



Water and Our Faith Story

- When God created the world, he covered two-thirds of our planet with water.
- When the world rebelled against God, he cleansed the known world with a flood saving Noah and his family.
- To save the Israelites from slavery and death, God parted the water.
- God publicly affirmed Jesus’ ministry when he arose from the water of baptism.
- When Jesus began his ministry, his first miracle was changing water to wine.
- Jesus healed a blind man by telling him to wash in the waters of the pool of Siloam.
- When Jesus encountered a woman drawing water from a well, who was not only physically thirsty but spiritually parched, he claimed to be “Living Water.”

Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. John 4:13–14 (NLT)

The Context

- In the vicinity of Ramses, in Egypt’s Nile River delta, the Israelites lived in slavery.
- God called Moses to confront the Pharaoh.
- Ten miraculous plagues later, the Israelites escaped.
- Their escape was blocked by a large body of water.

Yam Suf = _____

- God parted the waters, protecting them from Egypt’s army.
- At Marah they found a well, but the water was bitter/undrinkable.
- God provided and the water became fit to drink.
- Israelites grumbled for more food.
- God provided manna every morning and quail each evening.

The Scripture **Exodus 17:1-7 (NLT)**

At the LORD's command, the whole community of Israel left the wilderness of Sin and moved from place to place. Eventually they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there for the people to drink.

So once more the people complained against Moses. "Give us water to drink!" they demanded.

"Quiet!" Moses replied. "Why are you complaining against me? And why are you testing the LORD?"

But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

The LORD said to Moses, "Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on.

Moses named the place Massah (which means "test") and Meribah (which means "arguing") because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD here with us or not?"

*"Is the Lord here with us or not?"
Have you noticed there is almost always a delay
between the time you pray and the time the
Lord answers your prayers?*

Why were the Israelites delayed in entering the Promised Land?

When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." Exodus 13:17 (NLT)

- God uses delays to _____ us.
- God uses delays to _____ us.

Do you remember how the Lord led you through the wilderness for all those forty years, humbling you and testing you to find out how you would respond, and whether or not you would really obey him? Deuteronomy 8:2 (TLB)

What do you do while waiting?

1. _____
(They) did not want to go into the land . . . (The people said,) “We are afraid . . . The people who live there are taller and stronger than we are . . .” Deuteronomy 1:26,28 (CEV)

I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Exodus 17:6 (NLT)
2. _____
But on the way the people lost their patience and spoke against God and Moses . . . They complained . . . Numbers 21:4–5 (TEV)
3. _____
All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! . . . We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” Numbers 14:2–4 (NIV)
4. _____
They forgot the many times (God) showed them his love, and they rebelled against the Almighty at the Red Sea. But he saved them, as he had promised . . . Yet how quickly they forgot again! They wouldn’t wait for God to act. Psalm 106:7–8 (TEV), 13 (TLB)