

M O S E S
AND THE JOURNEY OF FAITH
DISCUSSION GUIDE

God in the Dock

Exodus 17.1-7

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- This is a quick turn around but the group headed to Mazatlan to serve with Back2Back could use your help collecting puzzles for the children's homes. 500 piece puzzles, some easier ones, as well as some other supplies. Check out the post on the City to meet these needs. Items need to be brought back THIS SUNDAY, March 20th.
- **Good Friday Worship Gathering, March 25th 7pm** @ the church building
- The **Aruna 5k** is coming up **April 16th!** Visit the City for information on how to get involved. Consider running/walking as a cGroup!
- **Flying Pig Weekend is April 30th-May 1st!** Each year we *celebrate Christ* with a worship service and "pig out" dinner on Saturday evening and then *serve Cincinnati* on Sunday morning by staffing a hydration station at mile 10 along the marathon route. Information on how to sign up to serve, and info about the "pig out" dinner is on the City.

LEADER NOTES

For a third time, God's people grumble against Moses and the Lord about water or food. This time, rather than God testing his people, God's people "test the Lord" (vv. 2, 7). But God did not respond by judging his people. Instead, astoundingly, he responded by being judged for his people. He tells Moses, "I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink" (v. 6). God stands before Horeb/Sinai, the place of the law; he is struck for the failure of God's people to trust and obey him; and he provides rivers of living water from which God's people drink (cf. John 7:38; Rev. 22:1).

We are told in 1 Corinthians 10:4 that "the Rock was Christ." For those who questioned, "Is the Lord among us or not?" the answer was clear that he was—Christ himself was present to sustain, save, bless, and be judged.

OPENER

What is your favorite courtroom drama (either in a movie, TV series or a book)?

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray spontaneously, or use this prayer:

Lord God, our Protector and Guide, direct our ways that we may walk without stumbling on the path of righteousness. Strengthen us for the journey and give us grace when we fall. Feed our souls, even in our group time tonight. Amen.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

*We are looking at the life of Moses. This week we pick up with the children of Israel in desperate straits, thirsty in the desert.. Read **Exodus 17:1-7**.*

STUDY THE TEXT

1. The word *quarrel* (Meribah) means to “bring a charge... institute legal proceedings.” What charges are being brought here by the people? Against whom?
2. Read Exodus 15:25-27. If this was evidence presented in the case against God, how would it shape the verdict?
3. Read verses 5-6. How does the trial turn out? How does God ultimately provide for the people?
4. How does this story point us forward to the work of Christ? (See 1 Corinthians 10:3-4 and John 7:37-38)

APPLY THE TEXT

5. When are you most tempted to put God on trial in your life?
6. The Israelites are on a very long journey (it lasted a whole generation). In verse 1 it says that God led them by “stages” through the wilderness. Do you think God leads you through stages in your journey? Does that knowledge help give you perspective?
7. What do you learn about the patience of God in the way that he deals with the Israelites? How should this shape the way we deal with each other?
8. How does this story equip us for mission?

HINT: We have a God who comes down and moves toward pain and suffering and even difficult people. C.S. Lewis says, “Christianity is a fighting religion.” Meaning that, when we see things that should not be (injustice, suffering, pain), we try to engage and do something about it. Is God calling you into some kind of ministry? to move toward someone in pain?

PRAY THE TEXT

Take some time and pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Use these Biblical passages as a way to pray. Read John 7.37-38. Pray in response. If you haven't already, break up and share prayer requests.