

# PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 1

## **The point: The Israelites believed they were entitled to God's provision.**

Take a minute to review earlier devotions on the exodus. Create a timeline and jot down some of the amazing things God did for the Israelites up to this point on their journey. Begin with the plagues and end with crossing the Red Sea.

### **Read Exodus 17:1-2.**

Israel faced impossible odds again and again, and each time they witnessed God's wonders as He provided for them. Still, they complained. In this passage, what was their main complaint?

Based on Moses' response in verse 2, how would you classify their motive in complaining to Moses about the lack of water?

List some common complaints you hear today—at home, church, or with your friends. How could we turn to God and trust Him to provide for us instead?

### **Respond**

People often complain when they feel like they deserve something, yet find themselves lacking. This sinful attitude is called entitlement. In today's passage the Israelites felt entitled to God's provision—they were His people and He had provided for them before. It can be easy to fall into the pattern of thinking we deserve what we have or the things we want, but this line of thought doesn't honor God and must be dealt with.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you examine your heart on this matter. Confess to God any tendency to believe you're entitled to anything He gives to you, whether grace, mercy, love, or something material.

# PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 2

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## **The point: The Israelites began to question God's goodness.**

### **Read Exodus 17:3-4.**

The Israelites were \_\_\_\_\_—a real and physical problem. Why do you think they “grumbled against Moses”?

They chose to address this problem by turning against Moses. In doing this, they behaved as if they didn't know their freedom and this journey were part of God's plan. How could they have handled their problem in a way that still honored God?

The Israelites' response indicated a lack of faith in God's goodness. How could Moses' cry to God be seen in the same way?

### **Read Psalm 73.**

According to verses 1-12, why did the psalmist doubt God's ways?

How did he overcome this doubt?

What can today's believers learn from the psalmist's words?

### **Respond**

This kind of doubt is not uncommon, but we must turn our hearts back toward the bigger picture. Popularity and good fortune in this world mean nothing compared to enjoying the goodness of God. Just as God's plan never included abandoning His promises to Israel, His plan doesn't include abandoning us.

What are some needs you currently have? These may be physical, emotional, or spiritual. Create a list and then take those needs before God in prayer.

# PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 3

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## **The point: The Israelites began to question God's presence.**

The Book of Exodus discusses God's presence in various situations (slavery in Egypt, parting the Red Sea, etc.) and forms (Pillar of cloud and fire). List a few other times and ways God's presence was mentioned in Exodus.

### **Now, read Exodus 17:5-7.**

List God's instructions to Moses in verse 5.

What was the Israelites' specific complaint in these verses? Why do you think this "tested the LORD"?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-6.**

Which verse referenced the miraculous water the Israelites received? What did Paul call this water?

Summarize the warning for believers in this passage. In what way are these examples for us?

### **Respond**

The people had a temporary problem of thirst in the desert, but Moses saw beyond to the bigger problem of their wavering faith in God's presence.

Have you ever doubted God was with you or concerned about your problems? Confess any doubts to God, and ask Him to strengthen your faith in His presence.

Pay attention to things you're tempted to complain about. Jot them down and pray about them each day.

# PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 4

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## **The point: Idol-worshippers distort true worship.**

### **Read Exodus 32:1-6.**

While Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments, the Israelites grew more impatient and demanding. They claimed Moses abandoned them and they needed a new god. What did this reveal about their personal trust (or mistrust) in God?

What small acknowledgement did the Israelites give God in verse 4?

The people knew where Moses was, who God was, and what He had done for them. Why do you think they grew impatient with God's purposes?

The people also used the gold God gave to them when they plundered the Egyptians to create this "god." They misused the gifts He had given them. In what way is this another form of idolatry?

In this state of selfishness, the Israelites seemed to acknowledge only what God did for them rather than who He was. How do people respond to God similarly today?

### **Respond**

On a plain piece of paper, jot down a few of the "idols" in your own life. Meditate on the ways God fulfills your life in contrast to idols. Commit to giving up those idols and wholeheartedly following God.

Ask yourself: Am I using my God-given gifts to bring glory to Him or am I using them for my own agenda?

# PERSONAL STUDY: DAY 5

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## **The point: We reflect God in how we relate to Him and others**

### **Read Exodus 32:11-14.**

Highlight the word “interceded” in verse 11. An *intercessor* is someone who takes on the role of mediator, pleading one person’s cause to another. Explain how this helps you better understand Moses’ role in this passage.

How did Moses’ actions foreshadow the role Christ now fills for us?  
(Hint: Read 1 Tim. 2:5.)

God declared the Israelites should be destroyed, and Moses knew their sin deserved God’s wrath. So, why did he plead for their forgiveness? Moses claimed two reasons for God to relent in His anger.

First, how did Moses present God’s reputation as a valid reason for forgiveness in verse 12?

Second, what promise did Moses claim from God in verse 13?

Moses saw and understood the survival of God’s holy people was completely dependent on the character of God, not man. How does this same knowledge affect you?

### **Respond**

When Moses interceded for the people, he appealed to God’s character. His intercession was made out of love for God’s people and desire for God’s glory.

List the names of people you know who may need someone to intercede for them in prayer. Commit to praying for them this week.

Next, jot down some ways you can model your prayers after Moses’ prayer for the Israelites.