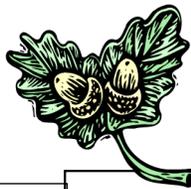


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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Faithful During Uncertainty Exodus 16:1-15

### Lesson Background and Introduction

After the Lord had brought forth the Israelites from 400 years of bondage in Egypt, Moses told the people, "Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage: for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place" (Exodus 13:3). That "strength of hand" had been displayed in a series of plagues that provided clear and dramatic evidence that the Lord was superior to any of the gods of the Egyptians (chapters 7-11). But after leaving Egypt, the Israelites forgot the Lord's "strength of hand." When they were camped by the Red Sea and saw Pharaoh and his horsemen and chariots approaching, immediately they panicked. They accused Moses of bringing them out into the wilderness to die (Exodus 14:10-13). Moses spoke words of faith and assurance to the people, "The Lord shall fight for you" (14:14), and then proceeded to back up his words with the miraculous parting of the Red Sea (14:15-18, 21, 22). The Israelites safely crossed on dry land, after which the waters were brought back onto the Egyptians when they tried to give chase (14:23-28). Exodus 14 concludes with the statement that "the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses" (14:31). But that trust was also short-lived. As the people came to the wilderness of Shur, just east of where they had crossed the Red Sea, they traveled for three days and could find no water. When they finally did find water at Marah, they could not drink it because it was bitter. The people once more complained to Moses, whereupon the Lord once more provided for His people's needs (Exodus 15:22-25). As they moved down the western edge of the Sinai Peninsula, the people's travels brought them to a place called Elim, where they came upon an oasis consisting of 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees (Exodus 15:27). The lesson text begins with the people's departure from Elim.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**A Discontented Congregation** - A month after the Hebrew children left Egypt, the multitude found themselves in the Wilderness of Sin, a dry, lifeless area between Elim and Mt. Sinai. While in this area the people intensified their grumbling and murmuring against Moses and Aaron. They complained about no food and water out in the desert. Did Moses bring them to the desert to starve? Just a few weeks earlier the people had danced and sang praises to the Lord for their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. How quickly their praise turned to mistrust and opposition! Instead of punishing or disciplining them, God decided to prove Himself again as their provider.

**God's Response and Provision** - Jehovah chose to answer the agonizing cries of His people by graciously allowing them to see His cloud guiding them, then He rained down food from heaven in a unique way. Each morning, right outside their tents, each family found something like small seeds, white, and tasting sweet like honey covering the entire ground. When the people first observed it, they called it manna meaning, what is it? Then, in the evening God fed the people quail, a special bird considered a delicacy in Egypt. After several days of manna, the people found various creative ways to prepare it. They ground it up, beat it, cooked it in pans, or made cakes. It tasted like a pastry prepared with oil. God graciously provided during the time the Israelites questioned and doubted His ability to provide for them in the wilderness. They spoke of returning to their former life in Egypt. They criticized and protested Moses and Aaron, their visible leaders. Behind all that anger was their lack of trust in almighty God.

**God Is Always Faithful** - Honestly, all God's children, at one time or another, fail the "Will I trust God to provide for my needs?" test. When dry seasons come, life seems like a desert. We wonder if God will come through for us. Those who have been on this Christian journey through the desert say with assurance, "The Lord will make a way somehow." He always does.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Write your plans in pencil, then give God the eraser

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Our life is uncertain, our path is unclear,  
Yet we have no cause to falter or fear  
If plans that we make our dreams to fulfill  
Are born out of love for God and His will. —D. De Haan

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away*

(James 4:14 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 04, 2003)*

**Series: Responding to God's Grace**

**UNIT: God is Faithful**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Faithful Despite Unfaithfulness**  
(Numbers 13:1-2, 7-18, 25-28, 14:1-2,5-10)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Israelites' Grumbings (Exodus 16:1-3)**

#### *Grumbings about man's timing (1-2)*

- Because man's timing is limited, but God does things at the proper time (Eccl 8:6)
- Because man's timing is not unlimited like God's (2 Peter 3:8)
- Because man's timing is not God's timing (Isa 55:8-9)
- Because man's timing cannot redeem the time like God (Eph 5:15-16)

#### *Grumbings about hunger (3)*

- Grumbling because of lack of trust in God (Luke 12:23-24)
- Grumbling because of not realizing the power of God (2 Kings 4:2-7)
- Grumbling because of not having enough food (1 Kings 17:12-15)
- Grumbling because of not having enough for everyone (John 6:9-13)

### **God's Response (Exodus 16:4-12)**

#### *Response of God's testing (4-5)*

- Testing to refine (Ps 66:10)
- Testing to prove faith genuine (1 Peter 1:7)
- Testing aids in receiving God's inheritance (Heb 11:8)
- Testing to know what's in the heart (Deut 8:2)

#### *Response of God's timing (6-8)*

- God's timing does things when the time has fully come (Gal 4:4)
- God's timing is always at the right time (Rom 5:6)
- God's timing always has a chosen remnant (Rom 11:5)
- God's timing is according to His good pleasure (Eph 1:8-10)

#### *Response of God's Glory (9-10)*

- A glory that is over all the earth (Ps 108:5)
- A glory that should be revered (Ps 102:15)
- A glory that existed before the world began (John 17:5)
- A glory that the heavens declare (Ps 19:1-4)

#### *Response of God's proof of Lordship (11-12)*

- God is Lord because He reveals mysteries (Dan 2:45-47)
- God is Lord because He has the power to make things happen (Ps 46:10)
- God is Lord because He is the creator (Ps 100:3)
- God is Lord because God is revealed by Jesus (Matt 11:27)
- God is Lord to make Himself known (John 8:19)

### **God's Faithful Provisions (Exodus 16:13-15)**

#### *Provision of food in the form of quail (13)*

- Provision of food from the God who owns everything (Ps 50:10-15)
- Provision of food through the power and pleasure of God (Jer 27:5)
- Provision of food from the One who supplies all needs (2 Cor 9:10-11)
- Provision of food that comes from the hands of God (1 Chron 29:12-14)

#### *Provision of bread in the form of mana (14-15)*

- Mana to humble His people (Deut 8:3)
- Mana from heaven (Neh 9:15)
- Mana as earthly bread, but there was to come true bread (John 6:31-32)
- Mana that was preserved in the Ark (Heb 9:4)