

Streams of Blessings

Exodus 17:1-7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 297, 298



Have you ever been really thirsty and not been able to find anything to drink? That is how the Israelites felt when they reached their new camp and found no water.

It happened something like this . . .

It was time to move again. The Israelites were getting used to making camp. They could put up and take down their tents quickly now. Life in the desert was very different from life in Egypt. In Egypt they had worked as slaves building palaces and temples. Now they were going from place to place, following God's leading.

God had looked after them in so many different ways. He had protected them when all the plagues came to Egypt. When Pharaoh chased them, God had opened an escape route through the sea. A few weeks ago God had provided manna, food for them. They could see God's presence in a large cloud in the daytime and a cloud of fire by night.

The desert was an unfriendly place. It became so hot during the day that you could almost cook on the hot stones. At nighttime the temperature was cold. You needed to wrap up to keep warm.

They had arrived at Rephidim, their new camp. Everyone was tired, thirsty, and dusty after the long walk. The cattle's cries demanded water. The sheep and the goats echoed that call. The donkeys brayed and stamped their feet, adding to the plea. Only the camels did not seem to mind that there was no water. They stored water in their bodies and could go without it for some time.

Everyone looked around, but there was no water. People began to ask each other if they had found any water. The answer was always the same: "No."

Soon the people began to look for Moses. When they found him, they began to complain.

"Give us water to drink. We are thirsty. Our families are thirsty. Our animals are thirsty. We must have water, or we will die."

Moses looked sad. He knew that God would provide all their needs. They had seen God do so many things for them.

Surely they must understand that God had brought them here. And He would provide water. Moses answered: "Why are



The Message

We praise God for supplying our needs.

Memory Verse

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink’ ”

(John 7:37, NIV).

you quarreling with me? Why are you putting God to the test?”

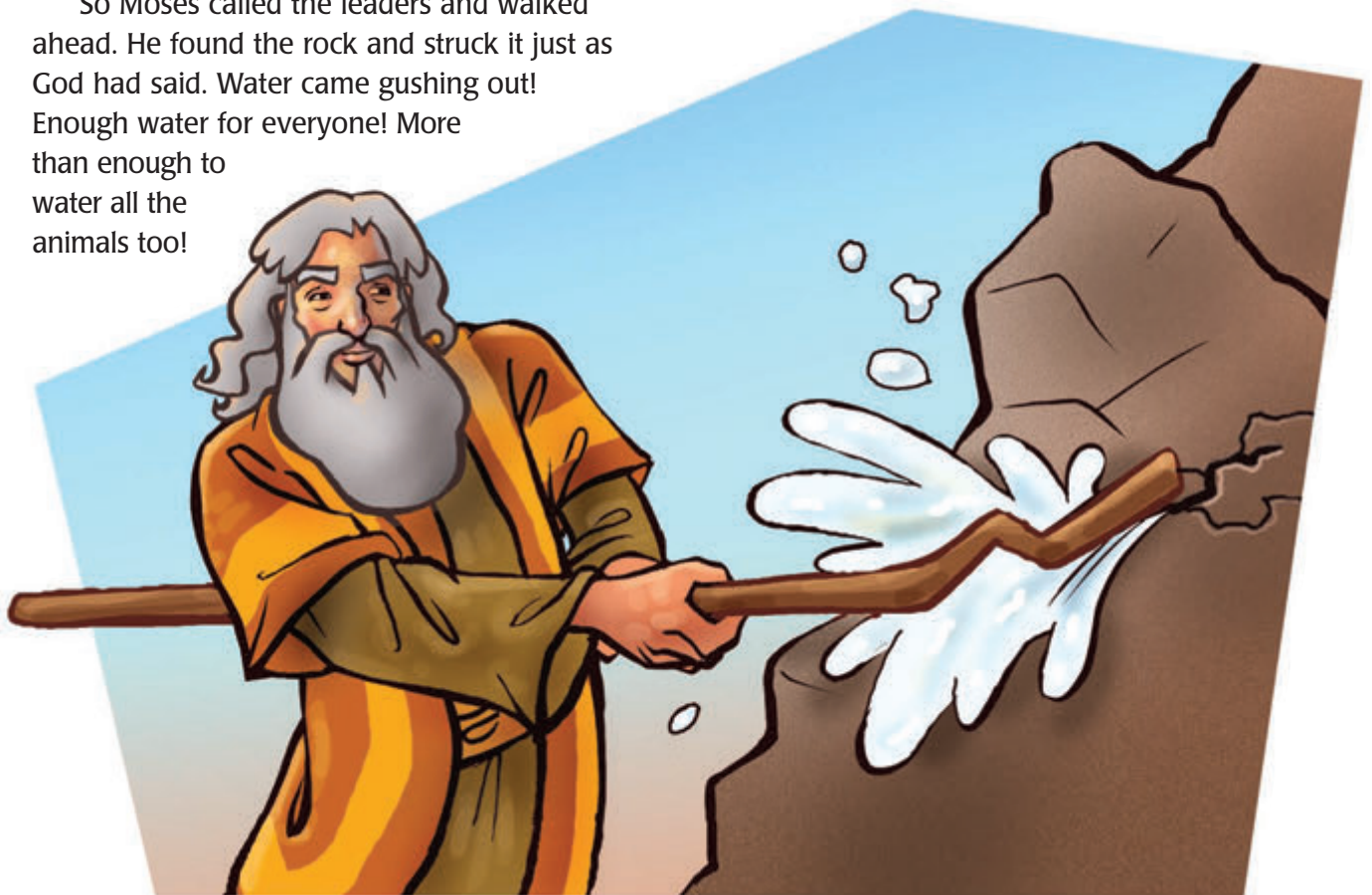
The people did not listen, they just complained. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? We are all going to die.”

