

**John 7:37,38**

*On the last and most important day of the festival Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, "Whoever is thirsty should come to me, and 38 whoever believes in me should drink. As the scripture says, 'Streams of life-giving water will pour out from his side.'"*

We have the choice to allow our own ungratefulness, own abilities and realistic points of view to let us miss out on what God has in store for us! Or, we can pick up fresh manna every day, which is the Word of God and we can drink of the living water, to be in God's presence and to be led by the Spirit of God who accompanies us wherever we go. We need to take what God has in store for us and see and experience how miracles become a part of our daily lives.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

- What touched you the most about what we shared from God's Word today?
- In what situations are you prone to acting on your own strength and abilities?
- Is there an area in your life where you need a miracle?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Can you be honest with yourself and acknowledge if there is any possible ungratefulness or discontentment that crept into your life? Can you bring this before God and ask Him to open your eyes to that which you daily receive from Him?

## PRAYER

Pray together as a group and ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that you won't focus on the giants, the same way Caleb and Joshua didn't focus on the giants, but focus on God for whom nothing is impossible.



## WEEK 1

### CONNECTION

Was there something that happened this last month that you know you couldn't have done and that it was something that God did or helped you with? Share this with the group.

### WORD

This is the start of our brand new series 'Miracles'. God is a God who does Miracles. He provided manna and quails in the desert, He supernaturally gave Abraham a child, He made a way through the Red Sea and He made the sun stand still - to mention a few. Our expectation during this series is that you will experience and know that the same God who did those miracles, is still able and want to do the same miracles in our lives today.

**1 Corinthians 10:1-5**

*I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, what happened to our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. God guided all of them by sending a cloud that moved along ahead of them, and he brought them all safely through the waters of the sea on dry ground. 2 As followers of Moses, they were all baptized in the cloud and the sea. 3 And all of them ate the same miraculous food, 4 and all of them drank the same miraculous water. For they all drank from the miraculous rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Yet after all this, God was not pleased with most of them, and he destroyed them in the wilderness.*

In this passage Paul is reminding us of the miracles God did for 40

years while the Israelites travelled through the desert, and therefore also reminds of God's provision, protection and presence.

### 1. God's provision

In the second year after Israel left Egypt, God told Moses to count all the men twenty years of age and older. This amounted to 603 550 and the tribe of Levi was excluded (Numbers 1). There was therefore plus minus 2 million people (including women and children), an amount which naturally increased over the years.

You will agree that this is a huge amount of people and still God supernaturally took care of them in so many ways.

There was enough manna every morning for each person and in the evenings there were quails. This was called miraculous food because there was no natural source where it could have come from.

#### **Exodus 16:13-15**

*That evening vast numbers of quail arrived and covered the camp. The next morning the desert all around the camp was wet with dew. 14 When the dew disappeared later in the morning, thin flakes, white like frost, covered the ground. 15 The Israelites were puzzled when they saw it. "What is it?" they asked. And Moses told them, "It is the food the LORD has given you.*

Even the clothes on their bodies did not wear out.

#### **Deuteronomy 29:5**

*For forty years I led you through the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out*

### 2. God's Protection

During the day God gave them a pillar of cloud and at night a pillar of fire. The pillar of cloud went out ahead of them and in this way God led them. It also provided shade in the day and light and warmth at night.

#### **Exodus 13:21-22**

*The LORD guided them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. That way they could travel whether it*

*was day or night. 22 And the LORD did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from their sight.*

God also protected Israel with the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire against the Egyptians just before they wanted to cross the red sea.

#### **Exodus 14:19-20**

*The angel of God, who had been in front of the army of Israel, moved and went to the rear. The pillar of cloud also moved until it was 20 between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud made it dark for the Egyptians, but gave light to the people of Israel, and so the armies could not come near each other all night.*

### 3. God's Presence

God led the Israelites to Rifidim. There they found that there wasn't enough water for them to drink. Then God told Moses to hit the rock at Horeb. Water flowed from the rock and it was enough for more or less two million people and their live stock. This rock, according to 1 Corinthians 10, accompanied them, and this rock was Christ. God never left them. The miraculous food and miraculous water, the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire and so many other things that happened is proof of this! God never left them.

The Israelites were never satisfied even in the midst of all these miracles and complained often. Because of this they were never able to see that what God was doing among them were supernatural. Even 10 of the 12 spies could only bring back a bad report of the promised land and could not see how the same God who did so many miracles could give them the promised land.

Because of this, Moses got so frustrated with the nation that instead of speaking to the rock the second time around, he hit it again. Moses' frustration caused him to act in his own abilities and disobeyed God and made the wrong choice.

The same God who did the miracles is still with us today. This Rock, Christ Jesus was hit and crucified so that we can have life giving water to drink today! He accompanies us where we go and will never leave us or disappoint us.