FOUNDERS EDITION



Bible Study and Guided Reflection

"But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth..."
Deuteronomy 8:18 (KJV)

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Created by: God

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Foundational Theme

> **God's provision in the wilderness does more than meet our immediate needs—it trains us to trust Him, obey Him, and steward what He will place in our hands.**

The wilderness was not Israel's final destination. It was the place where God developed a formerly enslaved people into a covenant people who could enter, possess, and steward the Promised Land. Manna was therefore more than food. It was daily provision, a lesson in dependence, and training for abundance.

Key Scriptures

- Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 10–18
- Exodus 16:1–5, 13–21

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- Numbers 11:1–6, 18–20, 31–34
- Psalm 78:18–25
- John 6:30–35, 48–51
- James 1:2–4
- Romans 5:3–5

Anchor Scripture

> *“But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”*
> *— Deuteronomy 8:18 (KJV)*

Deuteronomy 8:18 should be read within the message of the entire chapter. Before Israel was warned not to forget God in prosperity, Moses reminded them how God humbled, tested, taught, and fed them in the wilderness. The power to create wealth was not presented as independence from God. It was a God-given capacity—strength, wisdom, skill, opportunity, relationships, resources, and favor—to produce and steward wealth for His covenant purposes.

Central Truth

> **Manna developed the dependence that Israel would need in order to steward abundance without allowing abundance to replace God.**

God was not merely trying to bring Israel out of Egypt. He was also removing Egypt from Israel’s thinking. Their bodies had been delivered, but their appetites, fears, habits, and expectations still reflected the place of bondage.

Study Objective

By the end of this study, participants should understand that:

1. God’s daily provision is evidence of His presence, not evidence that He has forgotten His promise.
2. The discomfort of transition can expose attachments to former places of bondage.
3. God uses seasons of dependence to strengthen obedience, endurance, discernment, and stewardship.
4. The ability to create wealth is given by God and must remain connected to remembrance, obedience, covenant, and service.
5. The lessons learned in one season become wisdom and testimony that can help others.

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Lesson One: Delivered from Egypt, but Still Desiring Egypt

Read

Exodus 16:1–3 and Numbers 11:4–6

Israel remembered the food of Egypt while minimizing the cruelty of its bondage. Distance from Egypt caused them to romanticize what God had delivered them from. Their present discomfort distorted their memory of the past.

This is one of the dangers of transition: **when the journey becomes uncomfortable, familiar bondage can begin to look safer than unfamiliar freedom.**

The Israelites' desire for Egypt was not merely about food. The food represented familiarity, fleshly satisfaction, predictability, and a life that did not require daily faith. Manna required them to trust God one day at a time.

Teaching Points

- We can miss what was familiar without recognizing that it was also harmful.
- Gratification is not the same as nourishment.
- What satisfies the flesh temporarily may weaken our willingness to follow God faithfully.
- Complaining can reveal that we value comfort more than transformation.
- Freedom requires new appetites, new habits, and a renewed mind.

Reflection Questions

1. What part of my "Egypt" am I tempted to romanticize when progress becomes difficult?
2. Am I remembering past pleasures while forgetting the bondage connected to them?
3. What familiar habit, relationship, mindset, or financial pattern competes with God's direction?
4. Have I mistaken discomfort for evidence that I am outside God's will?

Key Statement

> **Do not return to what held you because the road to freedom requires endurance.**

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Lesson Two: Manna—Provision with Instructions

Read

Exodus 16:4–5, 13–21

God gave Israel manna daily, but His provision came with instructions. They were to gather what they needed, avoid hoarding it, and gather differently in preparation for the Sabbath. The provision tested whether they would follow God's voice.

Manna teaches that receiving from God and obeying God cannot be separated. Israel needed more than food; they needed disciplined trust.

Teaching Points

- God provided enough for each day.
- Daily gathering required consistent participation; provision did not eliminate responsibility.
- Hoarding revealed fear and distrust.
- Gathering too little through neglect would leave a need unmet.
- Sabbath preparation taught planning, restraint, and rest.
- God's instructions protected the blessing from becoming corrupted.

