



## **FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH**

Pastors: *Dennis & Diane Gordon*

### **THROUGH the WILDERNESS 2 WATER FROM THE ROCK**

*Exodus 17:1-7*



#### **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME**

JESUS IS THE ROCK WHO IS ALWAYS THE SAME AND HE GIVES LIVING WATER WHEN I TRUST IN HIS NAME

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:** *Repeat 2x with Congregation*

***John 7:38** "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."*

*Call upon the Lord and He will answer*

**INTRODUCTION:** God gave His people Manna from Heaven every day for 40 years, but they still had not learned to trust Him. And when they didn't have everything they wanted right away, they started fussing and blaming each other! With all our modern technology we haven't changed much, have we! Jesus is the living bread sent from heaven for us to keep Him on the table of our heart all the time, hungry and thirsting for Him and desiring Him more than any earthly thing. Jesus wants to satisfy that place deep inside your heart that nothing else can fill and quench your thirsting with living water, so you may find complete rest in Him.

## 2. CHILDREN'S STORY: Frankie's Victory



Frankie liked to go to church where he could sing songs and hear Miss Roberta read Bible stories. Frankie liked learning about how much Jesus loves us and how we can trust Jesus because He never changes. Frankie didn't feel like he could trust anyone else, but Miss Roberta was always there for him and he trusted her. But Frankie was worried, because Mom said Miss Roberta might have to move. Miss Roberta was the one person in Frankie's life who helped him to feel loved and secure, and he just couldn't think about her leaving!

In Bible class Miss Roberta read about how God made water come out of the rock and how it was Jesus who was the rock! It was Jesus who gave them water! Jesus was God! Then Miss Roberta closed her Bible, looked sad and said, "Boys and Girls, you know how much I have loved each one of you this year. I look forward every week to coming to teach you about Jesus... but my husband got a better job in another state and I will be moving soon..."

Frankie felt angry tears welling up in his eyes and blurted out, "No, Miss Roberta! If you go, who will love us and read us Bible stories! Why can't everything just stay the same?" Miss Roberta put her arm around Frankie and said, "Frankie, as much as I love you, you have a friend who loves you more. He will never ever leave you, and He will never ever change!" As Frankie remembered, he felt his anger melting away, "Do you mean Jesus?" "Yes, Frankie, Jesus lives in you because you asked Him to come into your heart. Jesus promised to give you living water. Because Jesus came into your heart, He gives you life and He will raise you to live forever with Him, and His Holy Spirit flows from your heart just like the water flowed out from the rock!" Frankie felt the sadness leaving him, and he had a new peace. Frankie knew that Jesus keeps His promises, because Jesus just gave Frankie His Holy Spirit to comfort Him. Frankie knew he would be fine, because he had Jesus in his heart, and that was awesome!

### 3. GOD'S PEOPLE CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

*Exodus 17:1 “And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.”*

The pillar of cloud began to move, so Moses led the Israelites and all their children and cattle and sheep, out from the Wilderness of Sin, beside the mountains of Horeb, in the Valley of Rephidim. There was no water, and they were hot and dusty and so thirsty!



Have you ever been that thirsty? What did you do? Do you think they prayed to God for water? Well, they didn't. After all the amazing miracles they had watched God do through Moses, and remember that manna was still coming down from heaven every morning, they but they did not think to pray. They 'chided' Moses, a word that means they blamed and scolded him!

*Exodus 17:2 “Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?”*

#### **4. WHEN WE COMPLAIN WE MISS THE WILL OF GOD.**

When the people complained and accused Moses of trying to kill them, he said they were tempting God. What does that mean?

***James 4:1-3** “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet **ye have not, because ye ask not.** <sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”*

They were really trying God’s patience. God loves to give to His children, but they would not ask and trust Him. Jesus loves you so much, He doesn’t ever want you to be wanting for any good thing!



***Exodus 17:3** “And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?”*

Is it God’s will that I be in need? No, He desires to bless you more than you need to be blessed! But Jesus loves you enough to want more than blessing for you, God wants you to learn to trust Him.

***Psalms 84:11-12** “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You.”*

What does God teach us when He causes us to thirst?

***Psalms 42:1-2** “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God...”*

## **5. MOSES SEEKS AN ANSWER FROM THE LORD.**

*Exodus 17:4 “And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.”*



The Israelites could see by the Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire that it was God who had led them to Rephidim, so why were they so angry with Moses? Moses went to pray and He cried out to God, asking Him what to do. Let's ask ourselves a questions: How do I usually handle a crisis, like the Israelites or like Moses? Moses demonstrate for us, just the right way to handle a crisis.

*Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Moses could have defended himself and fought back, but he had a peace that guarded his heart because he sought the Lord in crisis. Moses had learned from all his experience with crisis in his life, to seek and thirst for God like a thirsty deer seeks after water, so he became content and stable, and able to lead an unstable people.

