

Biblical Literature I—Old Testament
Unit 3 “Moses”
Lesson 05 “Whining and Winning in the Wilderness”

Name:

Hour:

After the Passover the hard-hearted Pharaoh admitted defeat. Imagine the grief and sorrow of the Egyptians as they lost their firstborn sons. Imagine the joy and thankfulness of the Israelites as they marched to freedom. But when Pharaoh changed his mind and decided to pursue the Israelites with his best soldiers and swiftest chariots, the Israelites cowered in fear. In this setting we see the Israelites’ lack of trust and, even more profound, God’s grace in spite of his people’s doubts. This pattern—Israel’s fearful whining, God’s gracious providence—continued as the Israelites journeyed away from Egypt toward the Promised Land.

[Read Exodus 14:1-31](#)

1. What did God want Pharaoh to think about Israel’s “wandering”?
2. What was God going to do to the “heart of Pharaoh”?
3. What is the answer to Pharaoh’s question, “What have we done?”
4. What was Israel’s complaint when they saw Pharaoh and his army coming after them?
5. What did Israel think it would have been better for them to do?
6. What hope did Moses give the Israelites?
7. What does the “angel of God” now do?

8. What was the result of the “strong east wind”?

9. How does the Lord defeat the Egyptian army?

a.

b.

c.

[Read Exodus 15:22-27](#)

10. God completely destroyed the Egyptians at the Red Sea. The Israelites had just finished praising him: “In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed” (Exodus 15:13). However, when they came to Marah problems began.

a. What physical problem were the Israelites experiencing?

b. What was wrong with the water at Marah?

c. What did the people begin to do?

11. What did God do in spite of their complaints and how did He do it?

12. What is the “test” that the Lord gave to the Israelites?

[Read Exodus 16:1-3,9,13-15, 31-35](#)

13. Well it didn't take the Israelites too long to complain again. What was their complaint about this time?

14. How did the Israelites describe their food supply when they lived in Egypt?

15. What two types of food did the Lord provide for them?

16. What did the Israelites call the "flake-like substance" that they received in the morning?

17. What did the Lord command Moses and Aaron to do with some of the "manna"?

18. They receive this "manna" each day for how many years?

[Read Exodus 16:16-20](#)

19. What were the Lord's manna gathering instructions?

a.

b.

20. Although God had fed them, how did some people rebel again?

21. Why do you think God didn't want the Israelites to keep any extra manna?

Read Exodus 17:1-7

22. What did the Israelites complain about again at Rephidim?

23. What did Moses say the people were doing with the Lord?

24. What were the people ready to do to Moses?

25. How did God graciously provide for His complaining children?

26. Why does Moses call the place where this took place:

a. Massah?

b. Meribah?

Read Exodus 14:31

27. If we look again at these sections of Scripture, we will see the underlying cause of all the Israelites' complaints. When God delivered the Israelites at the Red Sea, how did they respond?

28. Now go back over the passages that we have covered in the lesson thus far and compare their faith before God's Red Sea miracle to their faith afterwards. What has happened?

Read Exodus 16:11-12

29. When God provided the Israelites with quail and manna, what did He want them to know?

30. Why did they need this reminder?

31. What was the underlying cause of the Israelites' complaining?

A "NearPod" experience...

32. Please respond to the following writing prompts.

a. Think about what you personally complain about and then make a list of at least six (6) things about which you complained.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

b. Spend a few moments and in one paragraph (25 words please) tell me why you (we) complain so much?

c. What would it really take for you to stop complaining? Your answer can not be "just give me everything that I want or ask for".

d. Finally, what does your (our) complaining say about your (our) Christian Faith?