

EXODUS

REDEMPTION : THE STORY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING
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WEEK 4 | EXODUS 15:22–18:27



NORTHPARK
Community Church

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READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please read the following section prior to the Wednesday night Bible study. This will prepare you for the study and group discussion.

You may read any version. Most of the studies will utilize the NLT and NIV.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS READINGS

Week 1	September 8	Exodus 1-4
Week 2	September 15	Exodus 5-10
Week 3	September 22	Exodus 11:1-15:21
Week 4	September 29	Exodus 15:22- 18:27
Week 5	October 6	Exodus 19-24
Week 6	October 13	Exodus 25-27; 30-31
Week 7	October 20	Exodus 28-29
Week 8	October 27	Exodus 32-40

Exposition of Exodus 15:22-16:36

Session 4A – The School of Life

I. EXPECT TRIALS TO COME (Ex. 15:22—16:3)

Possible to win the battle → lose the victory → this is what the Hebrews did

One great victory → doesn't settle everything →

A. “What shall we drink? (Ex. 15:22-27)

An anxious heart → not a trusting heart (Matt. 6:21, 25–33) →

Bitter water → *Marah* → “bitter” →

“Well, I know my own heart” → *“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”* (Jer. 17:9)

The attitude that we take toward our difficulties → determines which direction life will go →

Trust God and obey His Word → pass the test and grow →

Unbelief → complain → disobey the Lord → fail the test → remain immature (James 1:12–18; Heb. 12:1–11)

Israel experts → murmuring and complaining (Ex. 16:1–12; Num. 14:2, 27–29; 16:41; 17:1–10; Deut. 1:27; Ps. 78:17ff.; 106:14)

God was testing them → they were tempting Him →

To tempt God → to deliberately adopt a disobedient posture → and dare Him to do anything about it

God → longsuffering and gracious → sometimes has to “discipline” →
Complaining doesn't solve problems →

The heart of every problem → is the problem in the heart →

Remembered the food → forgot the wonders of God (Ps. 106:7) → worshiped the gods of Egypt (Josh. 24:14; Ezek. 20:6–9; 23:8)

Moses took → the way of faith →
God can solve our problems →

→ By changing things (like making the bitter waters sweet) →
→ By giving us something else (like the wells of water at Elim)
→ By giving us the grace to bear with our difficulties and not complain
(2 Cor. 12:7–10)

The emphasis → trusting God and obeying Him →

Complaining → evidence of unbelief → obedience → evidence of faith

The Hebrews → learned about themselves and about life → learned something about their
God → “*Jehovah-Ropha, the Lord who heals*” (Ex. 15:26)

God promised → physical blessings → if they obeyed Him → physical afflictions → if they
disobeyed (Deut. 7:12–15; 28)

The lesson → If it is God’s will → God is certainly able to heal →

If life tests → discouraged

If life pleasure → never learn discipline / develop character

B. What shall we eat? (Ex. 16:1-3)

The wilderness of Sin → the wilderness of Zin → (Num. 13:21; 33:11–12)

The whole congregation complained → they were hungry →

Away from Egypt only a month → remembered the “flesh pots” of Egypt →

Forgot the bondage, the beatings, and the misery →

Moses and Aaron accused → deliberately led them into the wilderness →

II. TRUST GOD TO SUPPLY THE NEED (Ex. 16:4–18)

God heard their murmurings → in His grace and mercy met their needs → (Ex.
16:8) → (Ex. 16:4)

A. God's promise (Ex 16:4–5, 8, 11–12)

Our pilgrim journey → we live on promises and not explanations →

God is sovereign →

Job → frustrated with God →

Job → overwhelmed → doesn't ask God a thing! (Job 40:1–5)

God's ways are far above us → His wisdom unsearchable (Isa. 55:8–9; Rom. 11:33–36)

B. God's glory (Ex. 16:6–7, 9–10)

Important → Israel focus on the glory of God →

When circumstances difficult → we pray →

Important → God accomplishes His purposes → receives all the glory (Matt. 6:33)

