

UPCYCLE

Elementary
Week 3

Read Exodus 16

Listen to: Just as Good (feat. Ellie Holcomb) by Chris Renzema

I get extremely critical of the Israelites whenever I read Exodus, because they constantly forget and seem to take for granted the amazing things that God has done for them. From my pious perspective I can't understand why the Israelites who saw God in countless ways could easily forget what God had done for them. Yet they question, grumble, and complain, and then eventually build a golden cow to worship instead of this God of miracles.

And then like a punch in the gut I am hit by the doubt I have that God is going to show up in my life, at work, at home wherever, for yet another time.

I even have a tattoo I got on my arm that was meant to remind me of God's incredible goodness and faithfulness in hard times, when things get hard again. I have seen God show up in lifechanging ways for myself, over and over again. Maybe not manna from heaven, but in ways I know it could only be him. Who am I to judge the Israelites for what they forgot?

Yet God is good and he never changes. So even when I forget or the Israelites forget about the healing and provision God gives, I need to remember that his love for us is constant and great. So when I come crawling back after my hypothetical golden calf disappoints me, that's when God loves, forgives, and provides for me just like he always has. And he always will, which is something I can count on.

God never changes, and his goodness is imminent even when I am painfully oblivious and that is something that I can always be thankful when I take time to see it.

When have you been like the Israelites and questioned or forgotten God's goodness?

How can you try to stay aware of his imminent goodness in hard seasons?

What can you learn from the Israelites?