

The Sacred Journey – Small Group Discussion Guide

Today's Message: Tempted to Test (Exodus 17:1–7)

Opening Question: Can we trust God when we walk through life's trials?

1. Life Comes with Trials

Read Exodus 17:1. The Israelites faced trials in the wilderness when there was no water to drink.

- What kind of trials does life throw our way?
- Share a personal story of a time you experienced God's care in a trial.

2. These Trials Tempt Us to Test God

Sometimes testing God is good (Malachi 3:10), but at Massah the Israelites tested God because they lacked faith.

- What is the difference between a good test and a bad test of God?
- Have you ever been tempted to test God's goodness or presence?

3. The Process of Testing

Step 1: Dissatisfaction – Israel grumbled when needs went unmet (v. 3).

- How do we respond when prayers seem unanswered?

Step 2: Accusation – Israel accused Moses and God (v. 2, 7).

- Do we ever make accusations against God in our own hearts?

Step 3: Prosecution – Israel put God 'on trial' (v. 2, 7).

- Why is it dangerous to demand proof of God's presence or care?

Step 4: Vindication – God provided water from the rock (v. 6).

- How has God proven faithful to you in the past?

4. The Challenge: Trust Rather Than Test

This is not a call to blind faith, but to complete confidence in Jesus as God's faithfulness.

- In what ways can you choose to trust rather than test God this week?

Conclusion

The hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* was born out of great suffering. Just as Thomas Dorsey chose trust in God after deep loss, we are invited to trust God in trials rather than test Him.

Close your group by reading or singing the hymn together, and praying for trust in the trials each member is facing.