God permits trials →

C. God's faithfulness (Ex. 16:13–15)

That evening, the quail →

The next morning → manna appeared →
(Ps. 78:17–25)

The word manna → "What, please?" or "What is it?" (Hebrew, ma-nah)

Manna → their food for the next forty years → (Ex. 16:35; Josh. 5:11–12)

The manna → small, like a seed → tasted sweet like honey (Ex. 16:31)

D. God's Son → The Bread of Life (John 6:22–59)

Jesus preached a sermon → "the bread of life" →

Prove He was the Messiah → duplicate the miracle of the manna (Ex. 16:30–31) → He declared → "the true bread" → (Isa. 55:2)

Jesus is the Bread of Life →

Manna only to Israel → Jesus for the whole world

The miracle of the manna →

Each day, you and I must “feed on Jesus Christ” by reading the Word, meditating on it, and obeying what it says.

The Hebrews → in the synagogue → Jesus speaking about literally eating His flesh and blood (John 6:52–56) →

He was speaking in spiritual language → referring to receiving His Word (Jn. 6:61–63)

Peter → got the message (Jn. 6:67–68) →

God’s Word → heavenly food that nourishes our spiritual lives → (Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16; Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12–14)

III. OBEY GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS (Ex. 16:16–31)

God not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33) →

If we obey His instructions → He will bless →

If we disobey → there will be disappointment and discipline → (1 Cor. 14:40)

A. The gathering of the manna (Ex. 16:18, 21)

The Hebrews → instructed to gather manna daily → only as much as each person in the family could eat (Ex. 16:16)

An omer → Hebrew dry measure → about two quarts →

The manna → especially nutritious →

Hebrews marched and camped by tribes (Num. 1–2) →

Important to get up early to gather the manna → the hot desert sun would melt it (Ex. 16:21) →

There’s a lesson →

Start the day with the Lord → gathering spiritual food from the Word →

The “early risers” → of the Bible include → Abraham (Gen. 19:27; 21:14; 22:3) → Jacob (28:18) → Moses (Ex. 8:20; 9:13; 24:4) → Joshua (Josh. 3:1, 6) → Samuel (1 Sam. 15:12) → Job (Job 1:5) → David (Ps. 57:8; 108:2) → Jesus Christ (Mark 1:35)

B. The keeping of the manna (Ex. 16:19–21)

Lazy Israelites → save some manna →

Manna soured, smelled, bred maggots, and had to be thrown away →

A personal warning →

We can’t hoard His Word → can’t live on yesterday’s spiritual nourishment

C. Manna for the Sabbath (Ex. 16:22-31)

Exodus 16:23 → Sabbath

“The seventh day” in Genesis 2:1-3 → the Lord’s rest →

Hebrews taught to observe the Sabbath → before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments →

The Sabbath → reminder of His covenant (Ex. 20:8-11; 31:12-17)

Sabbath in Hebrew → “to cease working, to rest” →

Remember → gathering of the manna → a test from God → to see if His people would obey the law He was about to give them (Ex. 16:4)

IV. REMEMBER THE LESSONS GOD TEACHES YOU (Ex. 16:32-36)

The instructions in verses 33-34 anticipate →

→ The giving of the law (or “testimony”; Ex. 31:18; 32:15) →

→ The making of the ark of testimony (Ex. 25:16, 22; 26:33) →

→ The construction of the tabernacle →

→ The ark of the testimony → the throne of God in the camp

Holy of Holies in the tabernacle → glory of God dwelt → within the ark were → two tablets of the law → Aaron’s rod → golden jar of manna (Heb. 9:4).

