

\*suggested/potential answers are in red

# 3/22 Sunday School for Middle Schoolers and their Parents

## Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the Rock

**17** The whole Israelite community set out from the desert, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at a place called Rep-Hi-Dim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>So they got mad at their leader Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you fight with me? Why do you not trust that God will take care of you?"

<sup>3</sup>But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They complained against him and God, yelling out loud, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

<sup>4</sup>Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to kill me."

<sup>5</sup>The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup>I will stand there before you by the rock at Ho-Reb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the place Mass-Ah<sup>(a)</sup> and Mare-Bah<sup>(b)</sup> because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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1) Can you explain in your own words what happened in this story?

The Israelites were frustrated that they couldn't find water. They felt abandoned and started not to trust God and His messenger (their leader) Moses any more. Moses asked God for help, and God worked through him to make water miraculously flow from a rock.

2) Why do you think God would give the Israelites what they needed if they didn't trust Him?

God loves us even when we don't love Him back. Being a Christian and understanding God's covenant with us means that God loves us and comes to us first, even when we don't deserve it. God will never withhold what we need (note: what we NEED, not what we superficially WANT).

You can read Luke 12:22-34 if you'd like:

### Do Not Worry

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! <sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life<sup>[a]</sup>? <sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

<sup>27</sup> "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3) Sometimes we need to remember how great God has been to us, especially in crisis situations (like when the Israelites were lost in the wilderness, like the Corona Scare, etc...). Where have you seen blessings in your life? Youth Group kids should have practice answering this one!

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4) Think of a time you didn't trust God, a time you got angry at the universe, and maybe weren't patient? Did things end up working out?

5) Do you think it's Ok to get angry at God?

Something to consider: Maybe God understands our frustrations because, in Christ, He understands human nature since the beginning of time. Also, maybe God is so gracious that He recognizes that our frustrations need to be gotten off our chests and is willing to take on that burden, even if He knows it's not His fault.

PRAYER:

*Lord, forgive me for not believing that your Love surrounds every aspect of my life. Fan my tiny little spark of faith into a beautiful raging fire that will bring you glory and drive out fear. But don't ever let me think it is strong enough or that I have any hope of keeping peace alive apart from you. I believe; help my unbelief!*