**Water from the Rock**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

**Bible Story Number: 1010570**

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**Water from the Rock**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

This is what the Bible says.

The Israelites left the Wilderness of Sin and traveled from one place to the next as God directed them. They came to Rephidim and set up camp, but there was no water to drink.

The Israelites complained to Moses and demanded that he provide drinking water. Moses asked them why they were complaining to him. He said they were testing God.

They were thirsty. So they griped and complained to Moses. They even said they wanted to know why Moses had brought them out of Egypt to let them, their children and their livestock die of thirst.

Moses went to God and, in frustration, asked God what he should do with the Israelites. He told God it wouldn’t be long until they would stone him to death.

God answered Moses. He told him to go ahead of the Israelites but take some of the elders with him. God told him to take his staff with him, the same staff he used to turn the Nile River into blood. God told him that he would stand in front of a rock at Horeb, and when Moses would hit the rock, water would come out. This was how God was going to provide water for them.

In front of the Israelite elders, Moses did what God had said. Water came out just as God had said.

Moses named the place, Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained and because they tested God.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Who was leading the Israelites?
* Why did the Israelites complain to Moses?
* Why was Moses frustrated?
* What did God do to provide water?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with

others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.