

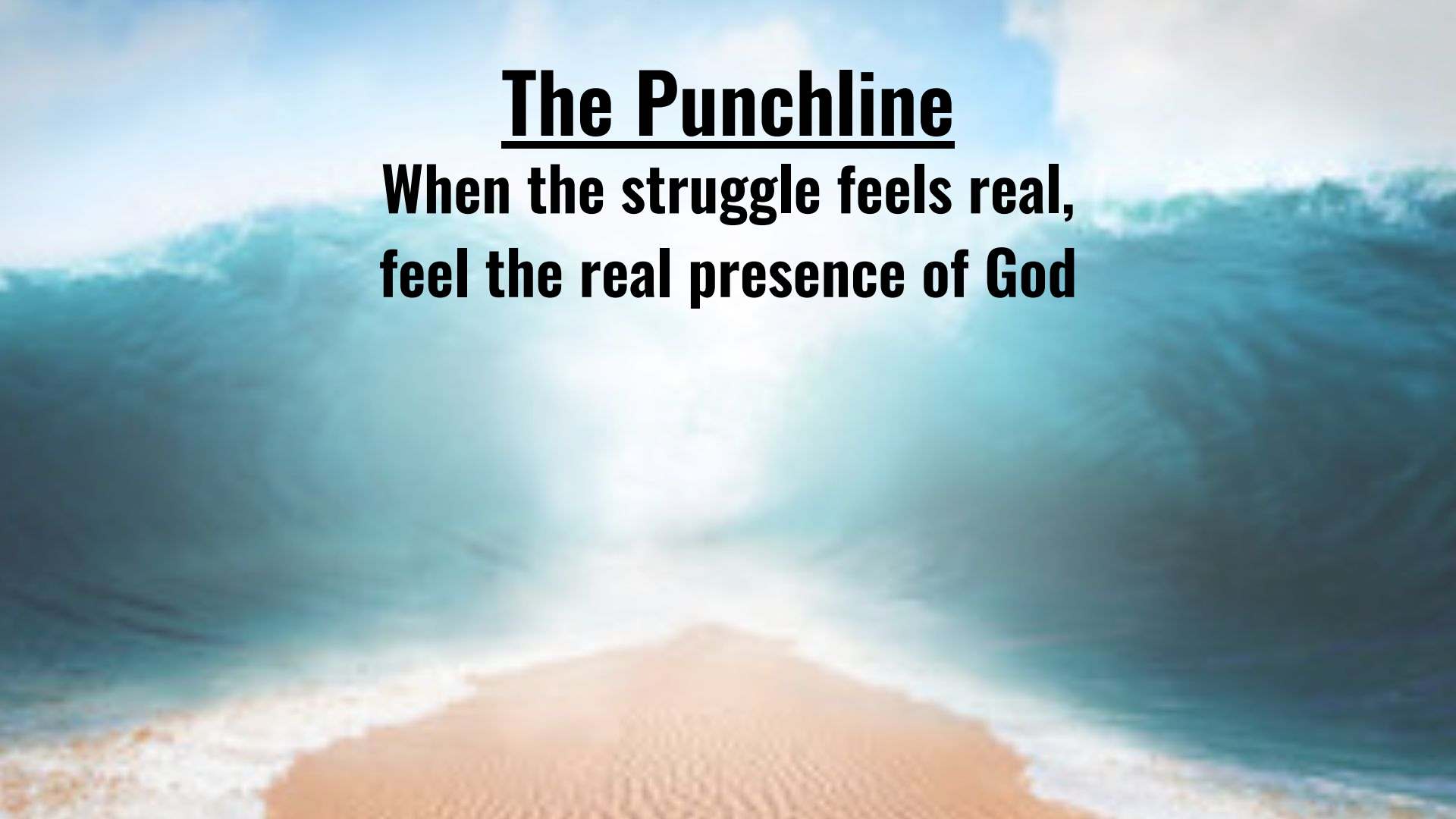
GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

A dramatic scene of a path of sand leading through a sea of blue waves towards a bright light in the sky. The path is made of ripples in the sand, leading from the bottom center towards the horizon. The waves are a deep blue color, and the sky is a lighter blue with a bright, glowing light source in the center, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is one of hope and divine intervention.

