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### PRAYER

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

- [Joseph P. Shadle, For Times Of Transition](#)

### WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Do you have an example of someone that you have seen go through a transformation of any kind? Was it a good transformation or not? Why?

## WORD

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah (testing) and Meribah (quarrelling), because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

<sup>8</sup>Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup>So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." <sup>10</sup>So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup>Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup>But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup>And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

<sup>14</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." <sup>15</sup>And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner, <sup>16</sup>saying, "A hand upon the throne of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

### EXODUS 17:1-14

What kind of leader is able to call people to wait on

God in the face of a real threat when all of their survival instincts are raging? It is possible only for leaders who have waited on God in the darkest moments of their own deep need, leaders who have stood still and waited for God's deliverance in the place where they feared for their very life, leaders who possess the inner spiritual authority that comes from their own waiting can ask others to do the same.

In solitude we learn to wait on God for our own life so that, when our leadership brings us to the place where our only option is to wait on God, we believe it all the way down

to the bottom of our being. Because we have met God in the waiting place (rather than running away, succumbing to panic, or deceiving ourselves into thinking things are better than they are), we can stand firm and believe God in

a way that makes it possible for others to follow suit.

- **Ruth Haley Barton, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry***

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 being never/not at all and 10 being always/extremely) how easy do you feel when change is happening? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Do you find yourself complaining when change happens? Or do you find it easier to adapt?
3. Do you trust God to wait for his solution, even if it seems like He might be taking his time? Why/Why Not?
4. When you face times of crisis do you have a tendency to FIGHT ("You are Wrong, I am RIGHT!"), FLIGHT ("Let's talk about SOMETHING ELSE" i.e avoidance), FREEZE ("UH" Doesn't talk or listen), or FAWN (People pleaser, Codependent - diffuse conflict through people pleasing solutions)? How might you slow down and make yourself aware of God in those moments?
5. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust Him? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus?

Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, Amen.*