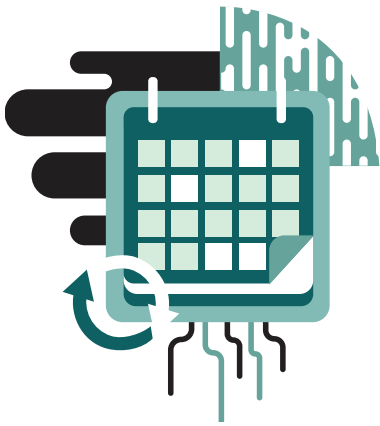


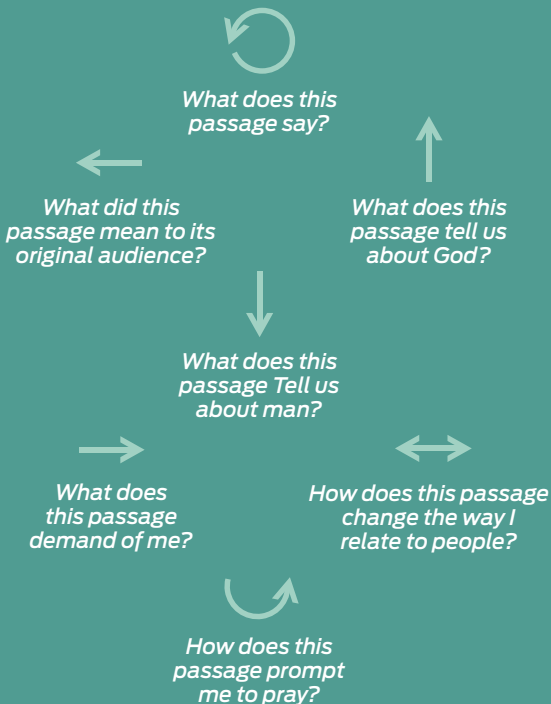
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Exodus 15:22-27

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



How many times had God given them life to this point? They should have known God was more than able to preserve their lives. Right?

How many times had God shown His power—including the first plague where He took good water and made it undrinkable? They should have known God was more than able to give them water. Right?

Who was leading them to the precise location where they found no water? They should have known God was more than able to guide them on the path they needed to be on. Right?

Instead, they complained, as if God was either unable to provide for His people's needs, uncaring about His people's needs, or unaware of His people's needs. Take your pick. Israel either viewed God as weak, sinister, or clueless. This was the nature of their grumbling and the nature of ours as well. As we dive deeper into this passage, we see the depth of Israel's sin and the nature of our sin as well.

**How have you grumbled against God recently? What does this show about how you viewed God in that situation?**

# Exodus 16:1-12

The children of Israel's memory was amazingly short, but thankfully God's love and patience was even more amazingly long. Soon after the people grumbled about lacking water, seeing God provide supernaturally, and then being led to springs of water, they grumbled once again—this time because they were hungry.

But instead of giving the people what they deserved (judgment from heaven) God gave them what they did not deserve (bread from heaven). Notice how He gave it to them, though. That detail is just as important as the provision itself. God gave them the food they needed each day—as a way to teach them what they needed to learn: God is faithful, they could trust Him.

As you consider God's goodness to you, don't miss this: What God gives matters, but so does how, when, and why. God is the giver of perfect gifts (Jas. 1:17), and He gives these gifts in the perfect way, in the perfect timing, for the perfect reason: His glory and our good.

**When have you seen God provide perfectly in your life?**

# Exodus 16:13-36

The Israelites revealed greedy and distrustful hearts when they refused to follow God's instructions and attempted to hoard the manna. When we seek to hoard what God has given to us—which is everything—we reveal greedy and distrustful hearts too. Our greed drives us to seek what we need, what we want, what will make us happy. At the same time, we declare to God—intentionally or unintentionally—"I do not trust You. I do not believe You know what I need and want. I do not believe You care. I do not believe You know what is best."

In reality, we are just as susceptible to these moments as Israel was. We are no different. We rationalize our hoarding just as easily, just as persuasively. Because of this, we are to be just as grateful to God for His mercy—the mercy that falls freely from heaven and which we depend on so greatly every morning.

**What are some things you might be hoarding today: time, possessions, relationships, or something else?**

# Exodus

## 17:1-16

Once again—yes still another time—the people of Israel complained because they had no water to drink. Again, they asked why Moses led them into the wilderness to die. This time, when Moses cried out to God, he said something that was quite ironic although he had no way of knowing at the time: He was worried the people would stone him. Little did Moses know, a stone—more precisely a rock—would not take his life, but would be the object God used to provide life-giving water to the people. We have to wonder if Moses caught onto this afterward.

For the people, God provided water in a way they would never expect—no one would think of water flowing from a rock. But for Moses, there was an added wrinkle to God’s miraculous provision.

**How has God turned around situations for His glory and your good?**

# 1 Corinthians

## 10:1-13

Our greatest take-away in this passage is seeing Paul refer to the rock that Moses struck as Jesus, but there is more for us here. We too often need to be reminded of our spiritual neglect, of our sin, of our failure to live out our true identities in Christ.

The message Paul communicated to the Corinthians applies to us as well. We are not alone in our failings. We are not the first who have acted so foolishly, and until Jesus returns, we will not be the last. We too are called on to learn from the failings and faithfulness of God’s people who have gone before us. We are not to study the Israelites in Exodus or the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians with contempt, but rather with humility, recognizing all of us are in desperate need for God’s grace—not just unto salvation, but throughout it as well.

**Who are some individuals or people in Scripture or church history you can learn the most from?**