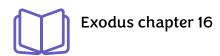


## Moses Part 6 - When We Forget That God Does Amazing Things!



This week's Bassline is full of moaning, grumbling and complaining. Despite the amazing things God had done for the Israelites, they still found plenty to complain about. God provided for their every need, but it was never enough. What can we learn from their story? How can we switch our focus from everything we lack to everything God has given us?

#### You will need:

- Manna-shaped discussion questions handout
- Paper and pens
- Scripture posters



#### Leader's notes:

Watch and discuss the following clip together.

#### Watch:

Shrek 2: Are we there yet? (HD CLIP - Binge Society) (stop at 1:31) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gn51xYvJhQI

#### Ask:

- Have you ever been on a journey like this?
- Where did you go?
- Who was the first to ask, 'Are we there yet?'
- How did the person/people organising the trip react?
- Why is the question, 'Are we there yet?' so frustrating?







#### Ask:

- What do you find most frustrating about long journeys?
- Where do you normally direct your frustration?



#### Leader's notes:

If there are those in the group who have followed through the Moses series so far, then give them one minute to recap the story. We will try this activity every week, and it will get trickier to fit in all the facts as we move through the story of Moses.

#### Say:

In the Beat clip, Shrek and Fiona had to deal with one donkey repeatedly asking the question, 'Are we there yet?' This was absolutely nothing compared to the grumbling and complaining that Moses had to endure.

#### Leader's notes:

Either read Exodus 16 or listen to the clip below. Ask the group to listen out for the moments the Israelites grumbled and complained. You could make this more interactive by getting the group to try and count / write down the amount of times they hear a grumble.

#### Listen:

Bible Gateway Exodus 16 - NIV

https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/mclean/niv/Exod.16

#### Ask:

- These events took place about 45 days after the Israelites left Egypt. What had they forgotten?
- Why do you think their focus shifted from everything they had gained to everything they had lost?

#### Leader's notes:

Using the handout, cut out the manna-shaped questions and lay them face down on the floor. Take turns for each person to 'collect' a piece of manna, read out the question and give their answer. They can use Exodus 16 to help them answer the questions. The questions are listed below.

What did manna taste like?



- Why were the Israelites grumbling and complaining again?
- From reading Exodus 16, what do you see the Israelites doing that demonstrates their trust in God?
- From reading Exodus 16, what do you see the Israelites doing that demonstrates their lack of trust in God?
- Do you think that God still provides for his people in miraculous ways today?
- Are there any times when you have doubted God could provide for you, even though you have seen him do it many times before?
- Why did God tell the Israelites not to gather any manna on the Sabbath?
- How would you feel eating the same thing every day for 40 years?
- In what ways do you think the Israelites benefited from receiving manna?
- Why do you think God told them only to gather as much as they needed for that one day?
- The Israelites had to trust God's daily provision do you think that became easier or harder over 40 years?

#### Ask:

What do you think we can learn from the Israelites' behaviour as they continued on their journey?



#### Ask:

What is your response to the following quote?

'Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it.'

- Joyce Meyer





#### **Say:**

Unable to rely on God's provision and look to his faithfulness throughout their journey, the Israelites constantly looked for the next issue they may face. God had provided for them every step of the way, but it was never enough for them. Each day God provided exactly what they needed, but some of the Israelites wanted more. They would gather up extra manna and keep it until the next morning. They were content with their manna for the day, but they could not entrust tomorrow's manna to God. As a result, the manna they saved became full of maggots and worms!



#### Ask:

In what ways do we sometimes live our lives like the Israelites in this story?

#### Say:

Some of the Israelites also went out to gather manna on the seventh day, after God had told them there would be no manna that day for the seventh day was a day of rest.

#### Discuss:

- Why did they go looking for manna instead of taking advantage of this God-ordained rest?
- Do you think that they did not trust God enough to take a day off from trying to gather provisions for daily living?

#### Say:

They were so consumed with meeting their daily needs that when God provided both the needs and a time of rest, they could not rest.

#### Leader's notes:

After reflecting on all the discussion so far, ask the group to create a pitch for a TV show or film that explores the themes raised in the story. The main character is a modern-day Christian who struggles to see all that God has done in their lives and strives for what is next. Other than that, the young people can create the setting, map out the storyline and even cast the main characters. They also need to come up with a name for their film or mini-series. Give the group time to create their pitch and then share and discuss them together.



#### Leader's notes:

Read and discuss the following quote.

'What strikes me about these tests of trust is that their issues do not require huge leaps of faith but disciplined daily and weekly acts of trust. Sometimes faith is a leap, like when we commit our whole selves – past, present, and future – to God. But here in the desert of hunger and provision, faith is a discipline. It is the discipline of gathering enough and only enough, the discipline of trusting Yahweh for tomorrow's bread, the discipline of resting. It is the discipline of abiding by Yahweh's word in the blessedness of Yahweh's provision. The goal of the provision and testing is that Israel might know that Yahweh is their God, that they might behold Yahweh's glory. The provision and the testing are for the sake of relationship. Yahweh provides and tests in order to create a covenant people who know his glory, who feed on his word, who are Yahweh-centred in their identity.'

- Steve Rodeheaver - The Manna Tests





#### Leader's notes:

A set of Scripture verse posters is provided for this activity. Place the posters around the room. Play some reflective music (an option is provided below) and allow the group time to walk around the room and read the verses in a slow, meditative way. Encourage them to allow the truth of Scripture to permeate inside them to their area of need. Challenge each person to pick one verse and try to memorise it. If appropriate, you could ask your group for feedback, to share their thoughts on each of the verses and take some time to pray for each other's needs.

#### Watch:

Awesome God - Hillsong UNITED - Look To You (5:14) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXa75KOdftQ

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- (Psalm 23:1)
- <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
- (Philippians 4:19)
- <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
- (Matthew 7:11)
- <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said.
- 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'
- (Hebrews 13:5)
- <sup>41</sup> Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?
- (Job 38:41)
- <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- (John 10:10)



### <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- (Matthew 6:33)



#### Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

#### Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from the events in today's story?

#### Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.







# Manna-shaped discussion questions

What did manna taste like?

Why were the Israelites grumbling and complaining again?

From reading Exodus
16, what do you see
the Israelites doing that
demonstrates their
trust in God?

From reading
Exodus 16, what do
you see the Israelites
doing that demonstrates
their lack of trust in
God?

Do you think that God still provides for his people in miraculous ways today?



Are there
any times when
you have doubted
God could provide for
you, even though you
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it many times
before?

Why did God tell the Israelites not to gather any manna on the Sabbath?

How would you feel eating the same thing every day for 40 years?

In what ways do you think the Israelites benefited from receiving manna?

Why do you think
God told them only to
gather as much as they
needed for that one
day?

The Israelites had to trust God's daily provision – do you think that became easier or harder over 40 years?