

# Testing in the Wilderness

We read about the children of Israel being “tested” or “testing” God throughout their time in the wilderness. **For example:**

- \* When they were \_\_\_\_\_ and grumbled against Moses and Aaron (Exo 16:1-4)
- \* When they quarreled with Moses about the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ (Exo 17:1-2)
- \* At the foot of Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (Exo 20:18-20)
- \* When they refused to go into the Promised Land after the spies had surveyed it for \_\_\_\_\_ days (Num 14:21-23)



As a result, they would wander in the wilderness for the next 40 years. Just listen to these haunting words of the LORD: “\_\_\_\_\_ shall bear your iniquity... and you shall know my \_\_\_\_\_” (Num 14:33-34).

**But what does this have to do with our search for our King?** After his baptism (Matt 3:13-17)...

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came... (Matt 4:1-11)

When we look at the big picture, there are some amazing parallels between Israel and Jesus. Our King **fought** so that he could be **victorious** for **us!**

ISRAEL	JESUS
Passes through water	Passes through water
Goes to the mountain	Enters the wilderness
Receives the law	Passes the test
Enters the wilderness	Goes to the mountain
Fails the test	Delivers his law



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is a “test”?
- Is there anything good that can come from tests? How might James 1:2-4, 12 help us answer that question?
- Is there a difference between “tests” and “temptations”? What does James 1:13-18 add to our understanding?
- Let’s open our Bibles back to Matthew 4 and think together through Jesus’ victory:
  - What was the devil doing in the first temptation (4:3)?
  - What was the devil doing in the second temptation (4:5-6)?
  - What was the devil doing in the third temptation (4:8-9)?
  - How was Jesus successful in the first temptation (4:4)?
  - How was Jesus successful in the second temptation (4:7)?
  - How was Jesus successful in the third temptation (4:10)?
- What can we learn from these tests in the wilderness?