

We're Thirsty!

(based on Exodus 17:1-7)

Many years have gone by since Abraham and Sarah set out for the land God promised them. Now there are many families, a nation as God promised Abraham. They all moved to Egypt when no rain fell and food did not grow. They were happy in Egypt for many years. Then the pharaoh, the king of Egypt, could see that their number was getting larger and larger. Pharaoh was afraid that they were getting too powerful, so he forced them to work as slaves. Life became harder and harder for them in Egypt. God saw what was happening and sent Moses to take them away.

Many horrible things happened before the pharaoh would let them go. Now they were traveling over the desert wilderness. (*Show Color Pack 5.*) It was a long, hot journey on foot.

They had been traveling only a couple of weeks, and God had provided food for them each night. But now they were thirsty.

They came to Rephidim and set up their camp. Then they noticed that there was no water for them to drink. Oh no! After a day of walking in the sandy, rocky desert and no water?

"Moses, where's the water?" "Moses, find some water for us to drink."

The people were angry. They complained and whined, "We want water. We want water. Give us water to drink."

"Why are you yelling at me? Why are you arguing and whining? Why are you testing God?" shouted Moses.

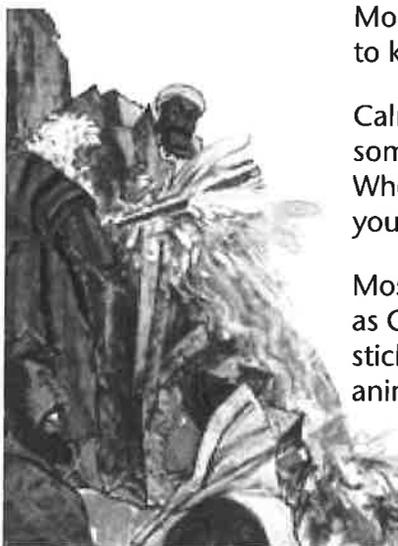
The old people and the young people were all very thirsty. "Did you bring us and our animals out here to die?" they asked.

Moses didn't know what to do, so he called to God, "Your people are about to kill me! I don't know what to do!"

Calmly, I'm sure, God said, "Moses, walk on ahead of the people. Invite some of the older male leaders to walk with you. Take your shepherd's stick. When you get to the rock in Horeb, I will be in front of you. Hit the rock with your stick. Water will gush out of the rock, and the people can drink from it."

Moses and the older male leaders walked ahead to the rock at Horeb, just as God said. As the people watched, Moses hit the rock with his shepherd's stick. At that moment, water gushed out of the rock. Every person and every animal had water to drink.

Moses named this place Massah and Meribah, because the people tested God by asking whether God was with them or not. God was!



God Provides

What has God provided
for you today?

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for you today?