

ENRICHMENT: SCRIPTURE

Massah and Meribah

After fleeing Egypt, the trust Moses and the Israelites had in God continued to be tested as they journeyed through the wilderness. They had to trust God to provide everything they needed, but on multiple occasions they complained and wondered why they had ever left their familiar way of life in Egypt.

At Massah and Meribah, the Israelites once again complained against God.

[The people] of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin . . . and camped at Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people found fault with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you find fault with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” . . . The people murmured against Moses, and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?” So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to [kill] me.” And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile. . . . Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it. . . .” And Moses did so. (Exodus 17:1–6)

Through their lack of trust in God’s goodness, the Israelites tested God and criticized Him and Moses.

That is why Moses then called that place Massah and Meribah. Massah means “testing,” and Meribah means “contention.”¹

Like the Israelites, each of us has his own “Egypt.”

It’s a place in our lives where we are comfortable and know what to expect. However, God often calls us to leave “Egypt” behind in order to follow Him to something better—a deeper friendship with Him. This is made possible when we are challenged to rely more on Him amid new challenges. In those moments, we have a choice. We can willingly cooperate with Him, or we can complain like the Israelites and wish to be back in “Egypt.”



Journal Reflection

What “Egypt” is God calling you to leave behind so you can trust more in Him? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.