



Lesson 34: Water from a rock

Scriptural Basis:



"He caused the water to flow out of the rock." Isaiah 48:21

Overview:

The pattern of complaining and doubting in the face of hardship continues for the Israelites, even though they have repeatedly seen God's miraculous provision for them and protection over them. In this account, they grumble and quarrel with Moses and God over water, **testing** God to see if He is going to take care of them. God once again proves Himself as trustworthy when He provides water from a rock. He also proves Himself gracious that though the Israelites tested Him, and grumbled against Him, He provides in great abundance.

Things to consider:

Water is critical to sustain life, and the desert can be a very dry place. So it is not surprising that the Israelites were concerned about lack of water. Rather than letting their fear bring them closer to God (the One who actually created water!) they let their fear grow into mistrust, even wondering if God was still with them. The place was named Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" We all run that risk; due to sin, we all have hearts that cannot be trusted, and can quickly turn anything, like a desire or felt need, into an idol.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Exodus 17:1-7 and John 10-24. Meditate on the good news that Jesus is the living water that our souls search after (see also Jer. 2:13, Jer 17:13, John 7:38 and Rev. 7:17).

Preparing the lesson:

- A: Review Previous Lesson (Manna From Heaven – Object lesson to teach Sabbath Rest)
- B: Read through the handout paying particular attention to the Gospel in the story, and application questions
- C: Research Songs and activities to help teach this week's lesson
- D: Plan a Bible verse memory activity

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review Previous Lesson(s)
- B: Bible verse memory activity
 - C. Story
- D. Additional activity