

Intergenerational Worship

by Beth Barnett

Intergenerational Bible Reading - Thirst 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 water words highlighted
- Chris Booth Exodus series **Posters.**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BzY1iy990r0kaWp0ekpPSFo0WGS>
- Salty potato **chips/crisps; water and glasses**



Time: 5 minutes



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

Introduction

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.

Today's story has some similarities and references to previous episodes in the Exodus story.

First we will read the text together, then compare the story to some other stories, using Chris Booth's images.

Prepare

The Israelites are out in the wilderness, and they have run out of water. They are feeling thirsty. To help us identify with their situation, we are going to prepare for our bible reading by making ourselves a little bit thirsty by eating some potato chips.

>Pass around bowls of chips and encourage your gathering to eat a handful or two.

Read

Read Ex 17:1-7 slowly and expressively, pausing on the highlighted water words for your group to join in.

At the end of the reading allow some expressions of how thirsty people feel, and then offer some water while moving on to the next section.

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?"

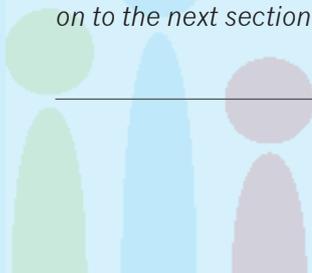
But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

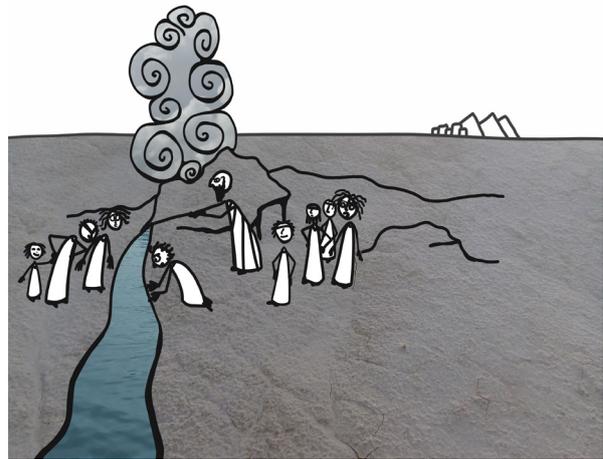
The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

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."

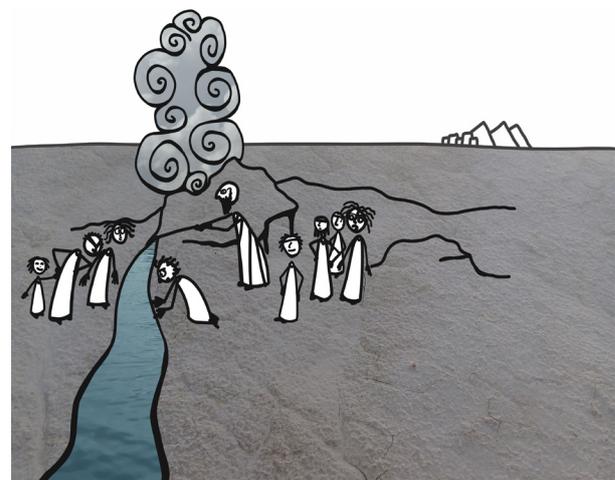
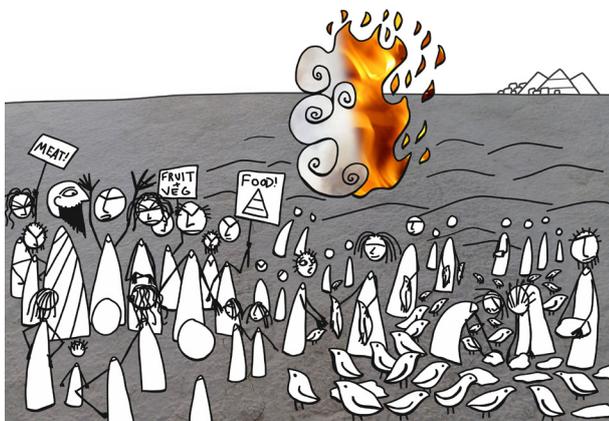
Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

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





Compare these two images of stories from Exodus 3 and Exodus 17. What is the same in the two pictures? What is different. How does that help us understand what is happening in the second story?



Compare these two images of stories from Exodus 16 and Exodus 17. What is the same in the two pictures? What is different. How does that help us understand what is happening in the second story?

Share with one another a time when you have gone to a place that you have encountered God's presence - and perhaps have even gone back there again, and encountered God again - though maybe a bit differently.

Share with one another something you think you need to experience more than once to learn well about God.

Pray - Loving God, you keep turning up in our lives. You are in fact always with us. Help us to look out for you, to listen for your voice. Help us to see that you are not just with us, but with all who cry out for mercy and help.

Thankyou for your patience with our slow learning and our fears.

You are the God of bright burning fire and strong solid earth and fresh flowing water.

Artist Chris Booth has drawn on listening to indigenous storying that connects with the three elements of land, water and fire, in composing the images for these ancient stories. Spend time noticing these elements in the art. Does this focus change how you hear these wilderness stories?