



The Exodus – *Testing*

November 30, 2025

Ice Breaker

What's one food item that you always seem to have stocked in your pantry or fridge, and what would happen if you suddenly ran out of it?

Key Verses

- Exodus 15:22-27 (NASB)
- Exodus 16:1-3 (NASB)
- Exodus 16:12-15 (NASB)
- Exodus 17:1-7 (NASB)

Questions

- How do you think you would have reacted if you were among the Israelites facing bitter water at Marah after just witnessing God part the Red Sea?
- Pastor Nate mentioned that "Put God first, life goes best" doesn't mean life goes the way we want it to. How have you experienced this truth in your own life?
- What's the difference between our 'needs' and our 'wants'? Can you think of something you once considered a need that you now recognize as a want?
- The Israelites experienced both seasons of abundance (Elim) and seasons of difficulty (Marah). How can we maintain proper perspective during both types of seasons?
- Why do you think God chose to create something entirely new (manna) rather than providing existing food sources for the Israelites?
- The Israelites asked 'Is the Lord among us or not?' - really questioning if God cared about them. When have you found yourself asking similar questions?

- Pastor Nate shared how his family's financial struggles actually strengthened their faith. How can difficult circumstances become opportunities for spiritual growth?
- What practical steps can we take to cultivate greater trust in God's provision, especially during uncertain times?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been trying to control or fix things on your own instead of trusting God. Choose a specific way to surrender that area to God - whether through prayer, changing a habit, or taking a step of faith. Like Jeff's daily grocery shopping, consider what practical action you could take to remind yourself of your dependence on God's provision.

Key Takeaways

- God is the ultimate provider who can create provision from nothing, as demonstrated through miracles like manna and water from rocks
- Living in obedience to God positions us to receive His blessings - 'put God first, life goes best'
- God provides for our needs, not necessarily our wants, and we must learn to distinguish between the two
- Seasons of difficulty (Marah) and abundance (Elim) are both used by God to refine us and teach us dependence on Him
- Trusting God's provision isn't blind faith - it's based on His proven track record of faithfulness throughout history and in our personal experiences

Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning together. We're grateful for the reminder that You are our faithful provider, just as You were for the Israelites in the wilderness. Help us to trust You more deeply, whether we find ourselves in seasons of Marah or Elim. Give us wisdom to distinguish between our needs and wants, and courage to surrender our attempts to control our circumstances. May we remember that You are

the same God who created manna from nothing and brought water from rocks. Strengthen our faith to believe that You will provide for us according to Your perfect will and timing. Help us to support one another as we learn to trust You more fully. We commit this week and our lives into Your capable hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.