A Journey Through Exodus

The Punchline

**When the struggle feels real,
feel the real presence of God**



Recap

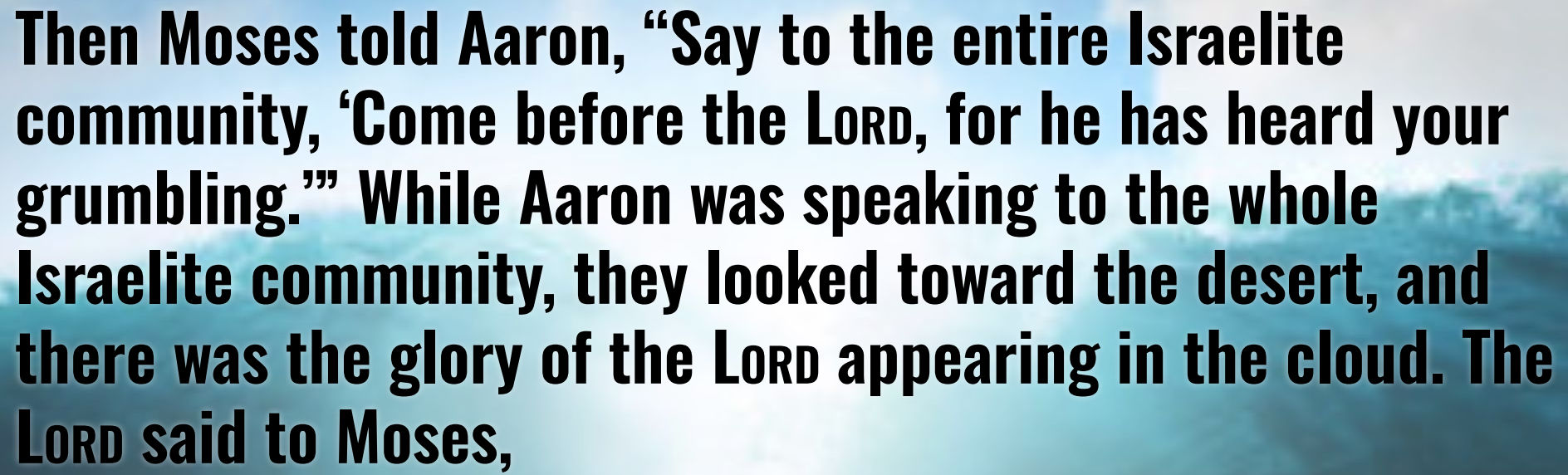
- ★ Israelites held captive by Pharaoh
- ★ Moses called to lead the people out
- ★ God sends the plagues
- ★ God parts the Red Sea for the Israelites escape

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 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, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Exodus 16: 1-3 NIV

The Struggle

- ★ Israelites grumbling about food
- ★ They had meat in Egypt
- ★ Complain to Moses and Aaron



Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses,

Exodus 16: 9-11 NIV

“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’” That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’” The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.

Exodus 16: 15-17 NIV

And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them

Exodus 16: 18-20 NIV

God's Presence

- ★ God is with them in the desert
- ★ God promises meat and bread
- ★ Manna came with instructions
- ★ Reminder of God's presence
everyday

What Are You Complaining About?



Our Struggle

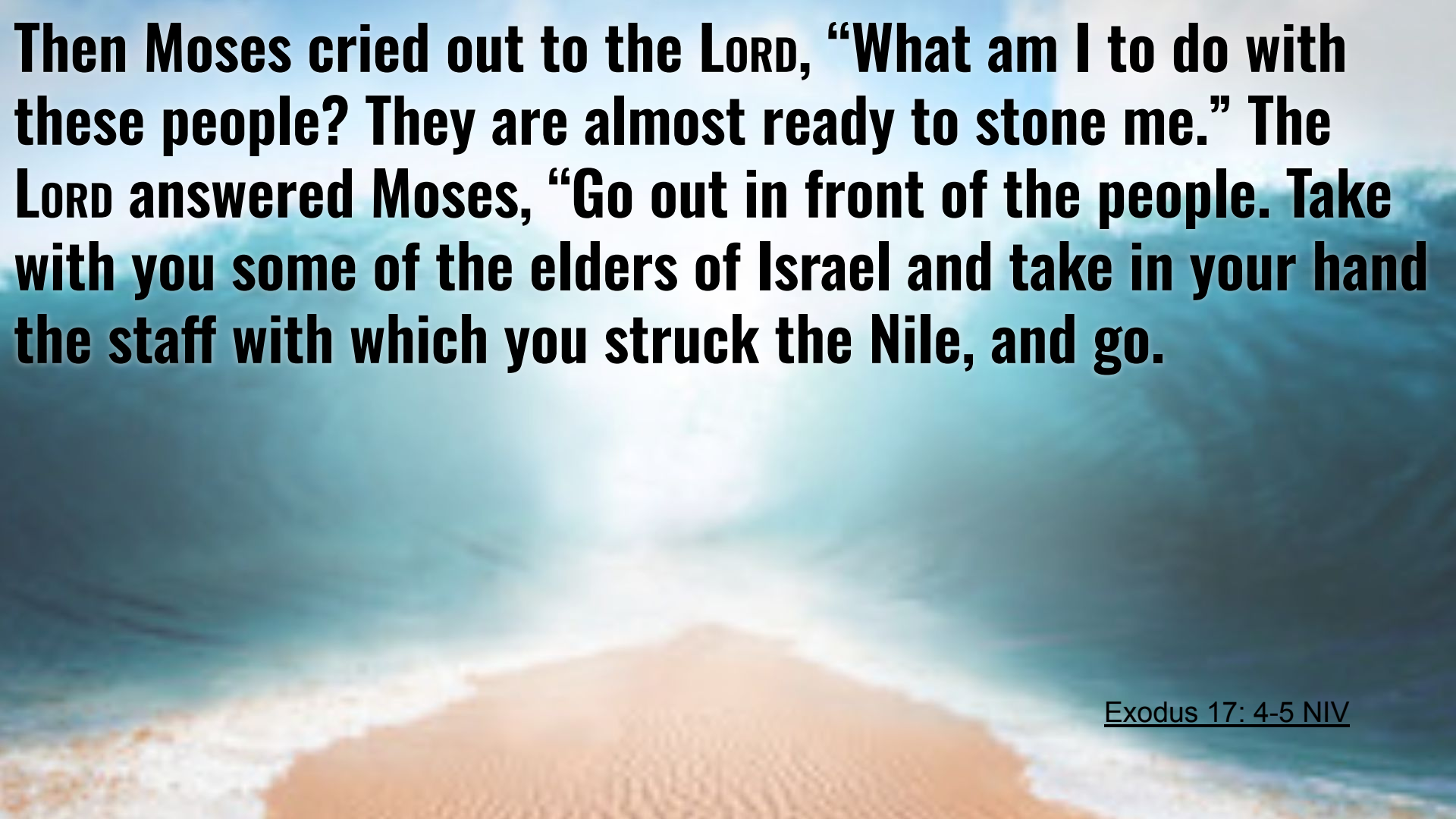
- ★ Think about our response
- ★ When I'm "cranky" I'm usually not very connected to God
- ★ God provides peace, joy, comfort everyday
- ★ Take a breath with God everyday

