

PARSHAT CHUKAT: WHY DID MOSES HIT THE ROCK?

This guide corresponds to the video: [Why Did Moses Hit The Rock?](#)

TEACHER'S GUIDE



POINTS TO PAUSE



DISCUSSION TOPICS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BEFORE THE VIDEO 	→	What does it mean to have faith and trust God?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0:48 	→	Why was Moses punished in such a way? Why did he hit the rock?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:54 	→	What does Miriam's death have to do with the fact that there was no water?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:17 	→	What does Miriam have to do with wells and water?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:07 	→	How many Hebrew words can be spelled with these letters?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFTER THE VIDEO 	→	Why did Moses hit the rock?



FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

Rabbi Fohrman discusses how Moses's hitting the rock instead of talking to as God instructed was a matter of lacking faith. Moses thought that the possibilities for getting water were that either all of the people had to have faith or Miriam had to have faith, not realizing the third option, pertaining to his faith.

Thinking about our own lives, when have you been forced to have faith? What was the situation, and why was simply having faith the only option? To what extent was it difficult to have the faith required and why?

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

When were the three water crises?

What was Miriam's role as it pertained to water and wells?

Why did God instruct Moses to speak to the rock instead of to hit it?



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STUDENT GUIDE

Instructions: As you watch the video, use the chart below to keep track of the three water crises.

	Water Crisis One	Water Crisis Two	Water Crisis Three
When did it occur?			
Why did it occur?			
What was Miriam's role?			
What was Moses's role?			

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במדבר כ:א-ב	Numbers 20:1-2
<p>וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל הָעֵדָה מִדְּבַר צִן בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיָּשֶׁב הָעָם בְּקִדְשׁ וַתָּמָת שָׁם מִרְיָם וַתִּקָּבֵר שָׁם: וְלֹא הָיָה מַיִם לָעֵדָה וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל מֹשֶׁה וְעַל אַהֲרֹן:</p>	<p>The entire congregation of the children of Israel arrived at the desert of Zin in the first month, and the people settled in Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there. The congregation had no water; so they assembled against Moses and Aaron.</p>

Rashi on Numbers 20:2

had no water: From here [we learn that] all forty years they had the well in Miriam's merit. [Ta'anith 9a]

ולא היה מים לעדה: מכאן שכל ארבעים שנה היה להם הבאר בזכות מרים:

שמות טו:כב-כג	Exodus 15:22-23
<p>וַיֹּסֶע מֹשֶׁה אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּם סוּף וַיֵּצְאוּ אֶל מִדְּבַר שׁוּר וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וְלֹא מָצְאוּ מַיִם: וַיָּבֹאוּ מְרָתָה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לִשְׁתֹּת מִיַּם מְרָתָה כִּי מְרִירִים הֵם עַל כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ מְרָה:</p>	<p>Moses led Israel away from the Red Sea, and they went out into the desert of Shur; they walked for three days in the desert but did not find water. They came to Marah, but they could not drink water from Marah because it was bitter; therefore, it was named Marah.</p>

שמות יז:ד	Exodus 17:4
<p>וַיִּצְעַק מֹשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה לֵאמֹר מָה אֶעֱשֶׂה לָעָם הַזֶּה עוֹד מַעֲט וּסְקַלְנִי:</p>	<p>Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, What shall I do for this people? Just a little longer and they will stone me!</p>

במדבר כ:ח-יא	Numbers 20:8-11
<p>קַח אֶת הַמַּטֵּה וְהִקְהַל אֶת הָעֵדָה אֹתָהּ וְאַהֲרֹן אַחִיךָ וְדַבְּרְתֶם אֶל הַסֶּלַע לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנָתַן מִיַּמּוֹ וְהוֹצֵאתָ לָהֶם מַיִם מִן הַסֶּלַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ אֶת הָעֵדָה וְאֶת בְּעִירָם: וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת הַמַּטֵּה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ: וַיִּקְהָלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת הַקְּהָל אֶל פְּנֵי הַסֶּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שְׁמַעוּ נָא הַמְּרִירִים הַמֵּן הַסֶּלַע הַזֶּה נוֹצֵיא לָכֶם מַיִם: וַיְרֹם מֹשֶׁה אֶת יָדוֹ וַיַּךְ אֶת הַסֶּלַע בַּמַּטֵּהוּ פַּעַמַיִם וַיֵּצְאוּ מִיַּם רַבִּים וַתִּשְׁתְּ הָעֵדָה וּבְעִירָם:</p>	<p>"Take the staff and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and speak to the rock in their presence so that it will give forth its water. You shall bring forth water for them from the rock and give the congregation and their livestock to drink." Moses took the staff from before the Lord as He had commanded him. Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock, and he said to them, "Now listen, you rebels, can we draw water for you from this rock?" Moses raised his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, when an abundance of water gushed forth, and the congregation and their livestock drank.</p>