

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION: EXODUS 16:1-27:7

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. The passage opens with the Israelites again experiencing a legitimate need. In our first world culture, we have very few true needs. What impact do you think this has on how our culture relates to God?
3. In 16:3 the Israelites want to go back to a terrible existence in Egypt rather than face the unknown of that day. When have you found yourself settling for something you know to be "less", even though you have been promised "more"?
4. Throughout this week's passage it appears to be a very good thing that the Israelites were led by Moses rather than a democracy. In what ways do you (or do you not) think the New Testament's teaching on Elder leadership is similarly wise? Why? See 1 Peter 5:1-2 and 1 Timothy 5:17.
5. God doesn't seem to do anything randomly. Why do you suppose the mana He provided came in the form of "a fine flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground," as opposed to whole baked bread, or any other thing?
6. In 16:22-26 God provides enough mana to meet the needs of the Sabbath without having to work on that day. What conclusions can you draw from this about God, about man, or about the Sabbath?
7. Throughout our passage the Israelites are consumed with worry - for food, for sustenance on the Sabbath, and for water (again). What in your life do you find worrisome? How can you respond to that worry, specifically?
8. What connection do you see between our passage and the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13? What application can you draw from that connection?