



Outward Group Discussion Guide

November 30, 2025 (Salem)

SUMMARY

This sermon explores Exodus 16-17, examining how the Israelites repeatedly forgot God's provision and complained despite witnessing miraculous deliverance from Egypt. The pastor emphasizes that God tests His people not to harm them but to reveal whether they will trust and obey Him. The manna from heaven serves as a daily reminder that God is the provider and sustainer of life. The sermon challenges believers to recognize that salvation and provision come entirely from God, not from human effort or competence. Just as the Israelites needed daily manna, Christians need daily reminders of God's faithfulness through Scripture, worship, and remembrance of the cross. The striking of the rock that produced water prefigures Christ being struck so that life-giving water could flow to humanity. The fundamental question remains: Will we trust God's provision or try to secure our own needs through returning to our former slavery?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas of your life do you find yourself forgetting God's past provision and falling into a pattern of complaining or grumbling?
2. How does the concept that 'God gives, but you still need to gather' challenge your understanding of the balance between God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
3. When you face difficulties, do you tend to romanticize the past or 'go back to Egypt' in your thinking, and what does this reveal about your trust in God?
4. What practical steps can you take to create reminders of God's faithfulness in your life, similar to Israel keeping the jar of manna?
5. How does the idea that most challenges in life are tests to see if we will obey God's laws change your perspective on current difficulties?
6. In what ways do you try to 'save yourself' or become self-assured in your Christian walk rather than continually depending on God's grace?

7. Why do you think prosperity and success can be just as dangerous to our faith as hardship and suffering?
8. How does looking at the cross as the 'rock that was struck' help you answer the question 'Is God against me or for me?' in practical terms?
9. What does it mean for you personally to gather spiritual manna 'before it melts,' and how does this shape your daily rhythm of meeting with God?
10. How can the practice of confession and repentance help you remember that 'the Lord is the one who saved you' rather than falling into self-righteousness?