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

Exodus 17: 1-3 NIV

The Struggle

- ★ No water available
- ★ “Bring legal accusation” against Moses
- ★ Israelites faith and praise is now contingent on God responding



Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

Exodus 17: 4-5 NIV

I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Exodus 17: 6-7 NIV

God's Presence

- ★ People are ready to stone Moses
- ★ God, Moses, and elders go to the rock
- ★ God does it again

The Challenge



VS

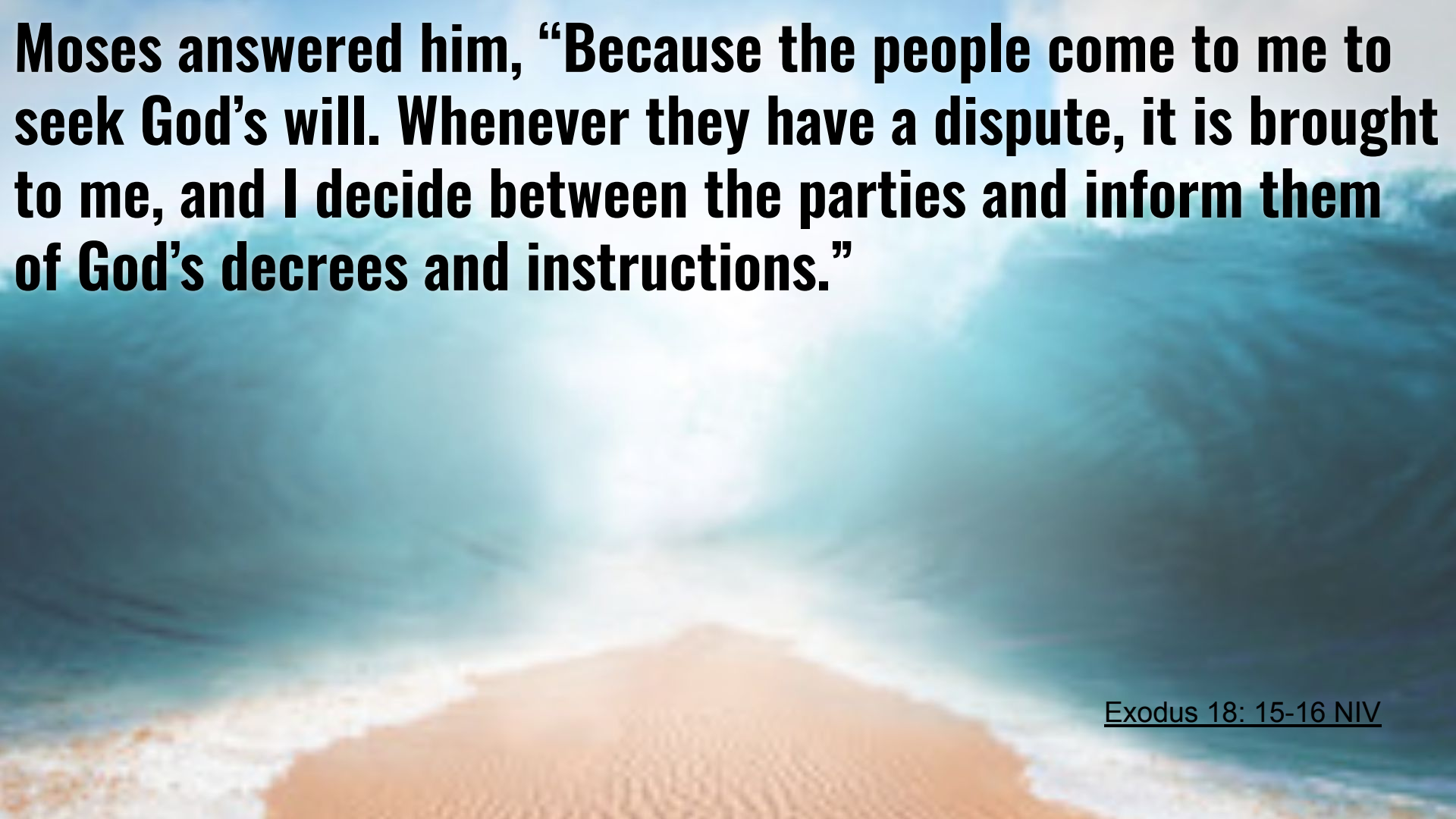


Our Struggle

- ★ **Big struggles**
- ★ **What do you do with the anger?**
- ★ **God's continued presence**
 - **He sent Jesus to die**
 - **He doesn't want us to hurt**

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

Exodus 18: 13-14 NIV

A dramatic landscape with a bright sun or light source breaking through a dark, stormy sky over a body of water. The sun is positioned in the center, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the water below is a deep blue with white foam from waves. The overall mood is one of divine presence and power.

Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and instructions.”

Exodus 18: 15-16 NIV

The Struggle

- ★ Focused on Moses
- ★ He's doing too much
- ★ His father in law, Jethro, calls him out

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him.

Exodus 18: 17-19 NIV

Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Exodus 18: 20-21 NIV

Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

Exodus 18: 22-23 NIV

God's Presence

- ★ Jethro doesn't invalidate Moses but says he's doing too much
- ★ Divide the labor and delegate
- ★ Moses is still involved
- ★ God is present and is part of this

One Man Band



Our Struggle

- ★ **Overworking can seem noble**
- ★ **Don't always see this for ourselves**
- ★ **You don't have to do it all alone**

Our Struggle

- ★ You're not impressing God by doing more stuff, you might just be stressing your relationship with Him

Wrap Up

- ★ How we respond to struggles matters
- ★ Re-connect with the presence of God
- ★ Remember what God has already done
- ★ Don't impress God by doing too much
- ★ Feel the real presence of God

Audio file

[The Struggles Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

Yeah, I'm a get mad for sure. Even the little struggles, you know, like we've we've been over this. You all know Jeff doesn't do well with tools and putting things and I get mad at them. Sometimes I throw them Stacy have to be like this looks dented or scratched. It came that way. I don't what you're talking about. I know I. Awful, but we all face these different types of struggles, right? Different things. Big, small, anywhere in the middle, we face struggles and we all have different responses. And that's kind of we're gonna have today as the responses they may be, these they may be completely off book. These we went with mostly because to some degree they're going to tie into Exodus today