Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 16:

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 16. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

The Israelites have been only 6 weeks in the wilderness and they are complaining. Exodus 16:3 says, *“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”*. What? Did they really forget all about the brick-making, the beatings, the bondage? It is remarkable that God responds to the people’s need for assurance that He is good and He will take care of them. Prior to the Israelites liberation, the only life they knew in Egypt was an empire where they constructed storehouses for food, where they were exposed constantly to a hoarding, competitive environment, where human lives were abused and broken in order to fuel the power of Pharaoh. These people might be justified in worrying that this “god”, whom they have only recently been acquainted with, may not be the steady, reliable type. God knows the hearts of His people and He wants them to know that He is their provider and sustainer. So God, in His mercy and goodness answers their grumbling and complaining by raining down bread from heaven! Exodus 16:4 & 12, “*I will rain down bread from heaven for you....you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God*”. This bread from heaven was miraculous and life-sustaining to the entire nation of Israel for the 40 years they were in the wilderness. Psalm 78:23-25 testifies to the supernatural provision, “*He gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he have them the grain of heaven. Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat*”.

This Manna, the bread from heaven, was something too wonderful to be understood and the Israelites kept their wonderment as the name of the bread, “What is it?” (verse 15). Manna was a resource that never existed before this moment in history or since. Jewish legend tells us what this bread tasted like: “One only had to desire a certain dish and no sooner had he thought of it, than manna had the flavor of the dish desired. The same food had a different taste to everyone who partook of it, according to his age; to the little children it tasted like milk, to the strong youths like bread, to the old men like honey, to the sick like barley steeped in oil and honey.” But they also wrote that manna was bitter to the gentiles. Sounds a lot like Narnia, doesn’t it?

God’s desire was to shape the Israelites into a different kind of people, a different kind of community, a different kind of nation. In the daily practice of gathering bread from heaven, they would learn, with their bodies to trust God, and with the Sabbath-keeping (a concept foreign to them), their bodies would receive rest, refreshment and rejuvenation.

The Manna, bread from heaven was supernatural provision and a daily reminder of the Israelites daily dependence on God. God wanted to cultivate their daily dependence by providing for their needs on a daily basis. God knows that if He provided too much too soon, they would stop trusting in their Provider and trust in the provision. Nothing’s changed. Isn’t that the point of the prayer Jesus taught us, “*Give us this day our daily bread*”. He is cultivating our daily dependence on His provision. If He provides too much too soon, we will lose our spiritual hunger and start trusting in the provision, instead of the Provider.

The Name of God that speaks to His Nature as provider is Jehovah Jirah (The Lord my Provider). This literally means, “Jehovah Sees”. The verb “sees” is translated provides, but it actually is “sees” which has two Hebrew words, pro-videre: “pro” meaning before and “Videre” meaning vision. Literally God sees our need beforehand, before it arises and He makes provision for it. He knows what we need!

**Reflection**: Take some time to write out some ways that the Lord has provided for your needs?

Past:

Present:

How does the explanation of God’s Name as Jehovah-Jirah give you confidence to approach Him and make your requests?