

Abiding In Christ

Lesson 7

Abiding in Christ Day by Day

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Lesson 7
Exodus 16
Abiding in Christ Day by Day

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. *Exodus 16:4*

Prayers

Introduction

Read Exodus 16, Manna and Quail

Ex 16:1 The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt.

Ex 16:2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

Ex 16:3 The Israelites said to them, "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."

Ex 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

Ex 16:5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

Ex 16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?"

Ex 16:8 Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Ex 16:9 Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

Ex 16:10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

Ex 16:11 The LORD said to Moses,

Ex 16:12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

Ex 16:13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

Ex 16:14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

Ex 16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Ex 16:16 This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'"

Ex 16:17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.

Ex 16:18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

Ex 16:19 Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”

Ex 16:20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

Ex 16:21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

Discussion

1. In verses 16:1-3, why did God send manna (meaning, “What is it?”)?

The Israelites were hungry and grumbling, thinking they were better off as slaves with meat in Egypt than in the desert with God.

2. What were God’s instructions about gathering manna, verse 16:16?

Verse Ex 16:16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘**Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.**’ ”

3. What did the people do, Exodus 16:17-18?

They did as they were told (but some didn’t).

4. What was the result of following God’s instructions?

Everyone who followed God’s instructions had as much as they needed, not too much or too little.

5. What were the consequences of not following God’s instructions, Exodus 16:20?

Those who didn’t follow instructions and gathered too much had a stinky tent full of maggots! Sin thrives in secrecy, but it was exposed in the camp of the Israelites. Would all be more obedient if our sins were exposed in public?

6. God could have provided for the Israelites in any manner. What was God’s purpose in providing for the Israelites through the daily gathering of manna?

God wanted the Israelites to know that he was the LORD your God. He wanted them to witness a miracle every day and that he was providing for their needs. He told Moses to put a jar in the Ark of the Covenant as a sign for future generations.

Read Exodus 16:22, Instructions for the Sabbath

Ex 16:22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

Ex 16:23 He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’ ”

Ex 16:24 So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it.

Ex 16:25 “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today.

Ex 16:26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.”

Ex 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Ex 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?

Ex 16:29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day; no one is to go out.”

Ex 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

Ex 16:31 The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.

Ex 16:32 Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.’ ”

Ex 16:33 So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come.”

Ex 16:34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.

Ex 16:35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

Ex 16:36 (An omer is one tenth of an ephah [equivalent to 2 ½ quarts, 2.3 liters, or 43.2 chicken eggs – the traditional Jewish standard of measurement].)

Discuss

7. What were the instructions for the Sabbath, verses 22-26?

They should gather twice as much on the sixth day, so they would not need to gather on Sabbath. They could bake or broil it and save it until the Sabbath day

8. What did the people do on the sixth and Sabbath days?

They did as God commanded, and the manna didn’t spoil. Some went out to gather more manna on the Sabbath, but it wasn’t there.

9. What did the people learn about following God’s instructions?

The people had all they needed if they followed God’s instructions but things went badly if they didn’t follow his instructions.

10. The account of the manna and the quail is rich in lessons about the mind of God.
 - a. What do we learn about God’s work and man’s work?

God's work provided the means for his people and taught them how to live. The people's work was to follow God's instructions so their needs could be met.

- b. What was God's plan for the beginning and end of the day and the end of the week?

The Israelites witnessed the miracle of God's provision every morning and evening. The lesson for us is to begin and end our day reflecting on God's provision and calling for us. God demonstrated the holiness of the Sabbath as a day abiding in his rest. Our various traditions of worship should glorify his holiness.

- c. Caring for the needs of the Israelites would have been a monumental undertaking. How are monumental tasks accomplished?

Small incremental steps accomplish monument tasks. Likewise, we accomplish our goal of abiding in Christ one day, one moment at a time.

- d. God placed the Israelites in the wilderness so they would learn that he was their God. How do we learn to trust God?

We learn to trust God through daily lessons. Daily lessons are stitched together day by day, week by week, year by year; until we have a lifetime of trusting God.

- 11. The Old Testament is rich in God's explicit instructions to accomplish his tasks. What are some other examples of following God's explicit instructions in faith?

- a. **Build an ark like this...**
- b. **Build a tabernacle like this...**
- c. **March around Jericho like this...**
- d. **Wash three times in the Jordan River**

- 12. What are some of Christ's explicit commands he gives to his people in the New Testament – our time?

- a. **Love and worship God**
- b. **Love neighbor**
- c. **Obey my commands (do one and two)**
- d. **Celebrate the sacraments of baptism and communion**

- 13. Compare the Israelites who went into the desert to the generation who came out of the wilderness 40 years later. What was the result of a lifetime of obedience?

The generation of Israelites God freed from Egypt, were forced to wander the wilderness until they died because of their grumbling, disobedience, and worship of other gods.

The Israelites who came out of the wilderness took possession of the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. They blasted the walls of Jericho with trumpets and defeated powerful kings with large armies and chariots. Joshua said in his closing words to the nation, "But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now. The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day, no one has been able to withstand you. One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised. So be very careful to love the LORD your God" (Joshua 23:8-11).

Closing Prayer