but absolutely some of the ones you brought up are totally ways. We respond. The Israelites and Moses today in our section of exes are going to struggle. Now. Their struggles may be different than what we face today. What they went through is very different, but we're going to learn from the response. That's we're going to get today. The response of that and kind of how God is still present through the struggles, right, no matter what the struggle is, God's presence is still with us. It was still with the Israelites. That's we're going to look at today. So kind of the punchline today is when the struggle feels real, feel the real presence of God. So when the struggle feels real and it will and it hurts and it sucks and all this kind of stuff feel the real presence. God, now, if you haven't been with us totally. OK, you need a refresher. Going to walk us through briefly. Where we've been an exodus to catch us up today. So we have the Israelites, God's people. They are held captive in Egypt by Pharaoh. So then God calls Moses through the great story of the burning Bush to say, hey, Moses, you're gonna be the guy that's gonna lead my people out of slavery out of Egypt. So Moses and his brother Aaron, who is also part of this, now go to Pharaoh and Shack or Pharah, the big King. Very full of himself, very powerful. Says no. I'm not letting them go. So God sends multiple plagues, 10 in total, to show Pharaoh he means business and also to show the Israelites. Hey, I got your back. I'm. Going to protect? You so finally after the last plague, which is the plague of the first born, Farrell lets them leave, so they get to. Go then last week, as they're out and and gods leading, we talked about. They don't go on this direct path. They kind of go down and under. And eventually they seem kind of trapped because we have the Red Sea there and then it again in kind of one of the more famous stories of the Bible and the backdrop of our thing here, got parts of the Red Sea, the. Israelites can walk through Pharaoh's army is all washed. Out and God's people praise him, they say yay. God, you did it. Thank you. We're great. We're safe, right? And they're just going to praise God and be super joyous and happy forever, right? Wrong. We get like this too, because the struggle set in and then they react. So that's where we're going to be today. So we're going to start with. Exodus chapter 16. It's marked in your Bibles on the table. If you want to follow along that way, it will be all appear behind me as well. If you'd like to just look at it there. So we're going to start the first struggle will be a struggle for food exit 16 versus one through three. It says this. The whole Israeli community set out, from Elim, came to the desert of sin, which is between Elim and Sinai on the 15th day of the second month after they'd come out of Egypt 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. But you've brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to

