

Jason Huffman
Exodus 17
9/4/24

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

Pastor Jason explored how the Israelites' physical needs in the wilderness revealed God's spiritual provision and care, emphasizing that hardships can lead to spiritual growth and maturity. Ultimately, we were reminded that we fight our struggles under the banner of the Lord, relying on His strength to overcome the flesh.

Discussion Questions

Why do you think the Israelites reacted with complaints and accusations towards Moses when they were thirsty in Rephidim?

- The sermon discusses how the people went from rejoicing to complaining when they faced challenges, reflecting immaturity in their faith.
- Have you ever found yourself complaining during tough times instead of seeking help? What could be a better way to handle those situations?

What does the act of Moses striking the rock symbolize in relation to God's provision in our lives?

- The sermon explains that Moses striking the rock represents how Jesus provides for our spiritual hunger and thirst.
- Can you think of a time when God provided for you in a surprising way? How did that experience strengthen your faith?

How does the concept of battling our 'flesh' relate to the challenges we face today?

- The sermon compares Amalek, a descendant of Esau, to our personal struggles with the flesh and how we need to put it to death.
- What are some of the 'fleshly' desires or habits you feel you need to battle against in your own life?

In what ways can we better recognize God's presence in our lives during difficult circumstances, as mentioned in the sermon?

- The sermon points out that God is with us even when we can't see Him or when we're struggling.

- Can you think of a recent tough time where you felt alone? How might focusing on God's promises change your perspective in those moments?

How can the idea of being satisfied in Christ, as taught in the sermon, impact how we view our physical and spiritual needs?

- The sermon explains that Christ satisfies our spiritual hunger and thirst when we can't meet our own needs.
- How can turning to Christ help you find satisfaction in our own spiritual needs?

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for guidance to recognize our spiritual needs and draw closer to God throughout the week.
- Seek God's strength in facing challenges and trusting His provision in difficult times.
- Ask for maturity in faith as we navigate our daily struggles and to rely on God's direction.

Teaching Notes:

17:1 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but *there was* no water for the people to drink.

God commanded them to stop here...but there's no water.

2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?" **3** And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

They "**contend**": argue, rebuke, plead, complain, wrangle.

Arguing & over reacting can both be symptoms of immaturity
Immaturity is a repetitive theme in Exodus.

Maturity is a key part of godly or Christ-like character.

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”

Moses went from shepherd of some sheep to leader of a nation in the middle of distress in the desert.

Spiritual gifts are given but need to be practiced.

5 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

This place where they thought they were going to die...

...became a miraculous point of life.

I Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

The Law, like Moses, leads us to a place of hunger & thirst.

If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. ([John 7:37-38](#))

7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Massah means temptation because they tempted/tested the Lord.

Meribah means strife or contention.

8 Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. **9** And Moses said to Joshua, “Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand.”

Rephidim is a place of rest.

This is the first mention of Joshua.

Amalek is a descendent of Esau and a type of the flesh.

The wilderness is the place we battle our flesh.

10 So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. **12** But Moses’ hands *became* heavy; so they took a stone and put *it* under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. **13** So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this *for* a memorial in the book and recount *it* in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” **15** And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner; **16** for he said, “Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord *will have* war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

This is a constant battle until we receive a new body.

The Lord is my banner...Jehovah Nissi