Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS / WATER FROM THE ROCK

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EXODUS 16:1 – 17:7 Psalm 105:40–42; John 6:32–33; 1 Corinthians 10:4 FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS / WATER FROM THE ROCK File no. 29

God was the King of His people and He was taking them to a new land.

On the way, God brought them to a place where there was no food. They grumbled to Moses.

God heard them grumbling and told Moses, 'This is what I am going to do – I will rain bread from heaven. Tell everyone to pick up what they need each day. On the sixth day they are to pick up enough bread for two days. There will be no bread on the seventh day. I will see if they will do what I say.'



So Moses and Aaron gathered the people before the Lord and said, 'You will know that the Lord is your God and that He brought you out of Egypt. He is going to give you meat this evening and bread in the morning.'

While Aaron was speaking the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud and everyone saw it. That evening quails were everywhere. The people caught them and prepared them for dinner.



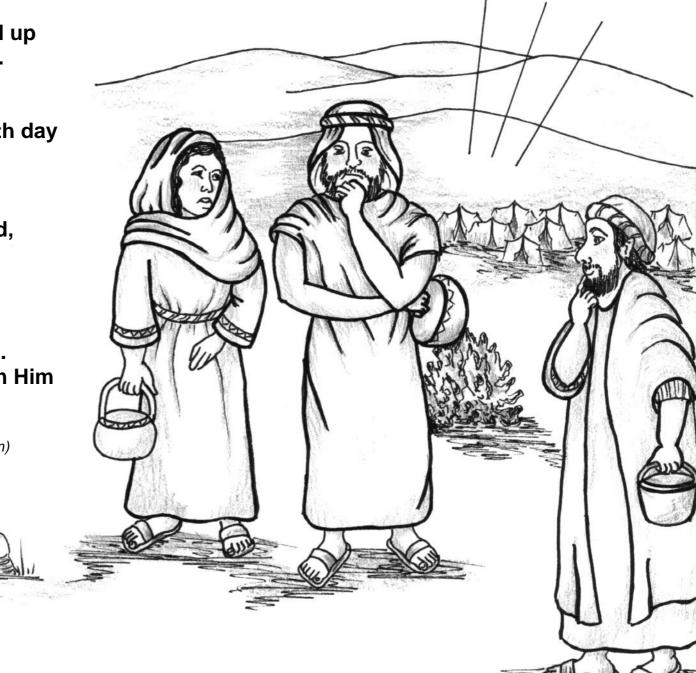
When they got up in the morning they saw white flakes on the ground. They tasted them and they were sweet. They called the food, 'Manna'.

Each morning everyone picked up enough manna for the day. But some did not obey the Lord. They picked up more than they needed and tried to keep it. It went bad. On the sixth day they picked up enough manna for two days. But some did not listen to what God said. They went out on the seventh day to get some. There was nothing.

The Lord was cross and said, 'How long will you go on disobeying My words?'

Every day God gave His people manna. He wanted them to believe in Him and live.

*(Story could finish here for younger children)



God brought His people to another place where there was no water.

Instead of trusting God they grumbled to Moses saying, 'Give us water to drink! Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Do you want us to die here?'

Moses cried to the Lord saying, 'Lord, what shall I do? These people are ready to kill me.' The Lord said, 'Take some elders and go to the rock in Mount Horeb. Take your rod with you. I will stand on the rock in front of you. Hit the rock with your rod and water will come out of it.'

Moses obeyed God. He struck the rock and water ran out like a river. Everyone had plenty to drink. Jesus was the Rock who was with Israel in the wilderness. When Moses hit the rock, God was showing what would happen to His Son so there would be living water for us to drink and we would live forever.