

WELCOME (15 minutes)

- **Ice Breaker:** When you're thirsty – what's your non-alcoholic beverage of choice?

WORSHIP (10 minutes)

- Sing #5, "Found in You" from the **NEW 2016 Small Group Worship CD**.
- ***If you still need CD or lyric sheets be sure to connect with Jay or Mary ASAP!***

WIN (15 minutes)

- **PRAY** for people you love who have not yet called out to Jesus to be the payment for their sin!

WORD (25 minutes)

Read: In Exodus 17, we pick up the story with Israel's wilderness experience. Israel gets hungry and thirsty, and they complain. Their grumbling serves as a warning to us. Like them, we too are sojourners who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, who have crossed over to the other side by grace, and who are now on the way to the promised land. In this faith journey, in our wilderness, God is sanctifying us and teaching us to trust Him, love Him, and follow Him.

Have everyone open their Bibles to Exodus 17.

Point #1 – Do we believe we *deserve* God's provision? – Have someone read Ex 17:1-2

Discuss: As the Israelites moved on, following the leading of the Lord in the pillar of cloud and fire, they camped at Rephidim, where there was no water. Instead of trusting God and seeking God, they begin to quarrel and grumble against Moses. We must avoid believing that we somehow *deserve* God's provision! We must learn to trust God, not live with a sense of entitlement. When was the last time you grumbled about a situation in your life? How is grumbling related to a sense of entitlement?

Discuss: Complaining is serious sin! Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 & Philippians 2:14-15. Do difficult circumstances cause us to have wrong attitudes and actions OR do they merely reveal wrong attitudes and actions? Explain your answer.

Point #2 – Do we believe God is good? – Have someone read Ex 17:3-4

Discuss: We are tempted to question God's goodness when we're facing a trial! Have someone read aloud Romans 8:28-29 & 5:3-4, along with James 1:3. God intended to

train and form His people during their time in the wilderness. In what ways might God be training you to walk through difficult times?

Read: Mathew Henry wrote, “Discontent is a sin that is its own punishment and makes men torment themselves; it makes the spirit sad, the body sick, and the enjoyments sour; it is the heaviness of the heart and the rottenness of the bones. It is sin that is its own parent. It arises not from the condition, but from the mind. As we find Paul contented in a prison, so Ahab discontented in a palace.” If God would provide the solution for our greatest problem (through Christ’s death and resurrection), then we have no reason to question His goodness or doubt His faithfulness when facing our day-to-day problems. God is good. Believe it!

Point #3 – Do we believe God is with us? – Have someone read Ex 17:5-7

Discuss: The presence of God is a major theme in the book of Exodus. God heard Israel’s cry in Egypt. God was with them at the Red Sea. God journeyed with them in the wilderness. God’s presence appeared majestically at Mount Sinai. God’s presence was manifested in the tabernacle. In these verses God’s presence is once again manifested to the people in a remarkable way. They doubted if God was with them. But after Moses prayed, God provided water – from a rock! We too may be tempted to think that God has abandoned us when we go through a wilderness experience. Yet God always remains faithful to His people. Can you think of a parallel between God’s provision of water for complaining Israel and a specific provision He has made for you when you were grumbling? How did God’s provision affect your attitude?

Read: Have someone read again 1 Cor. 10:1-4. Paul said that this story points to Christ who is the Rock that was stricken for our salvation. When Paul said, “that rock was Christ,” this means that the rock was a type of Christ. Moses struck the rock, instead of striking the people, and water flowed to save people. Jesus, the Rock, was stricken for our salvation. Instead of striking us, God struck the Son! Christ was wounded, stricken, pierced, and crushed for our iniquity. He didn’t open up His mouth, as a lamb led to slaughter. He submitted to God’s will. He didn’t grumble, but He took the judgment of grumblers like us, that we may know God’s salvation.

Read: Nancy Guthrie writes, “It was God, in the person of Jesus Christ, who stood on the Rock. It was Christ who was struck with the rod of God’s justice in the place of guilty people.”

For next time encourage your people to read Exodus 32.

WORKS (25 minutes)

- Break into smaller groups of **2 or 3’s of the same gender** to pray for each other!