



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023

'NO LONGER ENSLAVED'



BASED ON EXODUS 17:1-7

When the people of Israel were living in a land called Egypt, life there was hard. In that land, they were forced to do hard labour. They worked long hours in difficult conditions. They were not considered to be equals in the land and they wanted a different land to call home. They prayed and called out to God, crying out for freedom. God listened and led the people to freedom.

Once the people were no longer enslaved, they travelled for a long time to get to a new land. They travelled with their whole families, animals, and everything they owned. God guided them on their journey with signs and symbols. God was with them always.

On this day, the people had been walking through the wilderness. Hot and tired, they had just arrived at a place called Rephidim and set up camp there. They began to complain against their leader, Moses. They argued with Moses and demanded a drink.

"Why are you arguing with me?" Moses asked. Moses encouraged them, saying they should trust that God was with them and would give a sign, just like God had done so many times before.

But the people would not listen. Instead, they grumbled and complained about being thirsty! Some even said that their life as enslaved people in Egypt was better than this journey to a new life and new land!

"Why did you bring us out of Egypt," they demanded, "to kill us, our children, and livestock with thirst?"

Moses did not know how to respond to the people, so he asked God what to do. Moses said he was afraid that the people would keep complaining and yelling at him unless he did something about the water and their thirst.

God said to Moses, "Go ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you." And God reminded Moses of the staff he carried; the one he had used before to perform a miracle on the Nile River. "Take the staff in your hand, and go," God said. "Go to a place called Horeb. Strike the rock at Horeb, and water will flow from it, and the people will have something to drink."

Moses did exactly what God said to do. He took some of the elders and his staff to Horeb. He struck the rock. And water flowed from it.

Even though the journey was hard, God was with the people, guiding and providing.



### ROCK REMINDERS

Clean, good water flowing from the rock reminded the people that God was with them, listening to them.

Make a 'Thank You' rock as a reminder that God listens to all your grumbling and complaining.

You will need a large smooth rock, acrylic paints and paintbrushes, permanent markers and self-adhesive stickers.



#### DIRECTIONS

1. Write or have someone help you write 'thank you God' on your rock with a permanent marker.
2. Decorate your rock with paints and or markers, or stickers.
3. Decide where you might put your rock to remind you of God's love and care for you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exodus Chapter 17: 1-7

I S R A E L I T E T H J H T D W K  
 A X H X W H S J H H U M R R I R I  
 C D P B G O V I Q X D U E E M W Z  
 W J B B F Y R V J O Q D J S H E M  
 V M O S E S W Z H K H E S E V T J  
 C O W S T Q X R E T S P B D D E L  
 C F I Y E D Q Y F U Q V C D C G N  
 N I L E X P F K S F Q H A S S A M  
 D E D N A M M O C T A C Q H D S G  
 Y I R B F L O R D E Z T H D B S R  
 W X M E R I B A H S E H S S Q E U  
 Y X W F D H F F Q T D D J O W M M  
 E U W B Z F V J V A F O O L D P B  
 F B U A E K H P H M T X O D R K L  
 Y B A I T R Y C B E W G D E O C E  
 H C M X Z E O S X N K M N U I O D  
 X Y F N D O R H B T J W Q P F R X

MESSAGE	JESUS	TESTAMENT	OLD
MERIBAH	MASSAH	HOREB	ROCK
NILE	STAFF	LORD	GRUMBLED
THIRSTY	MOSES	WATER	COMMANDED
DESERT	ISRAELITE		



The people quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink!'