The high priest → enter the Holy of Holies once a year →

A reminder of an important truth →

God → Yahweh → King and Lawgiver →
→ He established the priesthood →
→ He fed His people → He cared for them

God gave the law → to Israel → He loved His people

They needed a light to guide them → God's law is a lamp and a light → and obeying the law means life (Prov. 6:23) → (Deut. 8:1-3)

Exposition of Exodus 17-18

Session 004B – The Lord of Hosts is with Us

I. GOD DIRECTS OUR STEPS (Ex. 17:1-7)

Toward Mount Sinai → people of Israel still being led → by the pillar of cloud by day
→ the pillar of fire by night

Life's journey → involves much more than merely reaching a destination →

A. An old test repeated (Ex. 17:1-3)

Israel → long way to go → to qualify as a godly nation

In Rephidim → in the wilderness of Sinai → without water

Guilty of ingratitude and unbelief →

If in unbelief → **Then** temptation

If we trust God → **Then** the trial will work for us (Rom. 8:28; James 1:12 →

This example → people wanted to stone their leader (Ex. 17:5) →

B. An unfailing resource (Ex. 17:4-7)

Moses → called on the Lord for help (Ex. 15:25; 32:30ff.; Num. 11:1–2; 12:13; 14:13ff; Ps. 46:1)

The Lord instructed him → the elders → the rod → (Ex. 7:20) → strike the rock →

Moses obeyed → water gushed from the rock (Ps. 78:15–16; 105:41; 114:8; Isa. 48:21)

The rock → a type of Jesus Christ → smitten for us on the cross (1 Cor. 10:4)

The water → type of the Holy Spirit → coming made possible by Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven (John 7:37–39)

(Num. 20:1-13) → (Rom. 6:10; Heb. 7:27; 9:26-28)

Massah → means "to test" → Meribah → means "contention, quarreling"

Hebrews hadn't learned → God tests His people →

Difficult experiences → strengthen our faith / mature our character

Israel's faith → in God very weak →

The Israelites → hard hearts → unbelieving hearts → (Ps. 95:6-11; Heb. 3)

They complained about water → forty years (Num. 20:1-13)

→ Confronted with distress / disappointment → "Not my will but Yours be done"

II. GOD DEFEATS OUR ENEMIES (Ex. 17:8–16)

On the journey of faith → we face battles →

Pilgrims / soldiers → occasionally endure hardship (2 Tim. 2:3- 4)

A. The enemy (Ex. 17:8)

The Devil → our greatest enemy (1 Peter 5:8) → (Eph. 2:1-3)

Israel → delivered from Egypt by the power of God → God's people today → delivered from → "*this present evil world [age]*" → (Gal. 1:3-4) →

We are → in the world → not of the world (John 17:14–16) → must not become conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2)

We renounce → the things of the flesh (Gal. 5:16–21) → resist → attacks of the Devil (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9)

The Amalekites → descendants of → Esau (Gen. 36:12, 16) → "a profane person" (Heb. 12:16)

The word → "profane" ("godless") → from Greek → "a threshold" → somebody who can be "walked on" by anybody or anything

The English word profane → from Latin → and means → "outside the temple" → that is, unhallowed and common.

Esau → lived for the world / the flesh → despised spiritual things (Gen. 27:17)

Esau → opposed Jacob → threatened to kill him (Gen. 27:41) →

Esau's descendants → opposed the children of Jacob (Israel) → threatened to annihilate them →

The Christian life →

We identify with Jesus Christ → His enemies become our enemies (Luke 12:49–53) → we must “*fight the good fight of faith*” (1 Tim. 6:12)

The battles of life → balance the blessings of life →

B. The strategy (Deut. 25:17–19)

Amalekites attacked Israel → at the weakest place in the camp →

Amalek attacked → after Israel experienced a great blessing →

Satan and his demonic army (Eph. 6:10–12) → know our weakest point →

Mark 14:38

The enemy attacks God’s people → after they’ve experienced special blessings →

After his victory over the four kings → Abraham was tempted to take the spoil (Gen. 14:17–24) →

After victory over Jericho → Joshua overconfident → defeated at Ai (Josh. 7)

After Elijah defeated priests of Baal → discouraged / tempted to quit (1 Kings 18:41-19:18) →

After the blessings at His baptism → our Lord led into the wilderness to be tempted (Matt. 3:13-4:1) → 1 Cor. 10:12

