**Water in the Wilderness**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 15:22-27**

**Bible Story Number: 1010550**

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**Water in the Wilderness**

**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.

Exodus 15 records two worship songs the Israelites sang in honor of what God did.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 15:22-27**

This is what the Bible says.

Moses, directed by God, led the Israelites from where they crossed the Rea Sea into the wilderness (desert). They traveled for three days without finding any water.

They arrived at a place called Marah. But the water was bitter and they were unable to drink it. The Israelites complained to Moses about the lack of drinkable water.

Moses asked God what to do. He showed Moses a tree that when he threw it into the water, the water became drinkable.

God made an agreement with the Israelites. He told them that if they would carefully obey Him and keep all His commands and statutes, He would not cause them to suffer any of the illnesses He had inflicted on the Egyptians. He reminded them that He was God, the God who heals them.

They traveled on from there to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms. The Israelites camped there by the waters.

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**

* How did the Israelites react when they arrived at Marah and found the water unfit to drink?
* What did Moses do?
* What instructions did God give Moses to solve the problem with the water?
* What agreement did God make with the Israelites at Marah?
* Where did they travel next and what did they find there?
* 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.