

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 27, 2014

This Week's Focus: God patiently deals with our impatience and provides perfectly for our needs.

This Week's Text: Exodus 16 – 17:7

"If life were nothing but tests, we would be discouraged. If life were all pleasure, we would never learn discipline and develop character. The Lord knows how to balance the experiences of life..." **Warren Wiersbe**

"We are to trust God fully while are here, while at the same time not allowing our current circumstances to define ultimate reality. Our gaze must always be not on where we are but on where we are going." **Peter Enns**

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 10:4; John 4:1-26, John 6:22–35.

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Read through the narratives in Exodus 15:22–17:7.
 - What do we see clearly in these passages?
 - How can you relate to Israel?
- The journey that Israel is brought on seems to be one of success, then trial. Have you ever experienced discouragement when hitting a new trial just after having experienced great success?
 - How did that impact your spiritual life?
- God provides fields full of food for Israel day and night. Why might God not have simply put the food right into their homes, on their plates, or in their bellies?
 - Read Proverbs 13:4, 20:4, and 21:25. How does God feel with regards to laziness?
 - What does this look like today? Can you relate to the sluggard at times?
- This is the first time a Sabbath rest for Israel was mentioned. How does taking a day to rest from gathering in the fields teach "trust"?
 - Is it still important for us to take a rest? Do you personally take time to rest?
 - How does the Gospel give us ultimate rest?

Questions from The Atonement Thread Study Guide (The Gospel Project):

- To what extent do you agree that when we grumble, we are actually standing against God in judgment? How serious a sin is it to test God in this way?
- Think back through the biblical story line so far. Why would God use Moses' staff in judgment against Egypt but in mercy toward Israel? What do God's actions here communicate about His nature and character?
- In what ways can Christians be a stream of living water to the lost people around us? How does the portrayal of God's mercy impact the way we show mercy to others?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the bread of life; He alone can satisfy our souls. He is available to all who would believe in Him.
- Jesus is the living water. From His sacrifice on the cross flows the waters of eternal life. Rejoice in that!
- Jesus, the Solid Rock, was struck by God's judgment so we wouldn't have to be. We have been bought and sealed in His precious blood.

Next Week's Text: Exodus 13 - 14