

# EXODUS

## **“Food and Water in the Desert”**

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- Moses led Israel out of Egypt
- God provided Food and Water in the Desert
- Israel was supposed to Worship God Only
- Moses died and passed the leadership of Israel to Joshua

Series Theme Verse: “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

- Exodus 15:2

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God provided for Israel, even in the most difficult of environments.

Lesson Passage: Exodus 14:5-31

Materials Needed: Bibles, theme verse on a poster, sweetened cornflakes cereal, to large clean table cloths, cups, plastic spoons

Lesson Plan: Remind students that last week we saw how God saved Israel from Pharaoh’s Army through the Red Sea miracle. Now that Israel was safe from Pharaoh and his army, they look forward and find a vast desert lying in front of them. Ask students what they know about the desert? (Not much food or water, it’s hot, most people choose not to live in a desert, etc.) Now imagine leading the people of Israel (some estimate their population at over 1 million) into the desert and away from the food and water of Egypt. Moses had a large task ahead of him!

Talking Points: Exodus 15:22-27; 16:1-16

- After crossing the Red Sea and entering the desert, how long did the people of Israel travel without finding water? (3 Days)
- When they finally found water, the place was named Marah, why? (Because Marah means bitter and the water was bitter and could not be drunk)
- When the people found out the water was bitter and undrinkable what did they do? (Began to complain and grumble against Moses, saying, “What are we going to drink?”)
- What was Moses’ response? (He cried out to God)
- What did God tell Moses to do? (To throw a piece of wood God showed him into the bitter water)
- What happened when Moses threw the wood into the water? (The water became sweet, or drinkable)

- What did God promise after the miracle of the water becoming drinkable? (He would heal them, basically provide for them, as long as they listened to and followed God)
- The promise was followed up by the people of Israel finding how many fresh water springs? (12 and 70 Palm Trees)
- It wasn't long before the Israelites were complaining and grumbling again. What were they complaining about now? (We had food in Egypt, but you, Moses and Aaron, have brought us to the desert to starve to death...they were hungry)
- What was the Lord's response to their complaining? (God provided meat, quail, in the evening, and bread in the morning)
- Did God provide only a few quail? (No, the quail covered the camp)
- How was the bread formed? (Dew in the morning dried up and left thin flakes like frost on the ground)
- Did the Israelites know what the bread was at first? (No, they said, "What is it?")
- Ultimately, the bread was named Manna and the Israelites were told to only gather enough food for their families to eat each day, except on the sixth day of the week when they gathered double to supply the seventh day.
- This would not be the only time God provided food and water for the people of Israel, in fact, in Exodus 17, God made water come from a rock so the people could drink!

#### The Story Retold:

- Remind students of how the Israelites collected Manna every morning.
- Spread two large, clean, plastic tablecloths on the floor, and sprinkle sweetened cornflakes on the tablecloths' outer edges.
- Let children walk around the tablecloths' edges and gather the "manna" into paper cups using plastic spoons.
- Tell children that God gave the Israelites food every day for 40 years and God still provides for us in numerous ways.
- Have students list all the ways God provides for us.
- Afterwards, pray and thank God for all the provisions listed by the class. Explain to students that prayer is not just a time to bring God our concerns, but also a way we show our thankfulness to God.
- *Another option is to have this set up before the story and tell students they will be collecting their breakfast this morning to eat during the story. Tie the collection of the breakfast into the story as you review the story.*

#### The Story and Me:

- Have the series memory verse on a poster.
- Read the verse together.
- Remind students that the Israelites did not only eat Manna, but they also ate \_\_\_\_\_? (Quail)
- Designate one student to be an Israelite and the rest of the class as Quail.
- Tell children that when the Israelites were hungry, God sent quail for them to eat.
- Have the Quail crouch down and waddle around the room.

- The Israelite may chase the Quail by taking heel-to-toe steps.
- When an Israelite tags a Quail, the quail must recite the Series Theme Verse and becomes the new Israelite and the former Israelite is a Quail.