



SMALL GROUP LESSON
AUGUST 20, 2017

UNWAVERING FAITH

EXODUS 17:1-7

Water is essential to life. Without it death comes fairly quickly, especially in a hot environment. The people of Israel found themselves in just such a situation. In their journey to the Mountain of God, they had faced many challenges including lack of both food and water. Now they were once again facing a situation that was truly life threatening. Picture yourself as a member of this group of people out in the desert and then consider these questions as we ponder what it means to possess unwavering faith.

1. Were the people of Israel justified in being concerned that there was no water for them to drink as they journeyed through the desert?
2. How did they respond to this alarming situation and how did their response reflect or not reflect what God had done for them on previous occasions? In order to answer this question it may be helpful to read Exodus 15:22-16:36. This passage of Scripture will inform you of all of the things that the Lord had done to preserve His people, including the provision of bread from heaven called "manna."
3. How did the response of the people of Israel differ from the response of Paul and Silas when they were thrown into prison as recorded in Acts 16:16-33?
4. When we face the various challenges that arise in our lives, what two choices do we have with regards to our relationship with the Lord?
5. What promise did Jesus make in John 7:37-38 to those who have placed their faith and trust in Him?

DIGGING DEEPER

After Moses and the people of Israel were refreshed by the water that the Lord had provided from the rock, they faced two more challenges before they reached the Mountain of God. First, they were attacked by the Amalekites, a hostile enemy that they would have to deal with not only now but in the future (Exodus 17:8-16). Second, Moses had to deal with the fact that leading the people of Israel was an overwhelming burden requiring the wise counsel of his father-in-law, Jethro (Exodus 18:1-27). Take a few moments to read both of these passages of Scripture and then consider how they might apply to our lives as we seek to live for the Lord.