



WALKING BY
FAITH

Am I Testing God?

EXODUS 17:1-7

“TEST” GOD = demand that God prove His ability, character or worth to your own satisfaction

I. We are _____ to put God to the test when things aren't going our way.

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” vv. 1-2

II. We often try to test God by asking _____ questions.

But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” v. 3

COMMON QUESTIONS USED TO TEST GOD

What have you done for me lately?

If you loved me, then why did you ... ?

Why didn't you give me what I needed/wanted?

Why have you left me here?

Why won't you hold up your end of the bargain?

III. We are constantly challenged to go from testing God to _____ God.

And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. vv. 5-6

TRUSTING GOD INSTEAD OF TESTING HIM

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. Psalm 95:7-9

Give God your doubts—but also the benefit of the _____ .

Acknowledge God as the _____ Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

Humble your heart so it doesn't _____ , unable to receive or respond to God's guidance.

HOME GROUP STUDY & DEVOTIONAL

As you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 17:1-7. How did the Israelites test God?
2. Read Psalm 78 and Psalm 95:7-11 for more insight into this event. Who were the Israelites actually complaining against? Why is doing this even less wise today than it was for God's people back then?
3. Exodus 17:1-4 shows a total breakdown of trust between Israel and Moses—the people were ready to stone him! What did Moses do each time the people complained against him (see 15:25; 16:6-7; 17:2-3)?
4. How did God respond to restore the nation's respect for Moses' authority (see vv. 5-6)? Why was it so crucial that He confirm Moses' leadership at this juncture?
5. God's people should be on guard not to grumble against His leaders. Read the passages below, noting how seriously God takes this sin as well as how soberly leaders take their accountability to God.

1 Corinthians 10	Philippians 2:14-15
Matthew 12:34-37	James 3; 5
Colossians 4:6	Hebrews 10:30; 13:17
1 Timothy 3:1-16	Proverbs 18:2-3; 7-8; 12-13; 21
6. How can you address a legitimate issue in the church in a constructive way, trusting that God is already involved, without falling into the sin of grumbling?
7. Did any of the COMMON QUESTIONS on the sermon notes sound familiar to you? What has God taught you about Himself in past situations when you asked Him questions like these? How will you respond to Him in similar situations going forward?
8. In what ways is Jesus foreshadowed in this Exodus passage as our Rock? How does this exercise encourage you in your walk with God?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Exodus 15:22—17:7 is important enough to be mentioned repeatedly later in the Bible. Study the lessons later authors drew.

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| Deuteronomy 6:16; 8:2-5 | Hosea 13:5-6 |
| Jeremiah 2:6 | John 6:25-59 |
| Nehemiah 9:19-21 | Acts 13:17-18 |
| Ezekiel 20:10-20 | Hebrews 3:7-19 |
| Psalm 78:12-31; 81:1-16; 95:7-11; 105:37-42 | |

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

Every difficulty God permits us to encounter will become either a test that can make us better or a temptation that can make us worse, and it's our own attitude that determines which it will be. If in unbelief we start complaining and blaming God, then temptation will trap us and rob us of an opportunity to grow spiritually. But if we trust God and let Him have His way, the trial will work for us and not against us (Rom 8:28; Jas 1:12-15) and help us grow in grace. When people are out of fellowship with the Lord, and are angry and bitter, they usually want to do unreasonable things that could only make the situation worse. In this instance, the people wanted to stone their leader (Ex 17:5)! How that would have changed their situation is difficult to discern, but disobedient people often look for a scapegoat.

WARREN WIERSBE

Is it possible that you are in a kind of wilderness, my friend, even as you read the words of this chapter? Then I would suggest that God may have purposed this so that you could come to know Him, in a much more intimate way than you have previously known Him. Perhaps you have never yet come to know Christ as your personal Savior. God may have pulled out all the props of your life, as He did with Israel, so that you could come to the point where you have no one but a gracious and loving God in whom to trust—first for your salvation—and then for your sanctification (your growth in His grace). If you are a Christian and you have entered into a wilderness experience, I urge you to trust and obey God, to look for Him in a way that you have not yet known Him. Just as God meant Massah and Meribah for Israel's good, He means your wilderness experience to be for your good as well. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in a new and fresh way, and He will do it.

BOB DEFFINBAUGH

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

DISASTER RELIEF Thank you for continuing to serve those impacted by the flooding in Central Texas and for helping our church family seek God together. There are meaningful ways to respond — through giving, praying, and going. If you feel led, you can support Disaster Relief efforts by giving on the Give page of our website. To serve on-site or stay connected through prayer, visit ccbcfamily.org/texas for the latest updates on how our Disaster Relief Team is responding.

HELP + HOPE IN GRIEF For families, individuals, and children directly affected by the recent events in Central Texas, we've gathered helpful resources to support you and your faith journey. These include guidance on shepherding your children through grief and a student's guide to processing lament. You can find all of these resources on the home page of our CCBC app.

SPECIAL ONE-DAY EMBARK EVENT Embark is our "Get to know Christ Chapel" class — great for anyone who wants to learn more about us or is considering membership. This month, we're offering the three sessions of Embark on one Sunday afternoon! Join us on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. to learn about our beliefs, vision and values. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/embark.

BE, MAKE + REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience or interest in live production or camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about serving on our Production Team. Whether you're behind the camera, running slides, or helping bring worship to life through technology, your skills can make a big impact. Visit ccbcfamily.org/production to get started — we'd love to help you find your place on the team!

COFFEE WITH A MISSION The Perk Coffee Shop is more than just great coffee — it's a place to connect and build community. Open Sundays and beyond, The Perk offers a warm, welcoming space to slow down and share with neighbors! Plus, every purchase supports global missions, sending hope around the world. Stop by, grab a cup, and join us in reaching the world, one coffee at a time.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.