

Application

1. Do not worry about your needs. God will provide.

Questions:

How do you know when you are really resting in the Lord as opposed to worrying and fretting?

What are some things you personally get worked up over?

What do you know about God—based either on our study of Exodus or other parts of the Bible—that helps you to trust him?

What else do you think you should do to increase your confidence in God?

2. Do not test God.

Questions:

When we put God to the test what are we saying?

Are there any ways that you put God to the test?

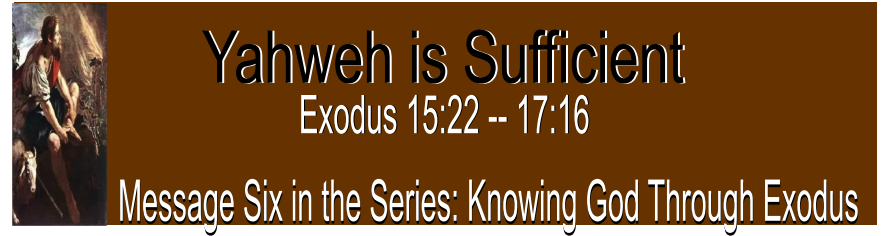
3. Do not worship anything other than God.

Questions:

Okay let's get real, just what are the idols in your life?

Are they related in any way to your worries? Are they related to your pleasures? Your past? Your hopes? If so, what does this look like?

What are you going to do about them?



Last week Pastor Rainer took us through the final Exodus — crossing the Red Sea. Let there be no doubt...an encounter that finds you between death at the hands of a brutal army or death by way of drowning leaves you with no where to look, but up...up to God, to Yahweh, to the one who proclaimed, “I Am Who I Am,” the one who would be for the Israelites all that he was for Adam, Eve, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And, of course, he came through with flying colors. This episode would once again demonstrate to Moses and the Israelites the identity, nature, and character of Yahweh. They could learn (and so can we) that...

...sometimes tough times are gifts to help us grow closer to God

...impossible situations should be faced with peace not panic

...and when times are difficult we should do what God says and watch expectantly for his intervention.

When we come to the next section of Exodus, 15:22 — 17:16, we see the beginning of Israel's trek through the wilderness and the early lessons of Yahweh that demonstrate his total sufficiency for all their needs. The chart below helps us see the progression: God gave them victory over Egypt; he gave them victory over the first army they encountered; and he provided for them in between.

Exodus 15:22 — 17:16		
The Power of Egypt Exodus 1 — 15:21 <u>Escape from Egypt</u> Yahweh was more than sufficient	Passing Through Exodus 15:22 — 17:7 Desert of Shur Marah Elim Desert of Sin Rephidim	The Power of Amalek Exodus 17:8-16 <u>Entrance to their Future</u> Yahweh is more than sufficient

Between Egypt and Amalek, the Israelites were confronted with physical needs. At each point they quarreled, grumbled, and complained. They had not yet come to know the fullness of Yahweh’s magnificence.

2.

Three Great Grumbles Exodus 15:22 — 17:16		
First: Ex. 15:22-27 bitter water <i>“When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) So the people grumbled against Moses, saying ‘What are we to drink?’”</i> (15:23,24)	Second: Ex. 16 food shortage <i>“If only we had died by Yahweh’s hand in Egypt. There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”</i> (16:3)	Third: Ex.17:1-7 no water <i>“So they quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’”</i> (17:2) <i>“And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested Yahweh saying, ‘Is Yahweh among us or not?’”</i> (17:7)

So what happened during each of those episodes? Each time God provided more than what was needed.

- In Exodus 15:22-27, we see that God turned the bitter water of Marah into sweet water. He then moved them about 20 miles to Elim...a place with 12 springs and 70 palm trees...a beautiful oasis in the wilderness.
- In Exodus 16:4-36, we see that God provided so much manna on a daily basis that the people were told to collect only what they needed for daily supplies. The next day would bring yet more of God’s provisions.
- In Exodus 17:1-7, we see that while the Israelites feared yet again that a lack of water might lead to their demise, God miraculously provided all they needed and then some.

This historical adventure was one more chapter in the on-going saga of God teaching not only the Israelites, but all the people of the wilderness and the eventual promised land (as well as the rest of us) just who he is, the Great I Am. In fact, the lessons learned by the first generation of post-Egyptian Israelites would be lessons reviewed for the second generation post-Egyptian Israelites as they prepared to enter the Promised Land and lessons announced to the whole world by our Lord Jesus:

1. Do not worry about your needs. God will provide.
2. Do not test God.
3. Do not worship anything other than God.

Here, take a look...

3.

	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Exodus
Hunger	Matthew 4:1-4 John 6:25-35	Deut 8:3 “man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of Yahweh”	Ex. 16 “Then Yahweh said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you.’” (16:4)
Testing God	Matthew 4:5-7 John 4:10-14	Deut. 6:16 “Do not test Yahweh your God as you did at Massah”	Ex. 17:1-7 “Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” (17:6)
False Worship	Matthew 4: 8-10 John 8:48-59	Deut. 6:13 “Fear Yahweh your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.”	Ex. 15: 26; 16:9-12 “Then you will know that I am Yahweh your God” (16:12)