**10**

**Adversities of the Desert**

**Thirst, Hunger and Attack—God Overcomes Them All**

***Exodus 15:22–17:16***

**Purpose:** To discover reactions prompted by adversity and how they deter our obedience to God.

One of the premier sports events in America is the Super Bowl, a football game played each February for the championship of the National Football League. Contending teams get two weeks to prepare. Players and coaches get the best of everything in order to win. Suppose the teams ran out of water and food. Suppose the players mutinied. If that happened, suppose you were the coach. Could you possibly concentrate on your game plans? Of course not. But that's what confronted Moses as he led team Israel. This study chronicles not only defection in the ranks, but also attack from outside. Not a pretty picture, really, until we see how God intervened.

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**1**. Describe a time of great team disappointment and why it hurt you.

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**2.** Read Exodus 15:22–27. Put yourself in the shoes of an Israelite three days into the desert with no water. How would you feel and why?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**3.** God provided water for his people (vv. 25, 27). Why do you think he led them to bitter water first?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**4.** When you have reached the end of the rope, what do you say to God and to those whom you think are to blame? Why?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**5.** Read Exodus 16:1–34. Faced with starvation, the Israelites attacked Moses and Aaron (vv. 1–3). In what sense were they groaning against God (vv. 7–8)?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**6.** What does this reveal about the true nature of complaining about our circumstances?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**7.** Why and how did God respond to Israel's complaints (vv. 9–15)?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**8.** In what ways did Israel violate God's commands, and why (vv. 16–30)?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**9.**  Reflect on God's meeting your needs in emergencies. How might you be able to keep such events as a testimony to future generations?

some.

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**10.**  Read Exodus 17:1–16. Lack of water creates another crisis. How did Moses sum up the people's failure (v. 7)?

How do you account for their short memory?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**11.** Israel's next hurdle is an enemy attack (vv. 8–16). What was God's plan for victory over the Amalekites?

What part did Moses, Aaron, Hur and Joshua and the men of Israel play in the victory?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**12**. As you look around at the unbelief and opposition to God, how might you better organize yourself and your friends to do something about it?

**———————————————————————————————————————**

**13.** Reflect on how Moses summarized the day. What did he do, what did he emphasize, and why (vv. 15–16)?