

# The Lord our Healer - Jehovah Rophe

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## Scene Summary

This exciting story reveals the covenant name of God as our Healer. The scenes include Moses leading the people through the dry desert...the people complaining about running out of water and being thirsty...they come to the water of Marah, but the water is bitter...the Lord shows Moses a piece of wood to throw into the water and it becomes sweet...the covenant God reveals that He is their healer.

## Scripture

(Exo 15:22-27 NIV) Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. {23} When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) {24} So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" {25} Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. {26} He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of 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." {27} Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

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## Players

- **Narrator** - This person opens and closes the play.
- **God** - bold voice is never seen, but speaks offstage.
- **Moses** - A strong character with a clear speaking voice.

### ***Special Props and Instructions***

- **People** - should wear normal items from the prop box such as coats, belts and headdresses.
- **Moses** - should walk with a shepherd's staff.
- **Marah** - a blue sheet or rug remnant placed on the floor can be the bitter water. A stick of wood should be nearby for Moses to throw into the water.

The dialog between the people focuses on one subject: thirst. Each person following Moses can adlib their own dialog about how hot it is in the desert, wishing they had a cool drink of water, complaining at Moses for leading them into the dry desert and wishing they were back in Egypt by the Nile where there was plenty of water, or your students can follow the dialog listed below.

## ***Script – The Lord our Healer***

Opening scene - the narrator comes to center stage. As the narrator begins the opening words, Moses leads the people from backstage, walking slowly across the stage.

**Narrator:** Moses led the people of Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert. [pause] For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. [steps backstage and while Moses leads the people into the audience, the water of Marah is placed onstage.]

**Moses:** [walking slowly, then leaves the stage and goes out into the room around the audience, leading the people, then looking back] God will provide. Just a little further.

**Person 1:** [whining voice] My throat is so dry. Do you have any water left in your bottle?

**Person 2:** [sad voice] No, we used all of our water last night. Everyone is thirsty.

**Person 3:** [tired voice] We have been walking for three days in the desert without finding water.

**Person 1:** [loud voice] It is so hot and dry in this desert.

**Person 2:** [surprised voice] Look, I think I see water ahead.

**Person 3:** [foolish voice] I don't see anything. You must be seeing a mirage. It is the heat effecting your eyes.

**Person 1:** [mad voice] This is Moses' fault. He brought us here to die.

**Person 2:** [questioning voice] Let's go back to Egypt. There was lots of water by the Nile.

**Person 3:** [excited voice] The people ahead are running. Hurry, lets go see.

Scene change: the people run ahead, fall down at the water on stage and begin to drink.

**Person 1:** [yucky voice - stands up in disgust] This water tastes terrible.

**Person 2:** [sad voice] It is too bitter. I'm so thirsty but I can't drink this water.

**Person 3:** [mad voice] Moses! This is all your fault. Give us water to drink.

**Moses:** Don't worry. God will give us water. [turn away from the people, kneel down, lift up hands to heaven and pray] Lord, the people need water. What am I to do?

**God:** Throw that piece of wood into the water and it will become sweet to drink.

**Moses:** [gets up, looks around to find the wood, then throws it into the water] God said the water is now sweet to drink.

**Person 1:** [moves down to carefully taste the water] He's right. The water is good!

**Person 2:** [drinks the water] Thank God! Water at last!

**Person 3:** [drinks the water] It tastes so good!

**Moses:** Listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes. Pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees.

**God:** If you do this things I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.

**The End**

## ***Supplemental Information***

A covenant is a special agreement between two persons; for example the covenant of Marriage. The covenant is special because there are agreements, terms and conditions to keep the covenant valid. In this covenant between God and the people, there is a promise of healing that is conditional on listening carefully to the voice of God and keeping his commands and decrees.

This simple story in the light of the New Testament parallels the finished work of Christ. Throughout the Gospels our Lord Jesus Christ brings healing and comfort. He is our healer and brings sweetness into the bitterness of this sinful world. It is because of our faith in Christ that we are healed today. Long ago, the people of Israel learned that they could not keep all of God's laws and commandments. We cannot keep those laws either because we are human. But thanks be to God, Christ has perfectly kept all of the laws and commandments. When we put our faith and trust in Him, then we are healed and made whole.

## ***Extra Time***

Discuss with your students about a time when they were very thirsty. Let them share their stories. Ask them if they have ever tasted anything bitter. There are some candies that are very bitter that people like to put into their mouth. Sometimes it is helpful to have something in your mouth when you are very thirsty, it helps relieve the desire to have a drink.

The subject of water can be useful in helping your students remember stories from the Scripture. Ask your students if they can recall some of the stories about Jesus and water. Here are a few examples:

- Jesus is baptized in the river Jordan.
- The great catch of fish after using Peter's boat to preach to the people.
- Walking on the water.
- Jesus stills the storm.
- On the cross, Jesus was thirsty.