

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 8

Surprised by What We Need

Our Scripture: Exodus 16:1-18 (Frank Janzow)

Ice Breaker

What birthday present do remember best from your childhood?

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Set the scene: What story does the book of the Bible called "Exodus," tell?

In the midst of their Exodus journey what were God's people longing for in their reference to the "fleshpots of Egypt?" Read Numbers 11:1-6 for guidance.

Read John 6:32-35. What link did Jesus draw between the Manna Moses delivered and our journey as his devoted followers?

How does Jesus teaching in Luke 6:38 relate to our story today?

Read II Corinthians 9:6-13 The Apostle Paul was amazed by the generosity of a struggling church in Macedonia. What are 3 parallels you draw from these verses and what God was teaching the people of Israel in the midst of their wilderness journey?

Media Mix - (Where does the offering go?)

The people of Israel journeyed together following God's promise and received manna. How do you see manna in our journey together in the Lutheran church as described in this video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzTnNwtXHV4>

Fun Fact: Rolf Jacobson, Old Testament Professor at Luther Seminary and one of the founders of the Narrative Lectionary leads a bluegrass band called, "The Fleshpots of Egypt," who provide "beer and hymns" evenings. :)



The Fleshpots of Egypt Bluegrass Band

Bringing It Home

1. God's people were journeying in the wilderness following God's promise. Tell about a time in your life journey when you have been challenged by a shortage of resources:
 - Emotionally
 - Physically
 - Spiritually
2. Frank Janzow drew a distinction between complaining and lamenting (Lamentation). What is the difference?
3. Frank talked about "*being*" manna.
 - Who is manna in your life?
 - When and how might you have been manna for someone outside of your family? How so?
3. Brainstorm 3 points that connect what this story has to do with. "Growing Church: Guardians of God's Blessings," commitment Sunday on October 15th.

Prayer Time (Prayer concerns)

- Pass out a lined index card to each participant.
- Write the names of each group member along the left side margin
- Go around and share prayer concerns--take time to write a brief summary of each person's concern.
- Go around the group and each person say a short prayer for the person on your right. It is okay to pray silently if you are not comfortable speaking out loud.
- Save your prayer cards for next week.

Housekeeping

1. What will be your group serve event be this quarter? Please make this a priority. Keep these suggestions in mind as you plan;
2. How can this project allow interaction with the people you serve. God changes us most through personal contact rather than "collections." But, sometimes collections are necessary for groups as a project. No worries.
3. Would you benefit from a Thrivent Action Grant (\$250 in supplies for your project). Ask Greg and others for Thrivent Members to help sponsor.
4. Cancel your group meeting one week in order to do your project.
5. Need help with an idea? Check out this list on our website: