

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
EXODUS 15:22-17:7 – December 8th 2013

[N.B: Try to spend more time on the second half of this study than on the first]

1. What things do you find yourself complaining about regularly?

Read Exodus 15:22-27

2. How does God respond to the grumbling of the Israelites? Does anything in God's response surprise you?
3. Israel haven't made it to Mt Sinai yet. Moses doesn't have the 10 commandments. In verses 25 and 26 what do you think God is referring to when he speaks about statutes, rules and commandments?
4. Did you notice that God speaks about this testing AFTER he has provided for Israel's need? What does this teach about God's character?

Read 16:1-8

5. How does Moses respond to the grumbling of Israel? How does God respond to the grumbling on this occasion? Does anything about God's response surprise you?
6. It is said in 15:25 that the Lord tested them. This occurs again in 16:4. What is the point of the testing? How is the testing related to God's provision for their need?
7. Almost exactly a year later, after Mt Sinai, Numbers 11 recounts a similar grumbling about food. **Read Numbers 11:4-6, 18-20, 31-34.** This time God's response is very different. Why do you think that is? Does God have more patience with baby Christians than "veteran" Christians? Has your confidence in God grown over the years you've been a Christian? Why/why not?
8. In John 6, Jesus feeds a very hungry crowd and they begin to follow him because they think they can get a free feed from him whenever they need it. **Read John 6:26-29** – what should the feeding miracle have prompted them to do?
9. We all need to eat to survive, but where do material needs fit into your list of priorities? Where does following the Lord Jesus fit? Discuss among the group how you could tell where following Jesus fits in a person's life – what would be the evidence?
10. **Read Exodus 16:5, 22-30.** God meets a need the people didn't know they had: a need for rest. Why did some of them miss out on the provision?
11. **Read Hebrews 3:18-4:2, 4:11-16.** Hebrews says this rest is available for us also – what are the conditions necessary for gaining this rest? Is this just about taking Sundays off? What do your attitudes about work, family, leisure, church reveal about your confidence in God? Are there things you need to change?