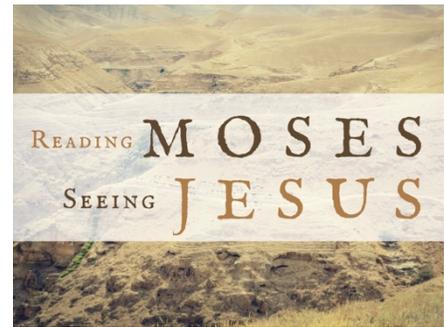




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CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU
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LAB STUDY GUIDE FALL 2017

Date: October 8, 2017

Text: Exodus 15:22-27, John 7:1-14, 37-38

Teacher: Ben Post

Any other Text?:

1. Read the Text Together Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. Make Observations What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. Ask Questions What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

4. Background Information

Exodus 15:22-27 – Israelites complaining that they don't have water after 3 days in the desert. God uses Moses to miraculously provide water for the Israelites when they were most desperate for God to provide water.

Every summer in Israel, it doesn't rain at all. Not one drop for about 5 months (mid April- mid Sept)!

When it rains in Israel, during the rainy season, you would collect as much water as you can in huge vats called cisterns. And with water from these cisterns you drink, cook, bathe, etc. all year long. So you need to collect enough rain during the rainy season for the whole year. As the water level gets lower and lower, your anxiety and desperation for God to send rain climbs higher and higher. This was true during the time of Jesus and still true in Israel today.

Read John 7:1-14

Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (See Deut 16:16, Lev 23). An 8 day celebration, live in tents for a week to remember their 40 years in the desert and how God provided for their needs.

Because of time of year when Sukkot/Tabernacles takes place (late Sept/early Oct), which is just before the rainy season begins in the Fall, Sukkot also became a huge festival to pray for rain. By the time of Jesus, the Jews developed an elaborate ceremony they performed every day during the week of Sukkot as a prayer for rain. 1 million people gathered in the temple. The high priest carried a golden pitcher down from the temple to the Pool of Siloam (fed by a spring). People paraded the streets, with trumpets blowing and chanting/singing Psalm 118 – Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." The priest would bring the water pitcher back up to the temple, circle around the altar, lift up the pitcher for all to see and then pour the water into a basin. They did this every day for a week. Then the last day, the 8th day, was the "Great Hosanna" – everybody showed up on this day. Tradition became this was the day when God decided if he was going to send rain the next year or not. People were most desperate and most passionate at this time.

Read John 7:37-38

5. Application Questions

1. What is something you have complained about in the last week or two?

2. What does Exodus 15 tell us about the Israelites? Moses? God?

3. Where do you feel like you need to trust in God's provision for your life?

4. What are ways Jesus is or could be living water in your life (John 7)? Are you truly finding life, joy and satisfaction in him or are you trying to quench your thirst from other sources (alcohol, relationships, success, etc.)?

5. Based on John 7:38, are rivers of living water flowing from within you? How does/could this affect the people around you?

6. Have everyone answer....

What is something you learned about Jesus this week by studying the story of Moses?

