

Intergenerational Worship

by Beth Barnett

Intergenerational Bible Reading - Questions Exodus 17:1-7 Year A Proper 21 Oct 1 2017



What this is: Interactive Bible Reading



Where it's used: Any intergenerational gathering; Early Word;



What's needed:

- **Text** of Exodus 17:1-7 with **questions** highlighted in colours (see below) either on screen or print copies.
- **Cards** with matching coloured question marks and questions
Have enough of these for everyone in your gathering
- **Plasticene** matching the 5 colours
- Chris Booth Exodus series **Posters.**



Time: 5-7 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Exodus 17:1-7 Israelites are provided with water

We are continuing to follow the adventures of Moses and the Israelites - so far we've seen them Oppressed, Escaped, Fearful, Rescued, Rejoicing, Fearful, Fed...and now today, we find them with full tummies but thirsty throats and threatening thoughts towards Moses.

Connect

The reading has some really great questions.

> Give each person a coloured Question Mark card. Make sure that there is a mix of colours distributed across your gathering, and that the red cards aren't all clumped together. Hold back the grey cards until later.

You have each been given coloured question mark card, Find the question in the reading that matches the colour of your card, and make sure you are familiar with the question in that color. Note that the questions on the cards have been slightly simplified.

Look at your coloured question and pair up with someone nearby.
Ask them about their question and let them ask you about yours.

Ex 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "**Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?**" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "**Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?**"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "**What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.**"

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "**Is the LORD among us or not?**"

Ask: When have you ever asked this question yourself?

**Why do you quarrel
with me?**



Why do you test God?



**What question do you
have for God?**



**Is the Lord among us
or not?**



**Why did you bring
us here?
(where it's dangerous)**



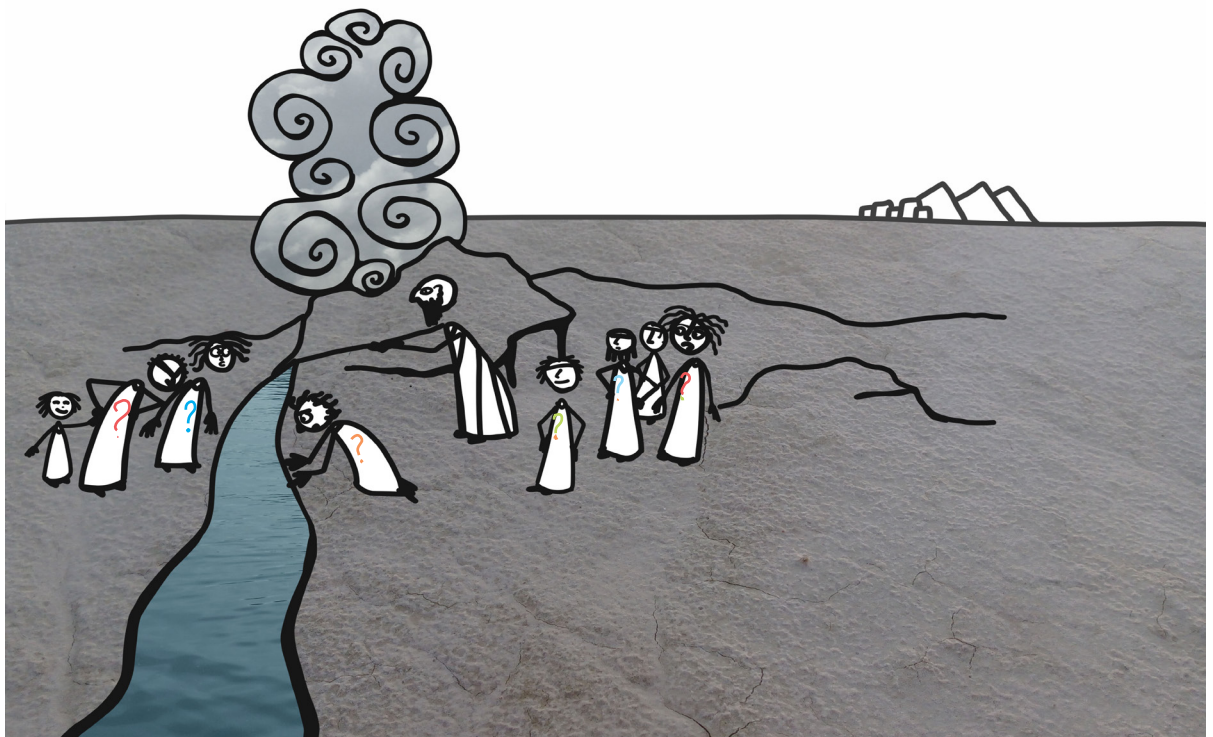
**What shall I do with
these people?
(Who are about to hurt me)**



*>Give your gathering a couple of minutes for this sharing,
then call the group back together.*

Context

Look at the Poster by Chris Booth for Exodus 17. There are some of God's people, the Israelites. In the wilderness, And some of them look like they've got some questions. Use your plasticene to make question marks to place on the people in the poster, and name some of the questions you think they may have.



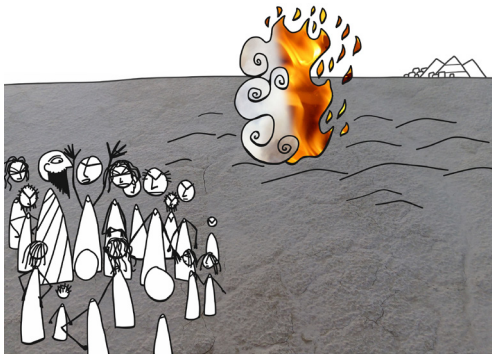
Content

We are going to read the passage from the Bible now. Look out for your question marked in colour in the text and join in when your question comes up.

>Read passage, slowly and expressively, encouraging participation.

>Optional: ask everyone to swap coloured cards with someone else, and repeat the process of sharing stories about the question, then reading the text with participation according to the newly allocated colours.

Consider



Chris Booth Art images for Exodus available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OBzY1iy990r0kaWp0ekpPSFo0WG8>

Display the complete set of large posters of the images from the Exodus series by Chris Booth.

Invite your gathering to make the letters of the question 'Is the Lord in our midst or not?' (a key question from the story of Exodus 17) and add this question to the posters in plasticene writing.

As you work on this together talk about the answer to the question -

Was God in the midst of the Israelites?

How might they know the answer to this question for themselves?

Why might they not know the answer very easily?

How can we tell if God is in the midst of our lives or not?

Consequence

Take some time now to think of the questions you'd like to ask God.

While you do this use the plasticene to make a question mark shape on a piece of card. If you like, tell someone near you what your question for God is, or just keep it between you and God if you like.

Concluding Prayer

Our loving God,

Whatever our others questions, we know that the answer to this question 'Is God in our midst or not?' is surely answered with 'Yes'.

You hear our cries, you show your power, you save us from destruction, you light our way, you feed us with care, you sustain and refresh our lives.

We seek you with our questions and we thank you with our hearts and our lives.

Amen.