death. All right, we'll stop there for a second. The Israelites start by grumbling. They grumble. They complain, and they're in the desert and it's about food. It's like they've already forgotten how bad slavery was. I don't think the timeline was that much from where they just got out so they are forgotten and they're remembering back to Egypt. All the good stuff, right? The food they had meat to eat back in Egypt now getting meat as a slave was not super common. They would have gotten a lot, but they at least had some. It's like they're remembering the smells and the aura. Right. If you remember sitting around that Thanksgiving table and what it smells like and it feels like to be there, that's what. Remember, and they're hungry, so it's hard. This is a legitimate struggle that they're facing, but it's how they respond. They complain to Moses and Aaron. They put blame. This is Moses and Aaron's fault. It's on you guys. You let us here and the prospect for food here is not good. Now, if God would have just killed us back in Egypt. Hey, we would. Have died with a full stomach that had been better, right? They've already forgotten that God saved them from slavery. God save them from the army of Pharaoh. They're just thinking we'll die. We're gonna die hungry. So they grumble and complain about it. God responds with his presence. Let's keep going. This is we're going to jump a little bit. Texas 16, verses 9 through 20. That Moses told Aaron say to the entire Israeli community come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling. Well, Aaron was speaking to the whole Israeli community. They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in a cloud. The Lord said to Moses. I've heard the grumbling of the Israelites tell them at Twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you'll be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God. That evening quail came and covered the camp. In the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone. Thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other. What is it for? They didn't know what it was. Moses said to them, it is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded. Everyone is to gather as much as they need taken. Omar, for each person you have in your. Israelites did as they were told. Some gathered much some little when they measured it by the owner. The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. Then Moses said to them, no one is to keep any of it until morning. However, some of them paid no attention to Moses. They kept part of it until morning. But it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. We'll stop there. Sounds like teaching, so you tell them something. They don't listen and you get angry. With them fair. And blame you? See now maybe I should have taken this in a different direction. Now I'm hearing from my teachers in the room. This will apply. Don't worry. God hears the grumbles of the people, he hears everything. Here's the first thing for him to hear. It means his presence is there with them in the desert. It's very real. He's right there. So God makes a promise via Moses. There's going to be meat and bread. So the meat is the quail. This comes at night. And this is great. Right? Here's the meat. Cool we got. Then the next morning, it says there's this. Do that clears on the ground and there's something on the ground and they don't really know what it is. Now we know it to be called mana, but the people like we don't know what this is. It may have, they said, look like in both size and shape, like little scales on the ground in size, shape and color. This was their bread. And it had to have been nutritious enough to sustain. To people because God's giving it as their bread. But it came with instruction. The instructions are important. Guts says gather only what was needed for that day that day. Once you have to gather every day, no weekly grocery shopping, your meal planning. Ahead every day. And they say measured out the owner, that's just a unit of measurement in that time, and it's going to be enough for the family for each day and then consume it. All right. No portions. So you're just eat it all, eat it all. Don't save any. Because God's going

