



The water from the rock at Massah and Meribah finds the people testing God again. Striking the rock brings water and life. It can't happen unless we believe the Lord is with us in this place. Our comforts are of less value to the Lord than the depth of our trust in him. He wants intimacy with us, regardless of the cost. God can do more through us when we rely more on him. As we learn to trust, others learn from us too. We aren't living for ourselves, but for God. As we live more into our identity as God's own loved children, we are shaped and changed.

Opening Question:

Have you ever had someone be ungrateful for something you've done? How did you feel? More importantly, how did you react?

Read: Exodus 17:1-7

Read the passage aloud as if you were hearing it for the first time. What captures your attention? Does anything shock you? Do any new questions arise?

What stood out to you from the sermon or worship experience this past weekend?

Understanding the Story:

Notice Moses' response to the people's complaints in v.2. Does the act of asking for water itself imply a lack of trust in God's provision, or is Moses simply bothered by the way in which the people presented their request?

What does it mean to put the LORD to the test? And why is that seen as a bad thing?

As in chapter 15 (with the bitter waters at Marah), God makes a pretty strong point in v. 6 by providing water from an unlikely source. What is the larger message at work here?

Living the Story:

Lack of gratitude (toward Moses and God) was one of the Israelites biggest stumbling blocks, but it is also a problem for Christians today. In what areas of your life do you feel or show ingratitude? Talk about some practical ways you can combat ungratefulness this week.

Return to that question that closes the passage (v.7). Do you ever find yourself wondering about God's presence or reality? Try reflecting intentionally this week on God's presence in your life – the many material blessings, of course, and also the times God has guided or protected you or helped you change course. Recalling God's intervention in your life may be a faith builder for you.

Pray:

Week of January 29 (revised)

Spend some time as a group in prayer naming aloud in a word or phrase the things you are grateful for that the Lord has provided.