

Moses the middleman

Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites are journeying in the desert and come to a place with no water. Fearing death, they complain against Moses, questioning whether they should have stayed in Egypt. Moses asks God for help, and God meets Moses with the elders and provides a miraculous supply of water from a rock – showing that God's presence was with the Israelites and that God provides for them.

Read this week's passage:



Reconciliation is not always straight forward. Try making a paper bridge between two cups with an A4 piece of paper. Will it hold a small item? Now try folding the paper into a concertina, folding length ways. What happens now?



Build a DIY water filter and learn about the importance of finding ways to clean up the world's water supplies.



Plan a fundraiser for WaterAid (or a similar charity) and pray for those who don't have clean water or who live in areas of the world suffering from water shortages.

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord.' Exodus 17:7

After the Israelites test God, Moses names the rock on Mount Horeb 'Massah and Meribah'. 'Massah' means 'test' and 'Meribah' means 'quarrel'. Even though the people can now see that God is still with them, Moses doesn't want them to forget this experience.

It is not easy to be around people who are arguing or angry; in Moses' case, he is afraid the Israelites are so angry they will stone him (v.4). In these situations, we can sometimes be tempted to "sweep it under the carpet" and "cover up the cracks", ignoring the roots of a problem and any lingering consequences or bad feelings, but this is not the way that Moses chooses.

Moses reminds the Israelites that we should be honest about our mistakes, not because we should shame ourselves, but because wilful forgetfulness leads usually to more conflict. The Israelites need true reconciliation with God in order to continue their journey together safely and Moses plays a key role in making this happen.

How do you feel about subjects like penitence and confession? Where do you see a need for greater honesty? How can we be reconcilers today?

First impressions

- When have you felt like you would like to complain to God?
- When you pray, do you expect to hear an answer?
- Are there times when you have been amazed by God's answer to prayer? Have you shared this with others?



Pray



God, thank you for all you give us,
help us to remember all you put in our hands,
may we be people who share what we have with others,
and to show people who you are.
Amen.

REFLECT

Take time to reflect on your actions recently; you could journal, doodle, walk a labyrinth, chat with a trusted friend or simply reflect in silence. What have you done or not done? Why did you act in that way? How can you co-operate with God's grace to change your ways?