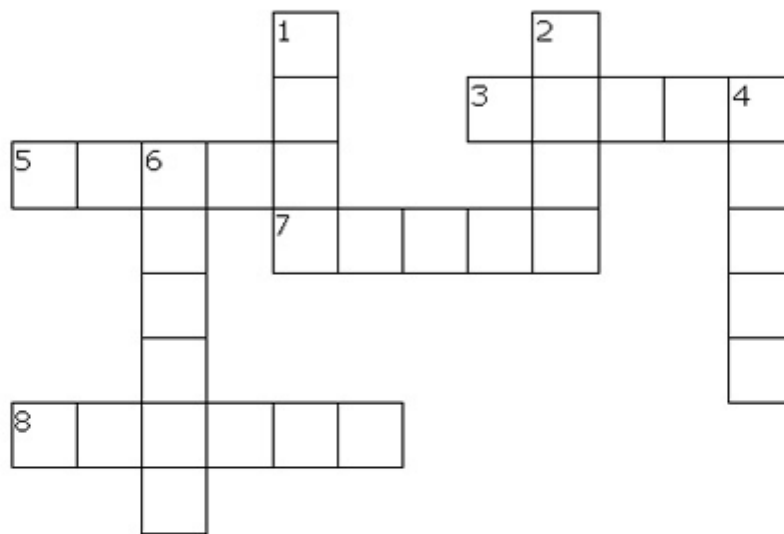


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ki84LbqsdI>

# Water from a Rock

"Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."  
So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exodus 17:6

Based on Exodus 17:1-7



## ACROSS

3. The Hebrew prophet who led the Israelites out of Egypt
5. A fluid necessary for the life of most animals and plants
7. To take water or other liquid into the mouth and swallow it
8. A dry area of land with little or no vegetation

## DOWN

1. Another name that refers God
2. A stone
4. A strong rod or stick sometimes used as an aid in walking
6. A strong desire for something to drink

STAFF  
MOSES

DRINK  
ROCK

DESERT  
LORD

WATER  
THIRST

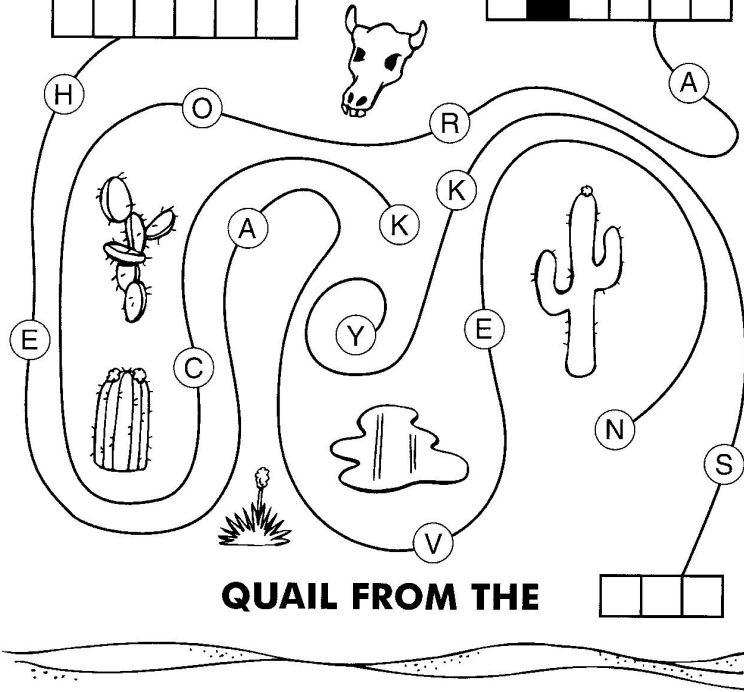
To find out how God's people got the food and water they needed to live in the desert, follow each trail. Copy the letters along each trail into the puzzle boxes.

**MANNA FROM**

--	--	--	--	--	--

**WATER FROM**

--	--	--	--	--	--



**QUAIL FROM THE**

--	--	--



Dear God,

I know you look after me all the time, and I'm sorry for the times when I'm grumbling that I want more and more.

Thank you for all that you have given me, and I love You for giving me the best Mum and Dad and Family and friends. Jesus is pretty cool too!

Thank you for the warm weather so that I can go outside to play without being too cold.

In Jesus name I pray, amen.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju38Sdc2cSg&t=17s>

**'Is the Lord among us  
or not?' Exodus 7b**

**YES, GOD SURE IS  
AMONGST US, EVERY  
HOUR EVERYDAY!**