to show that he will provide, and his presence is there each and every day. God is there every single morning. This is working, but some as we do don't really listen. Don't really pay attention and try to keep some for morning. Well, this is angry with him and he's like he's. I got to see him being like, see, we told you it was going to happen. Now that food is inedible. Just maggots all over. It's terrible. He should have eaten every. But the point is that Israel has had. A struggle, they grumbled about it, they complained. We like to complain sometimes I like to complain. Right, it's fun social media for those of you that are on it, is full of complaining, right? Cause you can just complain all over the place. Here is something people are complaining about, not me, but many are. We have a new. Celebrity relationship. I'm sure most of you don't care, but I'm going. To talk about it anyway, Taylor Swift, we all know I love it. I'm a Swifty and Travis Kelsey, who plays professional football. They started dating. Here's what happens now. She is going to a lot of his football games, right, supportive girlfriend. This is great. She's doing a good thing. Naturally. The camera goes up to the press box or the booth she's sitting in to show her all the time. Why? Because she's marketable. You got a new audience, the die Hard football fans don't like this. They're like, I just want to watch my football game. I don't need to see her all the time, so they get on the Twitter and all these other things. And they rage about it. OK, I have read it all. I think it's hilarious, right? They're like, this is even real. She's just getting paid. It's a fake relationship. Not at all. This is real. I love love. These kids are falling head over heels for each other. It's great, but they're annoyed. People are annoyed by this, so they complain. We do this. Maybe you're not annoyed by this. Maybe you are, but we complain about things sometimes struggles that make us grumble. And that's what I want to talk about. What do we do when these struggles, that kind of make us want to complain? And I'm not gonna focus on the struggles themselves, because we all have very different struggles depending on our lives, our context, what? I do, but I want to talk about the response. And and for this, for our purposes, for this section, these aren't like the massive struggles, but they're more the inconvenient. Annoying things that just kind of get you. They're enough to make you maybe start pointing fingers to put a little blame. Like how you do this and maybe the finger starts to go up like God, what are you doing? That's what going on, blaming others, maybe blaming God a bit. This is what the Israelites did. They were nervous about food. Excuse me and annoyed that they didn't have what they needed. To eat or had what they did in Egypt, so they complain. So do you complain? There's a place for venting and expressing anger and complaining and all that. That's important. But now if you're just going to keep going, you can't let it go and just go and go now to some level of us, some level, we all fall into this a little bit. I'm subscribe it as like you just kind of get overly cranky. I don't have a better word other than cranky right now. That's the one. Maybe it's even. So what happens and what's driving behind them? Sometimes what I have found and I can just share my experience here, is that I'm not really connected with God's presence during this time. I'm not really consistently feeling him around when I'm getting kind of just easily cranky because I realized the crankiness isn't always about whatever I think is actually making me cranky, if that makes sense. Not really about that. It's my disconnect from God. Like when I get like this, Stacy will sometimes ask. Should be like you doing your quiet times every day and I'll be like, don't ask me that because I don't want to answer it because I know because many times the answer is not consistently and that's the reminder that I need God's presence every day that you need God's presence. Every day the Israelites needed it every day because he provided the mana every day. He provided the man and the food for them, but for us he can provide peace and joy and comfort every day. So when we're cranky or we're grumbling or we're complaining or you're annoyed with what you see on TV, which is a little piece, you just take a breath. Take that breath with God. Take that time with God, even if it's just a little bit. Because that little bit will go a long way and you can do that every day at anytime because God's

presence is very real every day. So that's kind of on those little struggles, those little grumbles. Well, it's going to level up a little bit for the Israelites have another struggle coming. They handle this one a little differently. Let's keep going. This will be Exodus 17 verses one through 3. Says the whole Israelite community set out from the desert of sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Refidim, but there was no water for the people to drink so they quarreled with Moses and said give us water to drink. Moses replied. Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test? But the people were thirsty. The water there and they grumbled against Moses, they said. Why did you bring us out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst? We're gonna stop. So they've been traveling and there's no water. This one's more serious, OK, because without the water traveling through the desert, this can be serious. So they're logically frustrated about this one. So they argue with Moses about it. And if you get into the wording, as I was studying it, what they would have done here wasn't just be mad. They would have brought what amounts to a legal accusation. Against Moses, this is the wording that have been used against Moses and kind of against God. Think of it. As if they blame Moses for not having any water and they take him to court over it. That's in essence. What they're doing here and Moses is like guys, by doing this you're putting God to the test. This is not a good thing. In essence, they're trying to coerce God into responding and showing what he can do. They had this faith and praise of God. That we talked about last week, that's no longer just there, now it is. Contingent on God responding to this test, it's not just there because what he's done now he's got to show him again and they're mad. So they challenge Moses and they challenge God. Not surprisingly, God shows up again. God's presence in Exodus 17, verses 4 through 7. Moses cried out. To the Lord, what am I to do with these people? They're almost. Ready to stone me? The Lord answered. Moses go out in front of the people, take with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will stand there before you by the rock Horeb strike the rock and the water will come out of it for the people to drink. So Moses did this insight of the Elders of Israel and he called the place Masa and Mariba because the Israelites quarreled because they tested the Lord saying is the Lord among us or not. Up there, Moses says the people are about ready to stone him for the Israelites. This is the last step of rejection for a leader, right? This is. You're done. There is more than just a vote of no confidence. This is we're ready to stone you. Kill you. We're mad and we're ready to strike. So God tells Moses, take your staff very famous staff in this book and go to the rock and hit. It God's going to be at the rock. Moses and some elders. So God is once again present. We're not totally sure why he says to take the elders. It may have something to do with the accusation. Kind of the courtroom idea. Elders in the society may have heard some accusations, so maybe they're there to kind of take it in and see the proof that's going to. So Moses strikes the rock, water gushes out, God does it again. Now we know to expect this. But the Israelites weren't so sure. So the God nicknamed so God nicknames the rock. Two different things. And they're both focused on behavior and attitude of the Israelites. In essence, to say you guys had. You quarrelled. You didn't have faith about this because they had said is God among us, like they had to ask you to ask that question. The same God that led them out of Egypt. Same God that provided food. But this struggle was so big, so strong, that they were ready to fight about it and say, prove yourself to prove this is the best. Right. When we think something is the best. Sometimes we get ready to fight about it. It is trunk or treat. Today is Halloween season. There is candy galore. I'm a staunch believer in candy and the best candy being on the table is the Kit Kat now. I pulled some people, one of them being my sister-in-law back here who said it is. Reese's. It is not clearly Reese's. Reese's is an inferior. I have the microphone so I can drown. Her out. Reese's is inferior to kick inferior to Kit Kats. Yes. Inferior. Why would I want to just chew through some peanut butter? I just put

