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Teaching Notes

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## **The Painful Purpose of the Wilderness**

### **Exodus 15:22-27**

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.

#### I. Trials in the Wilderness (vs. 22)

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.

#### II. The Lesson: The Disappointing Vanity of the World (vs. 23)

23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.)

#### III. Rebellion and Complaint (vs. 24)

#### IV. Moses Leads the Way to God (vs. 25)

#### V. God Leads the Way to Life (vs. 25-26)

#### VI. Refreshment at Elim (vs. 27)

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