

WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

?

Where Is God?

Exodus 17:1-7

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

⁵ *The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”* **Exodus 17:5-7**

DISCUSSION

In this passage of scripture, we encounter Moses faithfully leading the whole congregation of the Israelites through the desert after 500 years of enslavement in Egypt. The people are angry with Moses for bringing them to a camp with no water, and Moses cries out to God for answers. God responds, providing water to drink through Moses' staff striking a rock. Moses names the place as a reminder of the peoples' doubt that God was with there with them.

The Israelites legitimately wonder if God is there among them when they discover there is no water to drink. When hardships befall us, it is sometimes hard to understand how God can be truly there, Thomas says. ***When have you wrestled with this question? Did you see God in the midst of your difficulties?***

Sometimes, our struggles are a result of choices we make, other times they are the result of living in a broken world where sickness and pain are realities. As followers of Christ, we are called not to understand why hardships come, but to see that God is with us in the midst of them. As God brought water from a rock to show His faithfulness to the Israelites, we are taught in scripture to look for and remember the ways God has been with us. ***Just as Moses renamed the place to remember that God was there with them, what stories remind you of God's provision to you?***

Thomas says that two of the ways in which we change are through *relationships* and *hardships*. ***How have you been changed as a result of the people God has placed in your life? How have you been changed you through your hardships?***

Just as God's own son was not spared, suffering, pain, and hardships are also part of our story—but not the end of our story. ***This week, how can the stories we tell about how we have seen God at work healing and redeeming broken places improve our spiritual discipline of living with hope?***

Heavenly Father, give us eyes to see and ears to believe Your faithfulness. May we lift one another up this week to live in hope, expecting to be changed by You. Amen.