

## That The World May Know: Fire on the Mountain – Session 2: Not by Bread Alone

### God Teaches New Lessons in New Ways

When the Hebrew slaves cried out in Egypt, God put into motion a plan to free them, redeem them, take them as His own, and be their God. In the barren desert, he gathered His chosen people as His own and, like a shepherd, led them day by day, providing for their every need and training them in His ways.

1. The plagues that God inflicted on Egypt helped to teach both Egyptians and Hebrews who he was. The lessons were received differently. What was God telling the Egyptians? What was God telling the Hebrews?  
Exodus 7:20 – 24 vs. Exodus 15:23 – 25  
Exodus 9:23-25 vs. Exodus 16:4 – 18  
Exodus 10:13 – 15 vs. Exodus 16:11 – 13  
Exodus 7:17 – 20 vs. Exodus 17:5 – 6
2. What was the nature of God's relationship with the Israelites?  
Psalm 77  
Psalm 78:52 – 55  
Psalm 80:1 – 3  
Psalm 95:1 – 7
3. In contrast to what God did to the Egyptians, what did God promise to do for the Israelites if they listened to His voice and obeyed His commands?  
Exodus 15:22 – 27  
  
What did God desire to teach the Israelites about Himself by making this promise?
4. Whether God's training would come in the form of plague or blessing was to some degree dependent on the Israelites' obedience. Why is it important to study and learn from the Israelites' experience?  
1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13

### The Second Test

After His people complained about the bitter water at Marah, God provided miraculously and then blessed them with water in abundance at Elim. The harsh desert environment was providing them with another test, another opportunity to show God what was in their hearts.

1. Refresh your memory of why God led His people into the desert.  
Deuteronomy 8:1 – 5  
Exodus 16:1 – 4  
  
How did the Israelites respond to the hunger they experienced in the Desert of Sin?  
  
What did their response reveal about the attitude of their hearts regarding their needs, their leaders, and their God?
2. What was the Israelites' complaint?  
Exodus 16:1 – 3  
Psalm 78:18 – 19
3. How did Moses instruct the Israelites in order to correct their misconception about who was leading them? Why was this clarification important for them to understand?  
Exodus 16:6 – 9
4. What did God do that reinforced Moses' instruction and would help them to know him?  
Exodus 16:9 – 12  
  
What impact would God's dramatic revelation of himself in the desert have on the Hebrews?  
  
What motivated God's revelation?

### Becoming the Community of God

For a time, the ancient Hebrews lived as an enslaved people in a foreign land, but God had bigger plans for them. He not only wanted them to be His people by race, He wanted them to function as a community of people who loved Him with all their heart and showed the world who he was by the way they loved Him and cared for one another.

1. Imagine the scene when God sweetened the water at Marah. How would it have been possible for thousands of Israelites, who had not found water for three days, to obtain water from one well?  
Exodus 15:22 – 25  
  
What "decree" and "law" might God have given to help them during this process?
2. One month after they had left Egypt, how does the text describe the Israelites?  
Exodus 16:1 – 2  
  
Although they are starting to pull together as a community, what indicates that they need still more training?
3. What specific instructions did God give regarding the gathering of manna?  
Exodus 16:16 – 23
4. The next test for the Hebrews came at Rephidim, where there was no water. Although the Israelites are becoming more like a community, what does their complaint reveal about the true focus of their hearts?  
Exodus 17:1 – 7
5. When God sent Moses to strike the rock at Horeb, who did God say to take with him?  
Exodus 17:5 – 6

### The Third Test: No Water

God gave the Israelites a third test during their desert training. This time, their lack of community was more obvious and their lack of trust more defiant. In fact, this time the people actually *tested God*!!

1. What happened when God led His people to Rephidim?  
Exodus 17:1 – 3

Why had God brought them to a place of suffering and need again?  
Deuteronomy 8:1 – 5

What was God's intent in leading the Israelites to Rephidim and what did He want them to know about Him?  
Psalm 81: - 12

2. How does God respond when people put Him to the test and treat Him with contempt by demanding that He demonstrate His power and provision before they trust Him? Does this cast doubt on His ability and His Character?  
Deuteronomy 6:13 – 19  
Numbers 14:20 – 25  
Psalm 95:6 – 11

3. In what ways did the Israelites' quarrel with Moses (and God) at Rephidim differ from their previous complaints?  
Exodus 15:22 – 27  
Exodus 16:1 – 3  
Exodus 17:1 – 7

4. Despite the insolence of the Hebrews and the abuse they were heaping on God and his servant Moses, what was God going to do for his people?  
Exodus 17:5 – 6

What and who did God tell Moses to take with him to Horeb?

### Moses' Example of Faithful Obedience

Imagine how Moses felt when the Hebrews quarreled with him again—this time with more anger than ever before—when a serious difficulty arose at Rephidim. After all that God had done for them during their relatively brief walk with Him, they not only tested God by demanding that he prove himself to them, they thought of returning to Egypt and threatened to kill Moses. How would you have responded if you were in Moses' sandals?

1. What was Moses' source of guidance as he led the Israelites through the desert? What does this reveal about his motivation as a leader?  
Exodus 17:1

2. Although Moses feared for his life, notice how he responded to them as the shepherd whom God had chosen to lead them.  
Exodus 17:1 – 7

What did Moses say to the people? What did Moses say to God? What did God say to Moses? What did Moses do?

What did Moses' response reveal about his commitment to do whatever God told him to do?

3. How does Moses' role compare with the role God desired His people, Israel, to have in the world?  
Psalm 99:1 – 7  
Exodus 19:1 – 6

What kind of example is Moses for followers of Jesus today who are also called to be a kingdom of priests in service to God?  
Revelation 1:6

### Scripture References

Genesis 2	Deuteronomy 2
Genesis 48	Deuteronomy 4
Exodus 3	Deuteronomy 6
Exodus 4	Deuteronomy 8
Exodus 5	Deuteronomy 10
Exodus 7	Deuteronomy 18
Exodus 8	Deuteronomy 25
Exodus 9	Joshua 4
Exodus 10	Psalms 25
Exodus 11	Psalms 31
Exodus 15	Psalms 73
Exodus 16	Psalms 77
Exodus 17	Psalms 78
Exodus 19	Psalms 81
Exodus 24	Psalms 95
Exodus 32	Jeremiah 2
Exodus 33	Matthew 11
Numbers 11	John 6
Numbers 12	Romans 15
Numbers 13	1 Corinthians 10
Numbers 14	Revelation 1
Numbers 20	

### Think About It

How might you be testing God and subtly expecting him to prove himself by rescuing you?

How is God providing for you in your "desert?"

# EGYPT AND THE SINAI PENINSULA

