



Longing for the Familiar

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Sept 12/13, 2020

There are seasons in life when we are living in-between. Perhaps you are in that place right now. This is the first of three weeks examining lessons from the wilderness wandering of God's people as they were in-between captivity and the Promised Land.

What Did Israel Do As They Stepped Into the In-Between Time?

1. They forgot God's past provision

When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Exodus 15:19 (NIV)

2. They longed to go back to the familiar

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted...." Exodus 16:2-3a (NIV)

3. They grumbled against God

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Exodus 16:2 (NIV)

How Can We Thrive in the In-Between Times?

1. Watch for God's purpose, even if it is in process

There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you." Exodus 15:25b-26 (NIV)

2. Watch for God's presence, even if you don't feel it

Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9b (CSB)

Voices of doubt, distraction, and fear can come from:

- Baggage from your past decisions
- Baggage from past things that were done to you
- The enemy and his flaming arrows

Walking with God is about walking step by step with him—not faster or slower.

3. Watch for God's provision, even if it's out of sight

God will make a way, where there doesn't seem to be a way.

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water. Exodus 15:27 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the story of the people of Israel relate to your own life?
2. What are some practical ways that you find peace in the "in-between" seasons of life?
3. Share a story about something that happened to you where God's provision came through when you were least expecting it.