*James 1:5-8 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. <sup>8</sup> A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*

*Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

## **6. GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE WATER FROM THE ROCK.**

*Exodus 17:5-6 “<sup>5</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. <sup>6</sup> Behold, **I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.**”*

God said He would stand before Moses as the rock. Moses was not left alone to guess, God stood there first and showed him exactly what to do...because he asked. Jesus will do the same for you and me...if we will only remember to pray...and ask!

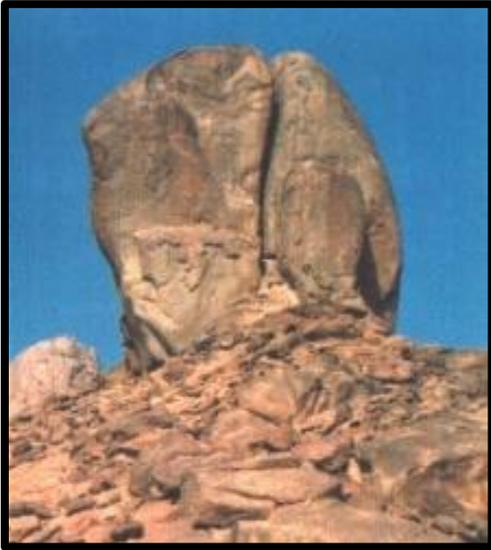


God told Moses to take the rod he had used to strike the Red Sea when the waters parted. God said to strike the rock with the rod and water would flow out. Well, Moses knew for sure it worked, so he struck the rock and the water ran right out of it just like God said it would! How excited the children were! They were so thirsty, and now they could drink and wash, and fill their jars for the journey. When life seems hopeless, worrying is natural but God is faithful to keep His promises.

## **7. THE ROCK AT REPHIDIM IN HOREB STILL STANDS!**

Even knowing that Jesus is our rock, do we still have trouble with worrying and complaining like the Israelites? We must all learn to take every thought of doubt captive, then simply ask God for what we need and thank Him, so we do not hinder his blessing!

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup> (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup> casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**”



This is a “familiar view” of the huge 5-story tall split boulder that is located on the back side of Jebel el Lawz that we have identified as being the Rock at Horeb, the rock that the water flowed out of at Rephidim. But take a look at the photo below! This is a very different view, from the OTHER SIDE of the Rock at Horeb, that shows exactly how “huge” this

boulder really is! If you look very closely you can see a person standing there in the picture! Everything mentioned in the Bible as being at Mt. Sinai has been located here at the JEBEL EL LAWZ site! It is truly an awesome thing to be able to see the real Mt. Sinai, the place where God spoke and wrote His Ten Commandment law with His very own hand! The picture on the right displays the pattern of water erosion and evidence that numerous streams came forth in several directions.

**The Mountain of Moses**, Larry Williams 1991

## **8. THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION IS JESUS.**

What was the significance of the Rock?

*1 Corinthians 10:4 “And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”*

God’s Word tells us that the God of the Israelites is the same God today. He is the same invisible God who hovered over the earth at creation as He spoke all things into existence by the breath of His mouth, which is His word. Jesus is the word and Jesus is the Rock.

*Psalms 33:6 “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”*

*Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”.*



Jesus is still the rock upon whom we stand! Remember that if you want to build a house. You wouldn’t build a house on sand that changes shape and blows away. You would build your house on a rock foundation so that it will stand and not be moved. Jesus is the Rock – build your life on Him!

*Matthew 7:24-25 “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock...it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”*

When we put all our faith and trust in Jesus, no matter what happens you will remain standing. Do we murmur our worries first like the Israelites did and then pray after we have calmed down? Do we completely put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus? The Israelites drank of the same Jesus – ***The same Eternal Spirit who alone is God, parted the Red Sea, made bitter waters sweet, gave them living water from a rock, and He is alive in us today!***

## **9. COMPLAINING HINDERS BLESSING, BUT FAITH BRINGS A FLOW OF LIVING WATER THAT GIVES LIFE.**

*Exodus 17:7 “And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?”*

Moses named that place Massah and Meribah which mean, tempted, and contention, because of the awful complaining of the Israelites. If Moses followed you around and listened to you for a whole day, what kind of name do you think he might name you? This verse is for everyone:

*1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, **giving honour** unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**”*



Are we different from the Israelites today because we are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit? No, God’s people are still the same but some will have ears to hear. If I really believe in Jesus and trust in Him, will I be arguing and complaining against my brother and sister? No, we will take those anxious thoughts captive, believe on the word we have received, and let the living water flow from our heart to give life to others like Jesus did! The Israelites were baptized in the Red Sea, and enjoyed the very presence of God’s Holy Spirit leading them every step of the way, but they did not enter the Promised Land because of the lack of trust shown in their murmuring against their brother.

