



**Educate
+ Engage**



SUMMER
BREAK



New challenges

OVERVIEW

Summer Break provides new challenges that we didn't expect. We have less structure to our lives, which can lead to a whole different set of problems. The children of Israel experienced this in the wilderness on their journey. Leadership becomes a focal point of blame.

Scripture Passage

Exodus 16:1–10 (KJV)

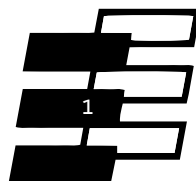
And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: and the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: and in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings. 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.

EDUCATE

Has there ever been a time when you have been working towards something and it turns out it isn't as great as you thought it would be? What was it?



Sometimes anticipation can be more thrilling than reality. You might have been excited for your first flight, only to face turbulence, delays, or diversions. Imagine being on the plane, boarded with a book in hand and headphones on, when suddenly, the intercom announces everyone must de-board due to maintenance issues. Talk about a major setback.

The Israelites ran into similar issue on their way to the Promise Land.

Point 1: New territory leads to new challenges.

In previous lessons, we have discussed the challenges the Israelites encountered during their journey out of Egypt. They managed to survive both in Egypt and through the Wilderness.

It was tough, but as we ended the last lesson, the Israelites had a fear for God and were learning to trust in Moses as their leader. They were traveling towards the Land that had been promised to them.

God had guided them and provided for them to this point, but now they were tired and hungry. They started thinking back to their days in Egypt and how they didn't have to worry about food or water. Although they were in bondage, they had conveniences that were no longer there for them in the wilderness.

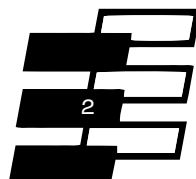
Why do you think we receive a promise but still have to embark on a journey to achieve it rather than just receiving it immediately?

After all the Israelites had been through, they resumed complaining against Moses. Their promise of tomorrow was hidden by their temporary inconvenience of the present.

As you go through this summer, you will be met with new challenges just as the Israelites were met with new challenges. Your challenges might be different. It might not be hunger and thirst, but maybe it's too much time by yourself. Is there access to devices or media that you didn't have time for when you were in school? Maybe its access to a different set of friends or people in general that are not good for your spiritual wellbeing.

What if the new challenges you face are time commitments? You are working more and haven't been spending time in prayer and devotion the way you know you should.

What should we do whenever we face new challenges that are hindering our walk with God?



Point 2: Overcome a lack of faith.

For the Israelites, it led to a lack of faith in their leadership. Instead of focusing on the problem at hand, they blamed the leaders who were leading them through the wilderness.

The Israelites wanted to blame someone for their problem. Often we do the same thing in our life. If we have a sin issue, we blame our leaders or parents instead of dealing with the problem we have. It can't be our fault. It has to be someone else's fault.

Have you ever gotten in trouble and blamed it on something that wasn't really the issue?

Rather than deal with the sin, we say things like, "If my parents spent more time with me or if my youth leader would just take me to lunch, I would have confessed this."

We justify it away because it helps us feel better about ourselves. Surely it can't be my fault. Sometimes we convince ourselves that it really isn't our fault, and don't take a look in the mirror to find the real issue.

When we don't deal with real issues in our life, such as sin, our faith starts diminishing. We stop trusting God. This can lead to us taking a road that leads away from God rather than to God.

The Israelites would have rather been in bondage and back in Egypt. Their circumstances and temporary needs outweighed their trust in the process and promise of God.

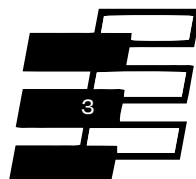
When things are going good in our life, it's easy to say we trust our leadership and we have faith in Jesus. It's when we start to struggle, or we don't like the advice of our pastor or youth pastor, when true faith and submission is revealed.

Did it ever occur to anyone that Moses and Aaron were probably hungry and thirsty as well?

They faced the same environment, setbacks, and issues. God kept leading the Israelites through hardship, most likely because they were still not trusting Him through the process.

Point 3: God will give us what we need, when we need it.

Thankfully, we serve a gracious God. The Lord told Moses to tell the Israelites they would have meat to eat in the evening and in the morning bread until they were full. Moses reminded the people when you murmur against your leadership, it's not against the leadership but against God.



Lesson 3

When we feel ourselves falling away from God, it helps to draw closer to our spiritual leadership. Our leadership can help lead us back to where we need to be in Jesus. Just as Moses was responsible for leading the Israelites, our leaders are responsible for us.

Your pastor is looking out for your soul when he is giving you direction and guidance. When you align with your leadership, you will be fed spiritually. God will speak to us, but what God speaks to us should align with our spiritual leadership and with the Bible. Through this alignment, we receive what we need from God when He wants us to have it.

Has there been a time when you didn't know what to do regarding a decision and leadership was able to speak directly into your situation?

God brings peace and clarity. Avoid confusion and don't blame leaders like the Israelites did. Go to God and your leadership with your problems. God wants what is best for you and He wants you to succeed!

Closing

As we go through this summer, we will be met with new challenges and problems. God has made us overcomers. When we place our faith in God, we can find peace in the middle of our storm or suffering. God will provide for us in the middle of the storm. As we go through our challenges, let's trust in our leadership that they will help us stay focused on Jesus.

ENGAGE

Let's pray that God gives us direction through the challenges we face. Help us to focus on the real issues we face and to trust Him in the process.

