



# Moses: Water From the Rock

These are basic Bible studies intended to help our teachers personally grasp the “big picture” of our VBS theme. Feel free to use anything here in connecting with your students.

## Key text: Exodus 17

Before the children of Israel reached Mount Sinai where God would give them the Ten Commandments and begin a covenant with them, they came to Rephidim. They had been passing through a dry desert wilderness and there was no water for the people to drink.

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 and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” (Exo 17:2-3)

Moses had done what God told him to do and now the people were free, but the circumstances around them were tough and they had started to complain.

So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 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.” (17:4-6a)

No one else could do something like this, but nothing is impossible for God! He hadn't led them into the wilderness to kill them, but to lead them to the Promised Land.

Forty years later, in Number 20:2-13, we're told about another time when there was no water for the people. God provided more water, but Moses made a very big mistake.

## The “trust and obey” connection:

- In Psalm 95:6-11, God's people of all time are warned about having “hard hearts” that don't listen to or trust God. He is our Maker and the One who gives us everything we need. Even when we can't see where he's leading us, we need to trust and obey.
- In 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, the apostle Paul reminds us of several events when the children of Israel were making their way to the Promised Land. One of the things he warns us about is grumbling. God doesn't want his people to be grumblers (Phil 2:14-16).
- Even Moses was expected to take God's commandments seriously and when he didn't, there were consequences. We need to be careful to do what God tells us to do.

# The Exodus

