



session

FROM EXODUS
TO PROMISE

Yes & No

1. Tough life experiences beat people down, they don't make people stronger.
2. Optimistic people do not struggle with bitterness.
3. God purposely leads you into situations that can make you bitter.
4. God leads you into tough situations to test whether you'll stay with Him or not.
5. After you follow God's commands, He saves you.

dig deep

BITTER ENDING:

◦ Have you ever asked God for help, and things got worse? How did you feel in that moment?

» READ Exodus 15:22-24.

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

∞ Why do you think God would lead the people to undrinkable water?

› Why did the people cry out to Moses, instead of God?

› How many days have they been traveling in the desert? Why might this number be significant? (See Ex. 3:1-18)

» READ Exodus 15:25a.

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

∞ What does this action say about God's character? God does not act upon a whim. Why did He choose this methodology?

Notes



Life
IN THE
Wilderness

THE BIBLE LAB

dig deep continued...

» READ Exodus 15:25b-26.

25b There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

- ∞ What kind of test is this? What commandments did they have?

- ∞ Were the Israelites saved before or after they received and kept the commandments? How is that similar or different from our personal experience of salvation today?

- ∞ What was the deepest spiritual problem that the Israelites faced?

- ∞ In Exodus 5:3 it reads, "*3 Then they said, 'The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.'*"
 - ° How does God's words at Marah contradict Exodus 5:3? How is this a different picture of God's character?

» READ Exodus 15:27.

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

- ∞ The name Elim in Hebrew means "place of great trees." What do you think God was trying to tell the people about Himself by bringing them to this place? Is there any symbolism that jumps out at you here?

1. How am I allowing the bitterness of my surroundings to make me bitter?

2. How is God training me now with the experiences He has led me to?

3. What new element of God's character does He want me to know this week?

Embrace Life