

Water From the Rock

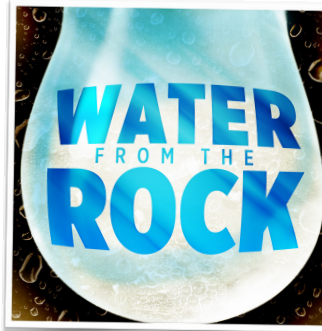
For I do not want you to be unaware... our fathers... all drank the same **spiritual** drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was **Christ**. (1 Cor 10:1-4)

What was this "spiritual drink" and what does Paul mean by referring to the Rock as Christ? We need to go back to **Exodus 17** when Israel was camped at Rephidim and there was no water.

Therefore the people **quarreled** with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' And Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you **test** the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses... (17:2-3)

The LORD's response to Moses?

"Behold, **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." (17:6)



Moses did so, and water flowed out of a rock to keep the children of Israel alive. **But what does this have to do with our search for our King?**

In **John 4**, Jesus crossed paths with a woman from Samaria at a well. Listen carefully to what he said:

"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to **eternal** life." (4:13-14)

Again, in **John 7:38**, Jesus cried out and said:

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of **living** water.'"

What does all of this mean? Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ "Is the LORD among us or not?" This was the root of Israel's quarreling, according to **Exodus 17:7**. What did they mean by that? How might we struggle with the same question today?
- ▶ In what way were the people of Israel "testing the LORD" by their actions and attitude?
- ▶ In **John 4**, let's think about that Samaritan woman. In what ways was her life kind of like a desert wilderness?
- ▶ How did Jesus make a connection with her?
- ▶ What was going on in **John 7:25-39**? How does this episode also relate to Israel's question: "Is the LORD among us or not?" What did Jesus mean in **John 7:38**?
- ▶ Let's revisit Paul's point in **1 Corinthians 10:1-4**. In what way was "the Rock" Christ? Is there a sense in which Jesus was "struck"? If so, what happened? (visiting **Isaiah 53:4**, **Matthew 26:31**, and **John 19:34** might help).