



Moses 5

God provides and the people rebel – Leaders version

For a one hour study, just do the starred * questions

Check in – with the group sitting in a semi circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

1. If you had seen the Red Sea parted, and walked through on dry land, how much do you think you would trust God to look after you in the future?

What does the passage say and mean?

60 minutes

2. Read Exodus 15:23-24. What happens 3 days after the Israelites crossed the sea-bed?

They grumble that they have no water.

3. Does this surprise you? What do you think they should have done, instead of grumbling?

It's fair enough to realise you're thirsty after 3 days in the desert! But they should have prayed for help, not grumbled about it.

4. What happens in Exodus 15:25 & v27?

Moses prays and God works a miracle to make the bitter water sweet. And then God takes them to a place with plenty of water.

*5. It is now one month since they crossed the Red Sea. What happens in 16:2-3 and why?

More grumbling, because there is no food.

*6. What happens in Exodus 16:13-15 (and v31) and what does this tell us about God?
Manna and quail from heaven. God cares and he provides – he heard their grumbling (not their praying, because they weren't praying) and he sent what they needed.

7. Read Exodus 16:35. How long did God provide the people with manna and why do you think he did this?

40 years – until they reached the border of Canaan, the promised land. God knew what they needed and provided it so that the people didn't starve in the desert. We'll find out why it took 40 years to do a relatively short journey, (an eleven day journey, Deut 1:2) in the next study.

Questions 8-10 are **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTIONS**. You need to write them on flip-chart sheets for the group to work on in pairs.

*8. **SDL** Look at Exodus 20, the list of the 10 commandments – can you identify them? Give the references – a few to each pair, so that when you download the SDL as a whole group, everyone will hear all 10.

v3 – no other god

v4 – no idols

v7 – don't misuse God's name

v8 – remember the Sabbath

v12 – honour your parents

v13 – do not murder

v14 – do not commit adultery

v15 – do not steal

v16 – do not lie

v17 – do not covet (don't be jealous)

*9. **SDL** God provided food and water for the people. After 3 months in the desert, he provides something else – what is it? (think about Exodus 20)

The Law. (This does not refer to the legal system of the land, rather to God's law, the 10 commandments, which show us the way to live in obedience to God).

*10. **SDL** The Law was provided after the Israelites had been saved from slavery in Egypt. Why do you think this was important for them to remember?

The Law was given to show them how to live in obedience to God, bringing honour and glory to God, having already been saved. It was not the Law that saved them but God, and they needed to recognise this.

11. How has Jesus' death saved us, and what have we been saved from?

A chance to see how well the group has understood the gospel, and to explain it again!

*12. Living a godly life, i.e. living in a way that pleases and honours God, is not the reason that we are saved, but the response to having been saved. Why is it important for us to remember this?

Christians live in a way that honours and glorifies God not in order to be saved, but because they know they already are saved. If we start to think that living a godly life will make us right with God, it means we have forgotten that Jesus did everything that was needed on the cross, and we have started to try to pay God back for his gift of grace. All this does is reveal our lack of understanding of grace – it doesn't make us right with God. Nothing can be added to what Jesus has done – he's already done it all!

*13. Moses went back up the mountain and spent 40 days listening to God, who told him how the people should live. Read Exodus 32:7-8 to find out what the people were doing when Moses came back down the mountain.

They had made an idol, a golden calf, and were worshipping it.

*14. What does Moses do when he sees the golden calf (Exodus 32:20), what does Aaron (Moses' brother) say to Moses (v22-24), and what happens to the people (v35)?

Moses destroys it. Aaron tries to pass the buck – he blames the people and then says that the calf made itself in the fire! God sends a plague on the people in judgement of their sin.

*15. Why do people try to pass the blame onto other people, and why is it wrong to do this?

Self-preservation. It's wrong on many levels! It's lying. It's not admitting responsibility. It's denial of the truth. It gets someone else into trouble. etc.

16. Read Exodus 33:13. This is part of a prayer that Moses prayed. Why is this prayer so important for Moses, and is it a prayer that you pray for yourself?

It's important for Moses because he wants to be the man that God wants him to be. Moses wants to know God so he prays that God will help him by revealing His 'ways' – his law, character etc – so that Moses can live in obedience to God. Encourage the group to use this verse as a prayer tonight.

How can I live according to these truths in my life?

20 minutes

*1. Are you a grumbler or a pray-er? Is there a situation today that you need to trust God to look after you in, and how are you going to start doing that?

Encourage them to pray about their situation and ask God for help. And to pray before they grumble!

2. Can you think of some other gods / idols that people worship today? As you've thought about these, have you realised that you have any false gods in your life that you need to get rid of?

Money, relationships, football teams, etc. Note: these are not necessarily bad things – but anything becomes bad if it reaches idol status in our lives.

*3. How do you feel when someone passes the blame onto you? How can you start to take more responsibility (and therefore take the consequences) for your own actions?

Check out – with the group sitting in a semi circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.



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8, 9, 10 **SDL**

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