



Lesson 49

Wilderness Provisions

Story Elements

- **Text:** Exodus 15:22-17:7
- **Setting:** circa 1445 B.C. in the Wildernesses of Shur and Sin
- **Characters:** God and Moses
- **Plot:** The children of Israel doubt God's goodness and Moses' intentions.
- **Key word(s)** "And ye shall _____ that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of

- Egypt." (Exo. 16:6); "...and ye shall _____ that I am the LORD your God." (Exo. 16:12)
- **Climax:** "And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud." (Exo. 16:10)

Bitter Water Made Sweet

1. (15:22-27) Three days' journey after the Red Sea crossing, Israel is in the desert and without water. When they finally do find water, it is "bitter" and not drinkable.
 - a. Immediately, the Hebrews began to " _____ " or grumble and complain.

APPLICATION → "God can embitter that to us from which we promise ourselves most satisfaction, and often does so in the wilderness of this world, that our wants and disappointments in the creature may drive us to the _____, in whose favour alone true comfort is to be had."¹

- b. Moses instructs them to toss a tree into the water and it miraculously becomes _____.
- c. The LORD said he is using their suffering to _____ them or test them.

Manna from Heaven

2. (16:1-36) Thirty days after their departure from Egypt, food became scarce and the Hebrews began to murmur again – this time because of hunger.
 - a. They wish for death and express a desire to return their enslaved condition where at least they had _____. (16:3)

APPLICATION → "We cannot suppose that they had any great plenty in Egypt, how largely soever they now talk of the flesh-pots; nor could they fear dying for want in the wilderness, while they had their flocks and herds with them. But _____ magnifies what is past, and vilifies what is present, without regard to truth or reason. None talk more absurdly."²

- b. In response to their need, the LORD sends quail in the evening and _____ in the morning.
- c. To teach the importance of the _____, manna was to be gathered 6 days a week, but not on the seventh.

Water from the Rock

3. (17:1-7) Again, the Hebrews journey to a waterless, desert area and murmur against Moses,

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 117.

² Ibid.

threatening to stone him.

- a. The LORD instructs Moses to _____ a rock with his staff, and water gushes forth, providing water for the nation.
- b. The place is called Massah and Meribah, which means “_____” and “quarreling.”

Application

- 4. The Hebrews’ lack was a test of their faith; God was “_____ them” or subjecting them to hardship to prove their quality.
- 5. God’s provisions for the Hebrews are wonderful pictures of Christ:
 - a. The tree at Meribah made the bitter water sweet and drinkable, and the _____ of Christ makes our sin-bitter lives sweet and God-glorifying.
 - b. The manna from heaven pictures our heaven-sent Provider: the _____ of Life (John 6:31-33)
 - c. Jesus is our Rock that was smitten and from whose waters we drink to the full. Moses was instructed “not to smite the rebels, but the _____; not to bring a stream of blood from the breast of the offenders, but a stream of water from the granite cliffs.”³

1Co 10:4 *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “know” • 1. a. murmur; → Creator; b. sweet; c. prove • 2. a. food; → discontent; b. manna; c. Sabbath • 3. a. strike; b. testing • 4. proving • 5. a. cross; b. bread; c. rock

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

³ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 60.