it on toast when I can have a nice wafer chocolate bar in my Kit Kat. Oh, it doesn't melt in your mouth. You have to chew it anyway. And it's a crispy outside seat, so we're going to go to work. Oh no, this is terrible. You can all decide for yourselves. You have them on your tables. You can eat them and decide. But see, Lindsey, are you going to battle? It's in the text message and he's like, I'll gladly tell you you're wrong. Like, what are sister-in-law? 'S for. Then then to tell you you're wrong. So we would go to battle on this. So feel free to eat them. You decide for yourselves.

You have a.

Coral, OK, we're going to use a biblical term. Great. We're in coral. Feel free to try them. You can be team Lindsay, team Jeff or think something else is different and even better, but that's fine. But the fact is sometimes things get us so big. So riled up that you want to fight about it or you get so mad and you. Want to challenge something? Maybe there are things that make us want to challenge God. These are the big challenges, the ones that make us say, Oh yeah, God show it. Show me the Israelites had no water. The Israelis thought they. Were gonna die. I have more Reese's and kick cats over here for. Later so feel free. They thought they were going to die. They brought a courtroom fight to Moses and God. So think about these things for you. And again, we all may have different ones that thing that maybe you didn't deserve to have happened to you, you didn't cause, but it affects you in a huge way. And it's not good and it hurts. And it makes you mad and all these kind of thing. What do you do with the anger? Do you ever challenge God or try to put him to the test? Do this God show me you're that God you claim to be in this situation, only you're actually here and that you care. And I understand this anger that we can feel the questioning. God, I get it. I want to give you 2 things to maybe remember when we get into that mode and I. Know this is not easy to do, but let's talk about them anyway. The first one. I guess there two things to remember about God's presence always being there, the first one being he willingly sent his son to the cross to die for us. God did that so that we could be with him. So why would he walk away from you now? Like, is there a bigger test than that? God wants us to be with him. The way to do it is to send his son to die and to rise again. So he. He already did that, so why would he not be present for us now if he already did that? He is going to stay present. He won't leave. And the second one is that God also, I think God hurts with us and he doesn't want us to hurt. So I'm 1/03/13 says as a father has compassion on his children. So the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. His compassion and empathy with us. When we hurt. He's not a cold and distant God. That doesn't care. When we hurt, he's right there with you in the hurt. His presence doesn't go away. God doesn't want you to hurt or be mad. He's not happy when you are and. He definitely doesn't go away. He's there for you, even if you're ready to leave. He's not ready to leave. So we have these different struggles and we don't even bring them on ourselves, but they can lead us to complaining they can lead us to challenging and getting mad with God, right. We've had those two. But there's a third challenge 1/3 struggle that comes up, and this one comes up more from Moses, and this one's a little different. We're gonna read about this one now. And this one is more brought on by ourself. Exodus. We're going to jump to chapter 18 verses 13 through 16. The next day, Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people and they stood around him from morning till evening when his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people. He said. What is this you're doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge while all these people stand around you from morning till evening? Moses answered him because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it's brought to me and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and God's instructions. We'll stop there. This is a little different type of struggle. This is focused on Moses. Now, we've mostly been hearing struggles of just the people. He's leading out a little

