

## BIG IDEA

**Don't let your thirst blur your vision.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Share a story about a time you made a hasty decision. What was the outcome? What did you learn?

We tend to make these kinds of decisions when we are trying to meet a need quickly and easily. Answering this question at the beginning of the study may help your group to understand why the Israelites acted the way they did in the desert.

**Read Psalm 106: 1-23.** What key words or themes can you identify in this passage?

Some key themes you might find in this passage are:

- Remembering/Forgetting the Lord
- God's faithfulness to unfaithful people
- God's judgment
- Thirst/Craving of Israel

How did the "thirst" or cravings of the Israelites affect their relationship with God?

According to this passage, what does it look like to forget the Lord?

We know that Israel forgot the Lord by looking at their behavior. They "did not wait for his plan to unfold," "put God to the test," "grew envious," and worshiped other gods.

**Read Psalm 106: 24-46.** What can we learn from the behavior of the Israelites about ourselves?

The human tendency is to try to get our cravings met on our terms, in our timeframe. Israel shows us the consequences of this kind of living.

What does this Psalm teach us about the nature of God?

God wants us to come to him with our thirst and our craving because he knows how destructive all of our other "options" will be. He is gracious and faithful, willing to save us from ourselves, but that does not mean that we will not experience consequences for our wandering.

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

How is your short-term spiritual memory? Do you tend to remember what God had done for you in difficult times?

**This question is a great one to ask believers at all stages. Use these questions as an opportunity to help your group members determine if they are suffering from "short-term spiritual memory" loss.**

How are you like the Israelites? How are you unlike them?



**Read John 7:37-38, then read Isaiah 55:1-3.** What do you make of these two passages?

Where do you tend to go to quench your spiritual thirst?

## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Develop your short-term spiritual memory by reflecting on the last few days, months, or years. How has God been faithful to you? Share at least one story with the group.

Take a moment to think about the past week. Ask God to show you where you have been looking for significance and sustenance outside of him. How is Jesus calling you to look to him in these situations?

Some of us rely on our jobs to give us our identity, some look to relationships or achievements. Spending time reflecting on our week can help us to see what things tend to take up the majority of our time and capture most of our attention. These may be indicators of areas where we need to look to Jesus rather than finding other ways to get our spiritual needs met.

**Don't be afraid to use this question as an opportunity to practice listening prayer with your group. God may highlight very specific areas for you and your group members during this activity.**

In what areas do you “remember” God with your head knowledge, but not with your actions? What steps can you take to start living out what you know this week?

The message this week reminds us that sometimes God is waiting for us to act before he answers our requests. Challenge your group to be painfully honest with themselves—where is God asking them to turn head knowledge into honest-to-goodness action?

