GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Water from a Rock

Exodus 17:1-7



YOUR BIBLE READING

God answered a community's serious need for water.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Camp Has No Water

Exodus 17:1-7



The Israelites moved through the wilderness in stages as God directed. At Rephidim, where they made camp, there was no water for the people to drink. A camp needs more than a place to put tents. The people, their children, and their animals all needed water. Their journey had brought them to a serious difficulty, and the passage begins by stating that difficulty plainly rather than pretending it was small.

The people argued with Moses and demanded water. Moses asked why they were quarreling with him and testing God. As their thirst continued, they complained that he had brought them out of Egypt to kill them, their children, and their livestock. The account records their angry accusation. It also lets readers understand the need underneath it: without water, the travelers could not continue living as though nothing was wrong.

Moses cried out to God about what he should do. He said the people were nearly ready to stone him. Their conflict had become frightening and dangerous. Moses could not produce a river by answering their accusation, and arguing was not meeting the camp's need. His appeal asked for a way forward. The next part of the account describes instructions rather than an exchange of more angry words between the leader and the people.

God told Moses to walk ahead of the people and to take some of Israel's elders with him. He was to carry the staff he had used at the Nile and go to a rock at Horeb. God said he would stand before Moses there. The elders would witness what followed. Moses had a specific place to go, a familiar staff to take, and people to accompany him as he acted on God's instructions.

Remember: We can ask for help when a real need is beyond us.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Moses Acts Before the Elders

Exodus 17:1-7



God told Moses to strike the rock. Water would come out so that the people could drink. Moses did this in the sight of Israel's elders. The account presents the water as God's provision through the action he commanded. It does not describe Moses searching until he happened to find an ordinary spring. In this story, the instruction and the water from the rock belong together as a remarkable answer to the camp's need.

Moses named the place Massah and Meribah. The names recall testing and quarreling. They preserve the difficult conversation as well as the provision of water. The chapter explains that the people had questioned whether God was among them. A place can become a reminder of more than one thing: here, a real need was met, but the fear and conflict that surrounded it were not erased from the memory of what happened.

It is important to keep this incident distinct from another account about water and a rock. In this passage, striking the rock is exactly what Moses is told to do. We should not bring a different set of instructions into the scene and blame him for following this one. Reading the particular words and setting helps us understand the action accurately rather than mixing two stories because their objects happen to look alike.

The account leaves us with thirsty people receiving water and a named reminder of their quarrel. The need for water was not imaginary. The harmful accusations and threats were real too. These are separate things to notice. A person can need urgent help without every way of expressing that need being helpful. Moses' appeal and God's specific direction move the scene toward provision instead of leaving the travelers trapped in their argument.

Pause and think: How can you explain a real need clearly while avoiding an accusation that makes solving it harder?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Say What You Need Clearly



Try turning an accusation into a clear request. In an imaginary group activity, someone says that nobody ever helps them. A clearer sentence might explain the task and ask for help with one part. What information would a listener need? You can practice with a made-up situation rather than discussing a private problem. Clear words help another person understand the actual need and what support could be useful.

Clean drinking water is a daily need for everyone. With an adult, notice where your household gets water and what you should do if it is temporarily unavailable. The adult makes the safety decisions. You can learn a small useful task, such as carrying your approved water bottle, without feeling responsible for solving the water needs of a whole family or community.

Some objects appear in more than one Bible story. A staff, a basket, or a stone may have a different role each time. Pick one detail from this account and explain exactly what happens here. This kind of careful noticing helps you enjoy familiar stories without accidentally joining events or instructions that belong to different passages.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

God gives Moses a specific action, and water is provided for the thirsty camp before the elders.

How can you explain a real need clearly while avoiding an accusation that makes solving it harder?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What did the people need at Rephidim?

2. Who went with Moses to the rock?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Moses struck the rock as commanded, and water was provided.
- ☐ Israel camped where there was no drinking water.
- ☐ Moses asked God what to do.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw water flowing from the rock toward people waiting to drink.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

We can ask for help when a real need is beyond us.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Exodus 17:4-6

A thoughtful conversation

This is Exodus 17, where God commands Moses to strike the rock. It is different from the later event in Numbers 20. Thirst and dehydration require practical care, not blame.

Activity answers

1. Water to drink.
2. Some of Israel's elders.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help us ask for help and share care with thirsty people.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Exodus 17:1-7. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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