Application to Wealth Creation

Deuteronomy 8:18 says God gives the power to create wealth. This "power" may include:

- Knowledge and wisdom
- Skills and creativity
- Physical and emotional strength
- Relationships and partnerships
- Favor and access
- Opportunities and ideas
- Discipline and endurance
- The ability to recognize, organize, and steward resources

Just as Israel had to gather manna, we must faithfully exercise what God gives us. Faith does not remove work; it gives work its direction, purpose, and proper source.

Reflection Questions

1. What has God placed within my reach that I have not been gathering or developing?
2. Am I asking for more while neglecting today's instruction?
3. Do I handle resources from a place of trust or fear?
4. What daily discipline is God using to prepare me for greater stewardship?

Key Statement

> **Today's manna may look small, but gathering it faithfully develops the capacity required for tomorrow's abundance.**

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Lesson Three: The Wilderness Builds Capacity

Read

Deuteronomy 8:2–5, 15–16; James 1:2–4; Romans 5:3–5

The wilderness humbled and tested Israel, revealing what was in their hearts and teaching them that life depended upon the word of God. The process was difficult, but it was purposeful.

This does not mean every painful circumstance is directly caused by God or that suffering itself is automatically good. It means God can redeem suffering and use trials to produce endurance, character, hope, wisdom, compassion, and spiritual maturity when we continue walking with Him.

What the Journey Develops

- **Strength:** the capacity to continue when conditions are difficult
- **Grit:** faithful perseverance over time
- **Obedience:** responsiveness to God even when the instruction is uncomfortable
- **Discernment:** the ability to distinguish appetite from assignment
- **Stewardship:** the discipline to manage present provision responsibly
- **Humility:** remembrance that God is the source
- **Compassion:** sensitivity toward others walking through similar seasons

The Promised Land required capacities that slavery had not developed. Israel would need to cultivate land, establish communities, administer justice, resist enemies, manage increase, and remain faithful in prosperity. The wilderness was training for responsibilities they had not yet seen.

Reflection Questions

1. What strength is my present season developing in me?
2. Which recurring complaint may be pointing to an area God wants to mature?
3. What will my promise require me to know, manage, resist, or sustain?
4. Am I only praying to leave the wilderness, or am I also asking what I must learn there?

Key Statement

> **God is not only preparing the promise for you; He is preparing you to possess and maintain the promise.**

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Lesson Four: Craving, Complaint, and the Danger of Misplaced Appetite

Read

Numbers 11:4–6, 18–20, 31–34; Psalm 78:18–31

God had already provided quail and manna in Exodus 16. In Numbers 11, however, Israel's craving became an expression of rejection: they despised God's provision, wept for Egypt, and demanded satisfaction on their own terms. God sent quail, but the episode ended in judgment.

The lesson is not that enjoying pleasurable food is sinful. The danger was allowing appetite to rule trust, gratitude, memory, and obedience. Sometimes getting what we demand is not the same as receiving what is best for us.

Teaching Points

- An uncontrolled appetite can cause us to reject adequate provision.
- Comparison makes present grace appear insufficient.
- Complaining repeated over time can harden into contempt.
- A blessing pursued outside God's order can become a burden.
- God's "not yet" or "not this way" may be protection and preparation.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there something I desire so strongly that I have begun to resent God's present provision?
2. Have I equated abundance with having whatever I want immediately?
3. Is my appetite serving my assignment, or competing with it?
4. What would gratitude allow me to see in this season?

Key Statement

> **Not everything that satisfies an appetite will sustain an assignment.**

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Lesson Five: Remember the Lord in the Place of Abundance

Read

Deuteronomy 8:7–18

The greatest spiritual threat in Deuteronomy 8 was not only wilderness hardship. It was promised-land prosperity. Moses warned Israel that full stomachs, good houses, multiplied possessions, and increased wealth could produce pride and spiritual amnesia. The wilderness taught Israel to say, “God provided.” Prosperity could tempt them to say, “My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.” Deuteronomy 8:18 corrects this thinking: even the capacity to produce comes from God.

The Purpose of God-Given Wealth

Biblically, wealth is not merely private consumption or proof of personal importance. It is a resource to be stewarded under God’s authority. It may be used to:

- Provide responsibly for one’s household
- Practice generosity and care for people in need
- Create dignified work and opportunity
- Support ministry and kingdom purposes
- Strengthen communities
- Establish righteous systems and institutions
- Leave wisdom, resources, and opportunity for future generations
- Demonstrate God’s faithfulness without replacing God with His gifts

Deuteronomy 8:18 connects wealth-producing capacity to the establishment of God’s covenant. The verse is therefore a call to remembrance and responsibility, not a promise of effortless riches or permission for self-centered accumulation.