C. The victory (Ex. 17:9–13)

Night of deliverance from Egypt → didn’t have to fight → Lord fought for them → Ex. 14:13

On pilgrim journey → Israel entered battle many times → trust the Lord for victory

1 John 5:4

Joshua → 200 times →

Born in Egypt → named Hoshea → “salvation” →

Changed name → Joshua → Yahweh is salvation (Num. 13:8, 16) → Hebrew equivalent → “Jesus” (Matt. 1:21; Heb. 4:8)

Knew the rigors of Egyptian slavery →

Became Moses' servant (Ex. 24:13; 33:11; Josh. 1:1) (Matt. 25:21, 23)

Joshua → only one day to rally his army / get them ready for the attack

Israel's victory over Amalek three elements →

The power of God →

The skill of Joshua / the army on the battlefield →

The intercession of Moses, Aaron, and Hur →

God could have sent angels (Isa. 37:38) → He uses humans

Joshua and his army → trust God and fight →

Moses and his associates trust God and intercede → God would do the rest

God's people → grow in faith → God's name glorified

The Hebrews → lifted their hands when they prayed (Ps. 28:2; 44:20; 63:4; 134:2; 1 Kings 8:22, 38, 54; 1 Tim. 2:8) →

Moses held the staff of God in his hands → confessed total dependence on the authority and power of Yahweh

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob → "the LORD of Hosts" → empowered Joshua and his army

When Moses held the rod up in his hands → Israel prevailed → when he brought his hands down → Amalek prevailed

True intercession → demanding activity (1 Thess. 5:17) →

Epaphras → "always laboring fervently" in our prayers (Col. 4:12) →

Joshua → couldn't have succeeded without Moses → Moses couldn't have prevailed without Aaron and Hur

God is looking for people → share in the battle → the victory → steadfastly in prayer (Rom. 12:12; Isa. 59:16)

Jesus → ever lives in heaven to make intercession for us → (Heb. 7:25)

The Holy Spirit → intercedes for us and guides us in our praying (Rom. 8:26-27)

God promises victory → (Eph. 6:17-18)

D. The testimony (Ex. 17:14-16)

Moses → gave all the glory to God → built an altar → “The LORD is my Banner”
→ Moses lifted a banner → to honor the only true God

Moses → also gave the reason for this memorial →

“For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD” (Ex. 17:16 NIV) → referring to Moses’ intercession on the hill.

God answered prayer → helped His people →

Moses → official book of records → Israel contend with Amalek →

Israel → fought at Kadesh-Barnea → defeated (Num. 14:45) →

Gideon → conquered them / the Midianites (Judg. 6:33)

King Saul → failed to obey God / exterminate the Amalekites → lost his crown (1 Sam. 15)
→ killed by an Amalekite (2 Sam. 1:1–16)

David → defeated the Amalekites → (1 Sam. 30) → became king → finally subdued them (2 Sam. 8:11–12)

Hezekiah → annihilated Amalekites →

God’s judgment of the Amalekites → you can’t attack the throne of God → and get away with it

III. GOD DESERVES OUR PRAISE (Ex. 18:1–12)

This chapter → describes the camp of Israel → a quiet place

Praising God → better than complaining to God →

A. Jethro’s message (Ex. 18:1–6)

Moses’ father-in-law → Ex. 2:11–22

Questions why this information / story → about Moses’ family →

B. Jethro's arrival (Ex. 18:7–8)

In the East → long greeting → (Luke 10:4) → especially if they haven't seen each other for a long time (Gen. 29:9–14; 33:1–7; 45:1–15)

Moses → respect for his father-in-law →

Hospitality → Moses invited Jethro and others to his tent

Jethro → got a complete report →

C. Jethro's worship (Ex. 18:9–12)

Jethro a Gentile priest (Ex. 2:16) →

He knew the Lord punished the Egyptians → they “treated Israel arrogantly” (Ex. 18:11)

