



Exodus Study Questions

Week 8

Do you trust your car to get you from point A to point B? Do you trust your friend to keep a secret? Do you trust the climbing rope to stop your fall? Do you trust the surgeon's steady hands? Our level of trust in something or someone is tested repeatedly, and it's revealed by our actions. This week, Exodus reminds us of how our trust in God is constantly challenged by the circumstances of life. The question is *how will we respond when our trust in God is being tested?*

Main Text: Exodus 15:22-17:7

Connect

1. Describe a situation where you had to exhibit trust in someone or something. What was going through your mind at the time and how did it turn out?
2. With regard to another person, what qualities or attributes make someone trustworthy?
3. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

1. Read from chapter 15, verse 22, through chapter 16, verse 3. In general terms, what are the Israelites' circumstances in the account at the end of chapter 15 and at the beginning of 16? Why would these circumstances serve as a test of their trust in God?
2. In chapter 16, read from verse 4 through verse 26. How would you describe God's response to the Israelites' grumbling, given all the miracles He has already performed on their behalf?
3. Verse 12 of chapter 16 repeats a line we've seen before (e.g., 7:17, 8:22, 10:2). What do the LORD's actions, both here and (previously) in Egypt, reveal about Him "so that [Israel] shall know that I am the LORD"?
4. Read the rest of chapter 16. How does the Sabbath relate to God's provision and to a test of the Israelites' trust in Him?

5. Read chapter 17, verses 1-7. How are these episodes—the bitter water, the lack of food, and the lack of water—at their core a lack of trust in God rather than a lack of trust in Moses and Aaron (look back at 16:8)?

Apply

1. We might imagine that nothing would “trigger” our doubts quite like a life-threatening lack of food and water; however, most of us—unlike the Israelites—have plenty of both. So, what *are* the kinds of circumstances that test your trust in God?
2. When you face difficult circumstances, is your first inclination to blame the people around you or do you acknowledge God’s presence in the midst of the difficulty (see 17:7)?
3. Think of all of the astonishing miracles the Israelites have witnessed to bring them out of Egypt. How silly that they would doubt God every time a new test popped up(!)...Can you relate to this “what-have-you-done-for-me-lately” lack of trust in God?
4. As we look back on the example of the Israelites and of God’s responses, what can we learn about the trustworthiness of God in our own lives? How should the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus give us even greater cause to trust God?
5. What area are you struggling to trust God in right now? If you’re able, share this with your group and pray for each other. Pray that you would trust that God is present, that He knows, that He sees, that He is powerful, that He is good, and that He is always faithful.