Moses did not know what to do. He turned to God in prayer. “What should I do with these people?” he asked. “They are almost ready to stone me.”

God answered Moses, “Walk on ahead and take some of the leaders with you. Bring the staff you used when I turned the waters of the river Nile into blood. I will go before you and stand by a rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it.”

So Moses called the leaders and walked ahead. He found the rock and struck it just as God had said. Water came gushing out! Enough water for everyone! More than enough to water all the animals too!

Once again God supplied all their needs. God never changes. He still supplies our needs today. What a wonderful God!





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family for a walk near some water. When you get back home, hold up a glass of water. Look through the glass. Do things become bigger or smaller? Give a glass of cool water to each person. Then thank God for clean water.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship read Psalm 23. What does this tell us about God meeting our needs?

READ Read Exodus 17:7 together. What did Moses call that place? Why? If possible, find out about the name of your town.

DO Find out how much of the earth is covered with water. (Hint: Use an encyclopedia or the Internet.)

DO Sing some praise songs. Then praise God for meeting your needs.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Luke 12:22-31 for worship. How can you seek God's kingdom rather than riches? Make a list of the things Luke says we should not worry about.

DO Find a picture of a king. Look at a flower. Which does God say is finer? What do you think? Why?

DO Ask if you can help water the plants.

DO Sing songs of praise. Then thank God for taking care of all our needs and worries.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Exodus 17:1-7 during family worship. Find a flat rock and write your memory verse on it. Use it to teach the verse to your family. Then put it where you will see it often. What kinds of rocks are found where you live?

DO List and count the times you do something involved with water today.

PRAY Pray for people where there is a drought (where there is little water).

T U E S D A Y

DO Put some crumbs out to attract birds to your yard today. Make a list and count the different birds. Save the list for worship.

READ Read and discuss Luke 12:6, 7 during family worship. Ask each person to tell one way God has met their needs today. Share your bird list with your family. Who helped God take care of the birds today?

DO Sing "Father, We Thank Thee" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 100). Then thank God for the birds.

God kept feeding the Israelites and finding water for them even when they kept complaining.





THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss Matthew 7:7-11 with your family. Work together to make a poster or collage to show how God meets your family's needs.

SHARE Review your memory verse together. Tell your family what it means to you.

DO How can your family be God's hands and feet today to help meet someone's needs? Make a plan, then do it.

PRAY Thank God that He is always willing to listen to our requests.

FRIDAY

DO Help your mother get ready for Sabbath. What chores can you do? What food can you help prepare?

DO During evening worship act out the lesson story with your family. Say the memory verse together. Ask each person to tell what they learned from the lesson this week.

DO Sing favorite worship songs. Then ask God to bless your family on the Sabbath.

Streams of Blessings PUZZLE

Directions: Help the Israelites find water by remembering God's blessings during their time in Egypt and as they journeyed through the wilderness.

