

## Exodus 16:1–26 Discussion Questions\* | Trusting God's Provision

### Focus on the Theme

1. Think about grumbling. What sorts of things do you grumble about?

- Who do you usually grumble to?
- Why do you think you grumble?
- How far does grumbling help?

### What Does the Bible Say?

2. The people complain to Moses and Aaron about a lack of food (16:2–3), but in what ways are they also grumbling against God (16:6–9)?

3. How does God respond to his people's grumbling (16:10–16)?

4. How would gathering enough manna for one day at a time (16:17–18) and double on the day before the sabbath (16:22–26) foster trust in God?

5. In what ways did the people disobey God's instructions (16:19–20)?

### Going Deeper

6. Look at Psalms 78:12–31 and 95:8–11. How do the psalmists describe the experience of the Israelites in the desert?

What is their 'take' on what was going on?

7. Look at some references in the New Testament to the wilderness experience of God's people – 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 and Hebrews 3:7–4:11. How do these passages fill out our understanding of this period in the life of the people of God?

## Living it Out

8. When you have found yourself grumbling at God, what do you think is at the root of your complaints?

How can we help each other remain faithful to God when we're tempted to grumble about his provision?

9. Given particular issues that you are facing at the moment, what might trusting God's provision for you look like over the next few weeks?

10. In Exodus 16:33–35, Aaron puts aside a jar of manna so that future generations could be reminded about the Lord's provision. What would you want to place in your own 'manna jar' as a reminder of how the Lord has provided for you?

## Prayer Time

Use question 10 as a prompt to give thanks to the Lord for his patience, provision, and protection, even when you grumble!

In pairs or as a group, share specific frontline situations, or reflect back on the issues you noted at the start of the studies. In light of what the passage in this session tells us about how God forms a people who will obey him, how might you pray for each other?

Pray that you will trust his goodness in giving us 'our daily bread', and that you will not be tempted to hoard.