



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week 2

When we face difficult seasons, we can begin to worry about having enough of what we need. We can begin to feel insecure. It seems to be human nature to hold on to what we have. In quiet moments over the last few years, a lot of people have asked, “Am I going to have enough? Am I going to be ok?” The entire story of God’s people that is laid out in the Bible (and in our own history) says YES to that question. A rescue across dry ground in the middle of the sea, bread from Heaven each morning, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. God has provided what we need. God will not leave us. God wants us to thrive. May our eyes be open to and our hearts ready to receive God’s goodness this week.

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngman  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Receive this blessing each day as you move into your day as a follower of Jesus.

May your home be a place where God’s name is on your lips. May God’s Word be impressed upon all who enter. May you talk about God when you sit at the table. May you talk about God when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. And may you write God’s commands on your doorposts asking for God’s help and God’s blessing. In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: EXODUS 16.1-5

*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.<sup>2</sup> In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.<sup>3</sup> 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.”*

<sup>4</sup> *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.”<sup>5</sup> 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.”*

- Hunger and scarcity (perceived or real) can cause people to grumble. The Israelites lost track of the plot when their stomachs began to rumble. They forgot about the misery of enslavement under Pharaoh, and wondered why they would have been rescued only to starve to death in the desert. God heard their cries and responded. They simply had to scoop up his provision every morning. God hears our cries, and responds. What have you been crying out to God about? What are some signs that God is taking care of you?
- *Thank you God for daily bread that sustains me and allows me to live this day for you. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 6.30-35**

*they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?”<sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*

<sup>32</sup> *Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.”<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

<sup>34</sup> *“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”*

<sup>35</sup> *Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.”*

- Generations later, the manna in the wilderness is once again seen as a gift. The crowds that had just witnessed the miraculous feeding of the 5,000, were asking for more. It was so good to experience food that was more than enough that they were hoping to have it every day. They must have imagined how different their lives would be if they weren’t constantly having to think about where their next meal would come from. Jesus himself is the provider and the provision, and he doesn’t seem to mind being asked to give the crowd what they need. Once again, he gives them more than they are asking for. When was the last time you asked Jesus for something? How did he provide? Was it enough?
- *Jesus, hear the cries of my heart. I want to be sustained by you. You are the bread of life. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: EXODUS 12.13-14**

*The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

<sup>14</sup> *“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.*

- God's protection over His people was signified by the blood of a lamb on the doorpost. God's rescue turned into a festival—a feast of remembrance and celebration. Even if you are in the middle of it, you have a story of rescue too. How do you commemorate what God has done? Do you throw a party? What outward signs can you point to as you share about God's rescue?
- *God of my rescue, I look for signs of your faithfulness and I will lift them up today. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: LUKE 22.14-20**

*When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."*

*<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."*

*<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

*<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

- In this passage, Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the feast that God had commanded generations earlier as a way of remembering how he had brought God's people out of slavery, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. Jesus knew that the cross was before him, and so the Passover meal must have been full of significance like never before. He transformed the meal into what we still observe as Holy Communion. It is our feast to commemorate that in Jesus, God has provided everything we need. In him, we find our protection. We don't usually linger at the table of Communion. What are some ways we could carry on that feast of remembrance throughout our lives?
- *Jesus, in bread and juice I receive your body and blood. My provision and protection. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 9.8-11**

*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:*

*"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;*

*their righteousness endures forever."*

*<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

- We all have different levels of income. Some of us have savings accounts and investments. Others of us are seemingly just getting by. In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul is saying that whatever

we have is a gift from God. God desires for us to have what we need so that we can live generously. We don't need bigger storehouses for our wealth, we need a posture of gratitude and generosity that leads ourselves and others to give thanks to God! How are we *freely scattering our gifts to the poor?*

- *God, you have been generous with your grace and mercy. You have given me what I need. Teach me to be generous in return. Amen.*

## **SATURDAY: PHILIPPIANS 4.19-20**

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>20</sup> *To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

- God can be trusted to meet our needs. We can be sure of that because we have seen the riches of God's glory in Jesus Christ. The life offered to us through Jesus is marked by his lavish love for us. How do we respond to that kind of a gift that we could never earn?
- *Jesus, I give you my life today. May you turn my life into a gift for others that reveals the riches of God's glory. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

This week, you might be participating in the Turkey Drop, packing boxes of food so that families won't have to go without on Thanksgiving Day. Many of you will also be ordering food and planning for a feast in your own home. Maybe this is a year where the usual gathering won't be possible due to rising costs or the loss of a loved one. Taking the two key words from this week's message—Provision and Protection—consider how these core needs are met in your life.

- Revisit each scripture passage from this Study. How does each one reveal God's provision and protection in your life?
- Have there been times in your life when you downplayed or forgot about God's faithfulness in a difficult season? How did he provide?
- Consider how God might be calling upon you to display his provision and protection for a vulnerable person. Pastor Jacob mentioned the local ministry Compassionate Hands where you can serve as an overnight host for men or women who are experiencing homelessness. Or you can sponsor a family for Thanksgiving by funding a box of food through Turkey Drop. If you or your small group are not local to Providence Church, research ways that you can bring God's provision and protection to people in need. [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup)