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As I sit in my office writing this and watching snowflakes swirl once again, I'm trying not to grumble about wanting the 71-degree weather back that I had 48 hours ago. This then prompts me to once again think about the Israelites of the Old Testament. Yes, when I read about how they often disregarded God's providence and blessings—and grumbled (check out Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Psalm 106)—I am taken aback at their blatant disrespect! And then, convicted, I realize I do the same thing.

God was their provider, and He is ours. Plain and simple. Oh, the miraculous way He provides looks a bit different these days. Not sure about you, but I've never had a large body of water part in front of me so I could escape slavery, haven't made bread from manna, nor have I been saved from a snake bite by looking at a bronze statue. However, I have indeed been provided with a great moving company when starting a new called position, I have often stood in front of a full refrigerator while trying to decide if I had "anything to eat," and I have been saved from my own not-so-brilliant choices more often than I'd like to say.

This IOWAY position within our district allows me to see how God immensely blesses and guides us at all times, through hearing your stories and seeing you live out your faith, even when life's circumstances in this sinful world don't seem too kind. It's easy for me to be thankful and remember what a wonderful Father I have when the weather is sunny and warm, my kids are all doing well, friends invite me to sing or get together for fun, and I know I have a safe and comfortable home at the end of the day. But am I thinking about thanks and praise when, from my perspective, the day (week, month) is not going well? It reminds me of the song "Blessings" by Laura Story, which puts a twist of perspective on things.

*We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear  
And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near  
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love*

*As if every promise from Your word is not enough  
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea  
And long that we'd have faith to believe*

*'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if Your healing comes through tears?  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?  
And what if trials of this life Are Your mercies in disguise?*

What a unique perspective, and one I should lean into when I'm questioning things in life. God continues to bless my life by sustaining it each day, even though I sometimes don't appreciate it, and grumble. He also allows us to bless others. Look around today. What can you praise Him for...even if it's more snow flurries?