Reflection Questions

1. What would it look like for my increase to serve God’s purposes?
2. How will I practice remembrance when my circumstances improve?
3. What systems of prayer, generosity, accountability, and stewardship should I establish before increase comes?
4. Do I desire wealth only for relief and pleasure, or also for responsibility and service?

Key Statement

> **God gives capacity for increase, but character determines whether increase becomes a covenant tool or a spiritual trap.**

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Lesson Six: From Recipient to Resource

Read

2 Corinthians 1:3–4; Psalm 78:5–7; Titus 2:7–8

God's work in us is not intended to end with us. The knowledge, wisdom, understanding, experience, favor, and testimony developed through the journey equip us to strengthen others.

Once we have experienced God's provision at one level, we can help someone else recognize manna in their own wilderness. We can teach what obedience required, what mistakes delayed us, what disciplines sustained us, and how God remained faithful.

The Growth Cycle

1. **Receive:** Recognize God's present provision.
2. **Obey:** Follow His instructions for the season.
3. **Develop:** Gain strength, skill, wisdom, and character.
4. **Steward:** Manage increase without forgetting its Source.
5. **Teach:** Share the lesson and create a pathway for others.
6. **Multiply:** Use greater capacity to serve more people faithfully.

Reflection Questions

1. What lesson from my journey could help someone else today?
2. Who is God positioning me to serve through my experience?
3. Am I seeking a platform, or faithfully serving the people already within my reach?
4. How can my next level create access and opportunity for others?

Key Statement

> **The platform is not merely a reward for surviving the process; it is a responsibility to use what the process taught us to serve others.**

Suggested Group Discussion

1. Why did Egypt become appealing to Israel after God had delivered them?
2. What is the difference between something that satisfies us and something that sustains us?

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3. Why did God provide manna daily instead of giving Israel a permanent supply all at once?
4. What practical disciplines can a wilderness season develop?
5. How does the context of Deuteronomy 8 change the way we understand verse 18?
6. What dangers accompany abundance that may not be present during scarcity?
7. How can wealth and influence be used to establish God's purposes and strengthen a community?
8. What has your present season taught you that you may later teach someone else?

Personal Exercise: Identify Your Manna

Complete the following statements:

- The "Egypt" I must stop romanticizing is: _____
- The appetite I must bring under God's authority is: _____
- The manna God is providing today is: _____
- The instruction attached to this provision is: _____
- The capacity this season is developing is: _____
- The future responsibility I believe God is preparing me for is: _____
- The person or community this lesson may eventually help is: _____

Daily Gatherings™

For seven days, record:

1. One provision you recognized from God
2. One instruction or principle you obeyed
3. One complaint you replaced with gratitude
4. One skill, habit, or area of character you practiced
5. One way you used what you had to serve someone else

Closing Charge

Do not despise the manna because it does not resemble the feast you remember or the abundance you expect. Manna is evidence that God is present in the middle. It nourishes you while He reshapes your appetite, strengthens your obedience, develops your capacity, and teaches you how to depend upon His voice.

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The wilderness is not the promise, but neither is it wasted space. It is where God teaches His people how to receive without hoarding, work without self-reliance, prosper without pride, and remember Him when they have more than enough.

> **The God who provides the manna is also the God who gives the power to create wealth. Both gifts carry the same invitation: remember the Source, obey His voice, steward what He provides, and use it to establish His purposes.**

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for being our Provider in every season. Forgive us for the times we have romanticized what You delivered us from, despised today's provision, or allowed our appetites to speak louder than Your instructions. Teach us to recognize our manna, gather it faithfully, and trust You one day at a time. Use every challenge to develop endurance, wisdom, obedience, humility, and compassion within us. Give us the power, skill, opportunity, and discipline to create and steward wealth according to Your purposes. When increase comes, keep us mindful that You are our Source. May every lesson, resource, and platform You entrust to us become a pathway through which others are strengthened and communities prosper. In Jesus' name, amen.

Leader's Note

This draft can be taught as one extended study or divided into six sessions. A future facilitator's edition may add an opening activity, lesson timing, cross-references, participant worksheets, declarations, and teaching notes for each session.

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