what they deserve—judgment—but instead, what does He tell Moses He will do? vv. 4–5
  - a. God had a two-fold purpose in sending the manna, what was it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Could God have sent enough manna to sustain His people for weeks or months? Why didn't He?

*“The house of Israel called its name Manna”* (v. 31) meaning literally, *“What?”*

3. Describe the manna in verses 14–15 and 31.
  - a. By what proportion was manna to be measured? vv. 18 and 36
  - b. What happened when the people tried to leave some of it for the next day? vv. 19–20
4. God sent bread in the morning; what did He send in the evening? What did God want the people to know? vv. 6–13
  - a. The people lashed out at Moses and Aaron, but who were they really murmuring against?
5. What was the only exception to gathering manna daily? vv. 5 and 22–30
  - a. When the people attempted to gather manna on the Sabbath, what happened? What lesson did God want to teach them through this?
6. God commanded His people to provide a testimony of His faithfulness to future generations—what was it? vv. 32–35

The manna would serve to sustain God’s people throughout their 40 years in the wilderness until they reached the Promised Land. One more purpose of God’s provision was to point His people to the Lord Jesus Christ. Take a few minutes to reflect on John 6:22–35 and consider the following:

- ❖ What similarities do you see between believer’s today and the Israelites of Moses’ day?
- ❖ Who gives the true bread from heaven? What are the benefits of *you* feeding on the Lord daily?

*Review this week’s memory verse.*

## Day Four:

## Failing the Test

It could have taken only a few days to walk from Egypt to Canaan, but it would take God's children 40 years to make the trip! This new nation of people accustomed to being slaves would need some education and training before taking possession of the Promised Land. They first had to learn how to walk in obedience, stand in faith, and overcome great obstacles with God's help. As the tests continued to come, lessons were learned and sometimes *failure* was the best teacher.

In Exodus 16 we see that God provided the manna not only to feed His people, but also to test them. Many people failed the test: some didn't believe God would supply manna daily so they tried to save enough for the next day (vv.19–20); others didn't listen and went out on the Sabbath to gather it (v. 27). So what can we glean from all this? It's alright to fail as long as we learn the lesson God has for us, but better still is instant obedience. It is a walk of faith that pleases the heart of God. Worst of all is to give in to murmuring through the process because the fruit of it results in an ungrateful heart.

### Look Closer . . .

Listed below you will notice the downward spiral that murmuring produces. Look up each term in the dictionary that is highlighted for you and write a definition.

- a. "Murmurers" tend to be *short-sighted*. (Write a definition for *short-sighted*.)
  
- b. "Murmurers" tend to believe they are *short-changed*. (Write a definition for *short-changed*.)
  
- c. "Murmurers" tend to become *short-tempered*. (Write a definition for *short-tempered*.)
  
- d. Personal: Can you relate any of the above to your current heart attitude? How might they affect your perspective? Is there room for improvement?

Murmuring and grumbling will get you nowhere in your walk with God! There will be ample opportunity to realize this as you are tested through your study this year. If you want a "passing grade," remember that it will take time and effort to resolve the issues in your life. God knows your heart, but He will test you to show *you* what is there—whether you will be submissive and follow His leading.

You may want all of your problems resolved now; but God wants you to recognize your need to trust Him. As you close your lesson today, spend a few minutes meditating on Romans 8:32. Jot down what the Lord ministers to you.

*Day Five:*

## Praying with Purpose

**Selah . . .** Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

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❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing can you act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

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❖ **A Promised Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

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❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

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❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

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**Other requests:**

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## Notes