



Week 7 | Slaves No More | June 14, 2015

Opening Up:

When you were a child what was your favorite toy?
As a child, was there ever a toy that you really wanted but never got?
Who was the most dependable person in your life as a child? Why?

Reference: Exodus 17:1-7

Discuss:

1. The wilderness period was teaching Israel that freedom is a total dependance on God. In what ways does a total dependance on God make you more free than being totally independent?
2. In Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh asks, "Who is the Lord that I should obey him?" How would you answer that question?
3. Think about about this question: "What matters most in your life?" What are the consequences of choosing unworthy people or things as most important in your life? Why do people choose unworthy things as most important things?
4. Explain this idea: "It is easier to get the slave out of slavery than it is to get the slavery out of the slave."
5. Wilderness experiences train us to depend on our God, who is worthy, and in that dependance to experience true freedom. Wilderness experiences are not punishment, but they are training. How do you identify God's loving discipline? Have you ever experienced a wilderness period of God's discipline? Explain.
6. "The distance between you and a three-year-old is a shorter distance than the distance between you and God." How does this help us when are angry at or tempted to question God's judgement?
7. In Exodus 17 the water shortage was a hopeless scenario, yet God brought water from a rock. How does this help you to face seemingly hopeless situations in life?
8. In Exodus 17:6 God stands before Israel and asked Moses to strike the Rock on which he stood with the rod of justice. Israel deserved to be judged, but God took the punishment. **The grace of God always flows from God's just wrath poured out on himself for sinners.** We discovered in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 that the Rock is Jesus. Like the rock in the desert, how has Jesus been gracious to you?
9. Untrusting, disobedient hearts do not believe the "the Lord is with us," and therefore they do not experience God's rest. Why is it hard for you to believe that God is with you and why is it hard to trust him?
10. Pray.