The priesthood → not yet been officially established in Israel → OK to join Jethro in offering sacrifices to God →

IV. GOD DISTRIBUTES OUR BURDENS (Ex. 18:13–27)

A. The task (Ex. 18:13–16)

The nation already had elders (Ex. 18:13; 4:29), → weren't assisting Moses

Management of the camp (Ex. 18:16) →

The phrase statutes and laws → decrees and instructions → in verse 16 →

God blessed Abraham → (Gen. 26:5)

Judicial codes necessary → have to be interpreted →

(Mal. 2:4–7) →

The time of Ezra (Ezra 7:10) → interpreters of the law

B. The danger (Ex. 18:17–18)

Jethro → Moses' leadership crucial for the future success of Israel →

Moses confessed the work too much for him (Num. 11:14) →

C. The suggestion (Ex. 18:19–27)

Jethro's suggestion → a good one

Moses organized the camp → every ten people had somebody to talk to about their civil problems.

Ruler of ten → ruler of fifty → one hundred → one thousand → Moses

Moses → teach people the regulations → assisted by the chosen rulers →

→ Represent the people before God →

→ God's chosen leader →

There are those who say that Jethro was a meddler → and should have minded his own business → because God could have enabled Moses to get the job done each day.

Jethro → didn't command Moses → he urged Moses → to talk to the Lord about the problem → and obey whatever God said (Ex. 18:23)

Moses didn't ask Jethro how to build the tabernacle → or how to offer the sacrifices →

Delegating responsibilities → leaders who have ability and character → "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Ex. 18:21)

Qualifications → the experience of the early church → assist the apostles → and relieve them of lesser duties (Acts 6:1–7)

Assistants → good reputations, full of the Spirit and wisdom, approved by the people

Deuteronomy 1:9-18 → Moses shared Jethro's counsel → admitted his weakness and weariness, asked to select leaders to assist him

Approved of the plan → and selected the officers →

Promised Land → appointed officers in each town (Ex. 16:18–20) →

God is a God of order →

Whenever ministry and structure collide → and ministry is being hindered → God's people must adjust the structure → so ministry can grow.

The Jerusalem church (Acts 6:7) →

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Session 4B

1. In the second test of lack of water, what blocked Israel from applying what they had learned the first time?

How might this happen in our lives?

2. What is something from Moses' experiences that you would like to take to heart?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

Questions to consider on your own, during the week:

1. Immediately after the victory, the Israelites faced trials (Ex. 15:22– 16:3).
Why should we expect trials?
2. What is the difference between the Lord's testing and the Devil's tempting?
3. "To tempt God means to deliberately adopt a disobedient posture and dare Him to do anything about it." How did the Israelites do this in 15:22–27?
How might someone do this today?
4. What is the right response when facing a problem?
In what different ways might God answer a cry for help?
5. The Israelites remembered the good but not the hardship of Egypt.
How can believers keep a proper perspective about the past and the present?
6. What does it mean to "live on promises and not explanations"?
7. Where might God be testing you for obedience as He tested the Israelites with the instructions about manna?
8. The Israelites kept a jar of manna to remember what they had learned from it (16:32–37). How can you be sure to remember a spiritual lesson the Lord taught you?
9. God promises that He will be with you always, as He was with Moses.
How does this affect your experience of daily life?
10. Why was God leading Israel into difficult situations, such as the one in Exodus 17:1–7?

11. What did Moses need to do again and again in his frustrating task of leadership (17:4)?
12. What place along your life's journey could sadly be called "Massah" and "Meribah"? How could you have responded better in that place?
13. Why does Wiersbe say Moses got weary while holding up the rod of God (17:12)? How do you respond to that?
14. Aaron and Hur played crucial supporting roles in the victories of Israel. How can you be a support and share in the battle through your local church?
15. How can you incorporate more times of praise in your relationship with the Lord?
16. Whom did God use to help Moses be a more effective leader (18:13–27)? Why was this surprising?
17. What does Moses' adjustment of the leadership structure teach the church about ministry?