bit on him. The fact is, he's doing too much. He's been judging and mediating and solving problems for all. The people, all of them when anybody comes with an issue with each other or that they need to figure. They came to him, to Moses and Jethro, his father-in-law kind of calls. Him. He's like, well, what are you doing? Why are you doing all this? And Moses like well. I'm seeking God on behalf of the people. God's decision on the matter. I'm the one that's supposed to make God's laws known to the people to be the teacher and the decision maker and all this kind of stuff. But it's a lot and it's going to eventually wear on him. So Jethro gives him some advice. Exodus 18:17 through 23. Moses, father-in-law, replied. What you're doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you. You cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice. And May God be with you. You must be the people's representatives before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees in instructions and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people, men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you. The simple cases they can decide themselves that will make your load lighter because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you'll be able to stand the strain. All these people will go home satisfied. Stop there. Jethro like this isn't good for you. It's not good for you, Moses. You're doing too much. Or for the people cause all these people are standing around waiting to get hurt by Moses. So not as many are getting helped. What's important here is Jethro, but the advice he doesn't invalidate what Moses is doing. He knows it's important, but he says it's just too much. So he offers advice. We all love advice from our in-laws, right. My mother-in-law's here today. She knows how much I love that she's giving me a look and I hear about that one later. That's OK. But his advice is actually really good, he says. Divide the labor, delegate some of the responsibility. And this isn't just for anybody. He's like, no, you don't just give it away Willy nilly. He's like he should be people that are worthy, capable, trustworthy. The people that Moses chooses should be very morally upright, not so much academic or socially standing is what matters. It's their moral standing because these people are going to be judges and deciders over different groups of people. We see this kind of in society today, right? Some people lead over small groups and then gets bigger and bigger. And it kind of branches out. The toughest matters will still get kicked to Moses. Moses is not out of it completely. He's still doing it. He's still very much involved. And this only happens with God's total OK God has. Be present in this and I believe he is. I believe Jethro is. Has God speaking through him in this. So both Moses and the people can have their struggles and their issues handled. But it starts because Moses has taken on too much and he's trying to do too much. He just doesn't realize it. Has anybody ever seen like a one man band perform and we kind of see, yeah, if you yeah. Right. These are really cool. I could never do it, but one man bands do right is this one person and they play multiple instruments, right? There's this guy here. He's got a bunch strapped down. Sometimes you'll have you have your guitar on in a microphone to be a harmonica, and you're kicking drums with your feet and all this kind of other stuff. It's impressive. It's fun. You have all the control. But sometimes you need a band. Sometimes you need somebody else playing bass, somebody else playing guitar, somebody else playing drums. Because you're doing too much and that is a struggle. Moses was handling everyone's issues and problems with each other. He was being the one man band of this and he didn't realize it, but it was too much and was hurting him and the people. And it took his father-in-law to help him see the saying. Overworking and doing it all. It can seem really noble, and that's what's hard about. It can seem noble, like I care. I work, I'm dedicated, and that can be. True, but overworking and overdoing it can also be very harmful. And this isn't just work related. This is not

just overworking at your job. This is at home with family stuff with whatever you're doing. Different jobs, different roles, and the contexts have different time requirements. So take it again for what your own situation is. But think about if you're doing too much and so often we don't see this for ourselves. We don't always see it for ourselves, Jethro had to see it for Moses. We may need somebody else to say, Hey, you're doing too much. Are you doing too much? Slow it up. And God can absolutely show his presence through these people. Absolutely believe. God was behind Jethro talking to Moses. Jethro's words were like, hey, if it's OK with God, so he knows God. Has to be behind this as well. God was present. So then Moses was able to share the load. We see this in act six. We talked about acts last year. The apostles are teaching the word and everything and some other things were getting neglected. The distribution of food. So they set some other people in place to handle that. Because they didn't have to do it all. It's better for you sometimes to not do it all. You can rest, recharge, not get burned out and focus on the things you really need to the thing that God really needs you. To focus on. Which a lot of times is him. Keep your focus on God. You're not impressing God by doing more stuff. You might just be stressing your relationship with him. That's also better for those around you. When Moses stops doing too much and kind of delegates some of this off, the Israelites get more matters handled and get it. Handled more quickly. More people get help. Maybe it's not directly by you, but the fact is more. People benefit. Your other relationships might be better too, because you have the time to have in them. You're not exhausted or stressed all the time. There are responsibilities and things in life that need to be yours and yours alone, but not all of them. Talk to God about those. Let his presence be on you. Let his presence be in those responsibilities. Listen to those around you. Let there be a Jethro in your life to say this isn't good. This is too much, because doing too much is a struggle that we may not always realize, but God's presence can absolutely help us with. Struggles happen. A variety of types. We went over a few different ones today. What matters is how we respond. So think about if you start to grumble or complain and you, you feel yourself doing that, you hear yourself doing that. Focus on reconnecting with God's presence. When you want to challenge God, almost get into that fight. Remember what he's already done and what he's doing that he's already faced the biggest test in sending his son to die for us. And he also doesn't want you to hurt. Or be angry. And then if you're doing too much, remember you're not impressing God by doing too much. He just wants time with you. He doesn't want your relationship with him stressed. He doesn't want any other relationship stressed. So these struggles, they will happen for us and these struggles are very real for all of us. But always remember to feel the real presence of God in them. Let's pray. Got to thank you for today. I thank you for this section that even though it was hard for the Israelites, it was hard for Moses that you showed your presence for all these struggles and got to thank you that in our struggles. You're always present. You never let us down. You never. So I pray that when any of these struggles, big, small, whatever they are in life got pop up for us, we would look to you first. We would remind ourselves of your presence. We remind ourselves that you don't want us to hurt. We remind ourselves of what you already done for us. So I thank you again, that your presence is real and that your presence is here. Every day. In your name Amen.