



# Moses: God Forgives

God provides, forgives, and leads



# Highs and Lows

- Today we will learn about a lot of Highs and Lows the Israelites had in the desert.
- Think of your high for the week (the best thing that happened) and your low (the worst thing that happened)
- Share those things



# Last time we saw Israel...

- God had rescued them from Egypt
  - They've been wandering in the desert
  - They've been given the 10 commandments which govern the relationship of the people with God and the people with each other
  - They've build the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant.
  - Today we are going to take a closer look at their wanderings in the desert until the death of Moses.
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# Israel whines...God provides

- ❑ No Water (Exodus 15)
- ❑ The water is bitter
- ❑ No food (Exodus 16)
- ❑ No water...again
- ❑ God leads them to a pool of water
- ❑ God instructs Moses to sweeten the water
- ❑ God sends enough Manna for each day
- ❑ God tells Moses to strike a rock for water



# Finally they make it to Sinai...but the whining continues.

- ❑ Israelites haven't heard from Moses, so they complain about not having a god they can see (Exodus 32)
- ❑ Aaron tries to solve this problem by creating a golden calf idol
- ❑ God intends to wipe out the people as punishment for breaking the commandments
- ❑ Moses begs for mercy by reminding God of His promises
- ❑ When Moses sees what the people have done, he slams down the stone tablets God had written on (breaking them), grinds up the golden calf and forces the Israelites to drink it by mixing it in the water



# In sight of the promised land

- One person from each of the 12 tribes of Israel were sent to spy on the promised land (Numbers 13)
- The spies reported that the land was great, but 10 of them suggested that the people not go forward because the inhabitants of the land were mighty warriors.
- Two of the spies – Caleb and Joshua – reminded the people of God's provision and promises.
- The people wouldn't listen to Caleb and Joshua – they tried to kill them! This made God angry. (Numbers 14)
- God punishes the people with more wandering.



# STILL whining

□ No water (Numbers 20)

□ God tells Moses to return the same rock and tell it to give water

Read Numbers 20:9-12

What did God tell Moses to do?

What did Moses do?

What was wrong with Moses' actions?

What was the punishment for his actions?



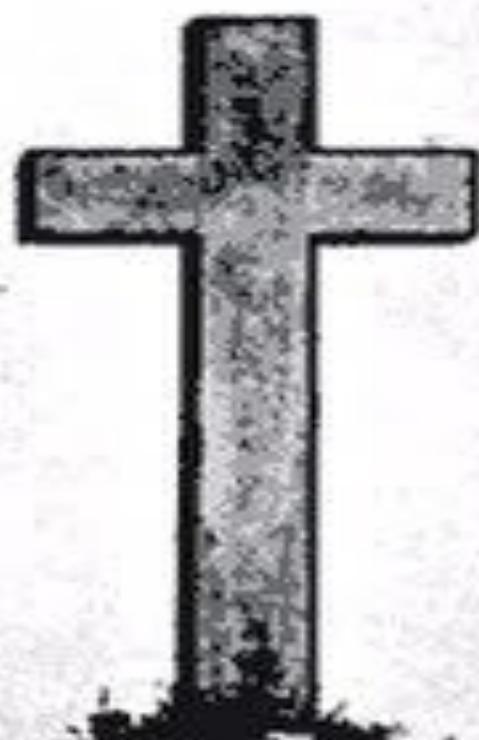
# FINALLY almost 40 years have passed...

- ❑ Moses is preparing to lead the people back towards the Promised Land.
- ❑ The shortest way was through the land of Edom, but the king of Edom did not want them to pass. (Numbers 20)
- ❑ The Israelites had to travel around Edom (which made them cranky...again) (Numbers 21)
- ❑ God punishes the Israelites for their complaining by sending venomous snakes among them.
- ❑ The people went to Moses, confessed their sin (breaking the first commandment), and asked Moses to go to God on their behalf.
- ❑ God told Moses to make a bronze snake, put it on a pole. Those who looked to the lifted snake would be healed.

JOHN 3:14.



AS Moses lifted  
up the SERPENT in  
the wilderness,



SO must the  
SON OF MAN  
be lifted UP.



# Break into Small Groups



small  
groups