



Healthy Groups Keep A Balance In What They Do: Spend equal amounts of time connecting with each other (Fellowship), prayer and sharing how God is working in your life (Worship), growing in your faith through study and discussion (Discipleship), serving others both inside and outside your group (Ministry), and reaching out to those around with the message of Jesus Christ (Evangelism).

Fellowship:

- ⊙ How are you doing? Catch us up on your life. What has been a high and a low in your life since this group last met? How have you seen God work in your life since this group last met?
- ⊙ What frustrates you more than anything?!

Discipleship:

- ⊙ *The Israelites are in their second month in the desert after leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea. They are hungry and grouchy! Read Exodus 16:1-3*
- ⊙ God freed the Israelites from hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt but now they grouchyly express that they would rather return to Egypt and a life of slavery so they can eat at the 'all you can eat buffet'.
 - ⇒ Why would the Israelites place a full belly over receiving the gift of freedom God had given them? Do we ever let go of God's gifts to us so we can be happy? When? How?
 - ⇒ Moses was in a tough spot! On one side God was telling Moses where to lead the Israelites and on the other side the Israelites were telling Moses how unhappy they were. How does a Godly leader balance what God desires with what the people desires? What would have happened if Moses had sided with God and ignored the concerns of the people -or- if he had made the people happy and ignored God?
 - ⇒ The consequence of God bringing freedom to the Israelites was a difficult journey through the desert. How should God react when people gripe to him about the consequences of the gift he has given them? Have you experienced negative consequences from a gift that God has given you? What?





⊙ **Read Exodus 16:4-8**

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.”

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “By evening you will realize it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 In the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaints, which are against him, not against us. What have we done that you should complain about us?” 8 Then Moses added, “The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us.” (New Living Translation)

- ⊙ In response to the complaints of the Israelites God did something that is fascinating. He did not strike them down with lightning. He did not have the earth open up and swallow them. He interacted with them and promised to bring them food!
 - ⇒ What does it tell us about God that he interacted with the Israelites and gave them what they wanted instead of disciplining them for their complaining.
 - ⇒ Do you take your complaints to God today? Why or why not?

Ministry:

- ⊙ God served the Israelites by bringing them food when they were in a situation in the desert where that they could not provide for themselves. He refused to be offended by their complaints and instead recognized how their hunger had caused them to complain.
 - ⇒ Are there people around you who drive you crazy because they complain so much? How could you imitate God and see beyond their rough outside so that you could recognize a way to minister to them?

Worship:

⊙ **Read Exodus 16: 9-12**

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Announce this to the entire community of Israel: ‘Present yourselves before the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the LORD in the cloud.

11 Then the LORD said to Moses, 12 “I have heard the Israelites’ complaints. Now tell them, ‘In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’” (New Living Translation)

- ⊙ God is good! He does all that he does to help us to know that he is God.
- ⊙ Close your group time acknowledging God is God through prayer and testimony.