*John 7:38-39 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**”*

**May we learn to trust in Jesus and let the living water flow!**

## **10. GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR YOU AND ME**

1. Remember that Jesus is always with you through His Holy Spirit in you, as surely as He was with Moses and the Israelites in the Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night.
2. In your life journey, don't forget to ask God when you run into a problem or a difficult person. Don't complain like the Israelites. Be like Moses and ask God to show you what to do.
3. The Israelites kept running out of water because instead of praying, they complained, showing that they did not trust God.
4. The rock in the wilderness was a picture of Jesus who was stricken for our sins, so that by His stripes we are healed by the Living Water of His Holy Spirit.
5. Jesus is the Rock whom we can trust to keep us filled with living water of His Spirit, and standing in victory and blessing.
6. Why complain about your troubles when there is living water to drink? Come to the living water, who is Jesus Christ, and drink deeply every day to satisfy your every need.
7. Be completely filled and immersed in Jesus so that you will receive the power of His Holy Spirit in your life.
8. Praise Jesus, and His Holy Spirit will pray through you do not know how to pray, when you cannot express the deep needs of your heart for yourself and others.
9. Remember Jesus is the same God yesterday, today and forever!
10. Jesus is the invisible Rock, who became a man to die on the cross for our sins, who reigns in heaven and He never changes.

*Dear Lord Jesus, I pray You will forgive me and cleanse my heart from every sin. I don't want to be worried about my life, but I want to be filled and immersed with Your Holy Spirit because I love You and believe Your word. I surrender all of myself to You, Lord, and wait to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit You have promised, so that your living water will flow from my innermost being to praise You, and to pour Your living water into the lives of others. Pour life-giving living water into me, and flow out from me, Lord, and I thank You and praise You, in **Jesus name, Amen.***



## GOSPEL CRAFT – JESUS GIVES US LIVING WATER!

### John 7:38

*"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said,  
out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."*



## **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE LIVING WATER 1446 BC**

### 1 Corinthians 10:4

*"And all drank the same spiritual drink.  
For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them,  
and that Rock was Christ."*

- - - - - Fold under on dotted line so picture will stand upright. - - - - -

Directions:

1. Make a color copy for each child onto card stock, do not enlarge so that picture will stand up.
2. Glue blue tissue paper poofs (or blue glitter) from the hole in the rock down to the water pots.
3. Fold under and back on dotted line to make the picture stand up to display.

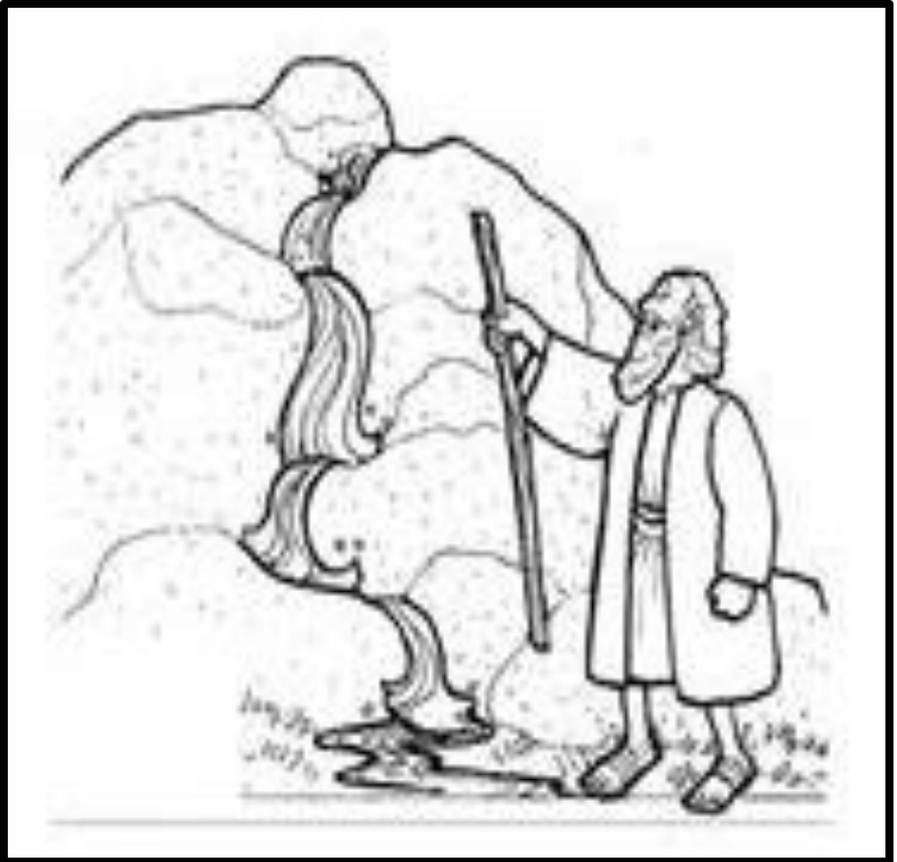
**12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE**  
**GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE LIVING WATER 1446 BC**

**GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME**

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