

IS THE LORD WITH US — OR NOT?

1999. The Old Testament reading for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost is Exodus 17:1-7. The last line sparked this song. (Written at the time of the East Timor occupation by Indonesia)

1. They were moving through the desert —
they were hungry and sore —
and they started asking loudly, "What for?!"

Why are we here? Where are we going?
Don't like the scenery, don't like the plot.
Is the Lord with us,
Is the Lord with us,
Is the Lord with us, with us or not?

2. Some are hungry, some are greedy,
and there's always a war.
So we keep on asking loudly, "What for?!" (chorus)

Is the Lord with us
when the house is burning to the ground?
Is the Lord with us when a child is dead?
Is the Lord with us
when we have so much it weighs us down,
while a countless number don't even have bread?

3. Though we know your love in Jesus,
in his dying and pain,
reassure us when the world seems insane. (chorus)

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