

# Bible Lesson # 27

1.

## Exodus 16 - 17

God was leading the children of Israel into the desert country. Do you remember how he was leading them? a tall pillar of cloud would move ahead of them in the daytime and when it was time to stop, the pillar of cloud would stop. When the darkness came, the cloud would turn to a pillar of fire to keep watch over the Israelites during the night.

The Israelites brought some food from their homes in Egypt, but soon the food began to run out and the children of Israel began to grumble and complain. "We should have stayed in Egypt where there was lots of meat and bread and good things to eat! Moses, why didn't you let us die in Egypt instead of bringing us out to this desert to die?" You've brought us here to kill us with hunger!"



Do you ever say to your mother, "why didn't you buy the kind of cereal I like?" or "I don't like what you have for dinner, I want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich instead of pork chops"? Maybe you don't say exactly those words, but I think all of us complain at times, don't we? Have you ever gone to the refrigerator and cupboards and they are absolutely empty and there is no food in the house? I bet you always have some food, even if it isn't your favorite kind of food. God tells us in the Bible that those who love him and try to do right will NEVER go without food. David wrote a song and in it he said:

**"I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."**

**Psalms 37:25**



This will be your memory verse for this lesson. When you have learned it put a check in the gold box.

When the Israelites yelled at Moses and said, "You've brought us here to make us die of hunger," they forgot who had really brought them there. Had Moses led them out of Egypt or had God? God moved the pillar of cloud that they followed. God was the one who sent plagues to make Pharaoh let them go, and God was the one who parted the Red Sea so they could walk over on dry land, but they had already forgotten all the miracles God made for them. Moses bowed his head and prayed and God told him what to say, "In the evening you will have meat to eat and in the morning God will rain down bread from heaven." That probably sounded like an impossible thing ... where would the meat come from? How could bread come down from heaven? It would take a lot of faith to believe in that, wouldn't it? do you think you would believe those words if you were an Israelite and very hungry?

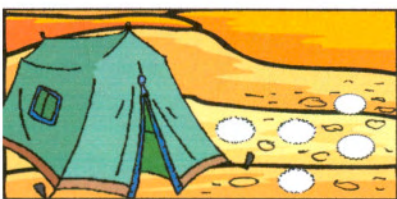


After Moses finished speaking suddenly the pillar of cloud began to shine, the light was so bright they couldn't even look at it. This was God giving the Israelites a sign that what he said would come true. This brilliant light was called the "Glory of God."

That evening a strong wind came up and the children of Israel heard a strange, fluttering sound. All at once there were thousands of birds being blown into the camp. These were quails, hundreds and hundreds of quail, which the Israelites hurriedly captured and killed so they could have meat to eat. They made a big fire and cooked the quail meat and everyone went to bed with full tummies that night. God certainly heard their complaints and answered them, didn't he?



The next morning just as the sun was coming up the Israelites went out their tent doors and saw something very strange all over the ground. "What's that?" they asked each other. Moses told them that God had indeed rained down bread from heaven. They would no longer go hungry as God had sent them bread, and every morning from then on they would need to take containers and gather up this bread from heaven. This bread was called "Manna" which was the Hebrew word for "What is it?" The manna looked like a small, round, white, seed. The Israelites were to gather enough to last their whole families for that day. Then Moses gave them warnings .... do NOT gather up more than you can eat for that day. If you do, it will turn stinky and have worms in it. YUCK, that would be horrid, wouldn't it? The Israelites must gather the manna quickly in the morning, for it would melt away if they decided to leave it for later.



Do you think the Israelites obeyed God's instructions?

Well most of them did, but there were a few lazy people who thought, "Why shouldn't I gather more than one day's supply?

Then I can sleep in and not have to get up early to gather the manna." So they gathered twice as much manna on the first day ... guess what? The next morning they slept in and didn't go out to gather manna. However, when they opened the jars of manna that they had saved, a terrible smell filled the tents and little crawly maggots squirmed all over the jar of manna. They quickly threw it away and went hungry that day.

Every 7th day the children of Israel were to have a day of rest, this was called the Sabbath day. They were not to do any work on this day but say prayers and play and rest all day.



Now Moses gave some instructions about gathering manna on the Sabbath. Remember they weren't supposed to gather any extra, but only what they were to eat that day. Well...for the Sabbath there was a new rule. The Israelites were not to work on the Sabbath, so on the day before the Sabbath they were to gather twice as much manna.

Oops! Some of the people said to Moses, "Now wait, we were not supposed to gather extra, don't you remember how it turned smelly and had worms?"

Moses replied, "These are God's instructions. You must do as he said and gather extra manna for the Sabbath day." Well, most of the people believed God's word and so on the day before the Sabbath they gathered twice as much.



However, a few of the people still wouldn't follow God's word. They knew the manna was rotten when it was left overnight all during the week, why would it be different on the Sabbath? So they only gathered enough for one day, on the day before the Sabbath. What do you think happened?

On the Sabbath morning these people went out with their containers, ready to gather their manna for the day .... but nothing was on the ground! God had said there would be no manna on the Sabbath, and God's word is always true, isn't it? The people who didn't believe God's word went hungry on the Sabbath. Meanwhile the people who gathered twice as much yesterday, carefully opened the jars on the Sabbath...and the food was just as good as ever! It didn't smell, it didn't have worms but was as good as if they had just brought it in. God had made a test to see if the people would obey him and many of them did, but sadly some thought their ideas were right and God didn't really mean what he said. How foolish they were!

Many years later Jesus was talking to his followers and he said that he was like the manna. He was sent from God and those who believed his words would have nourishment to give them life. Jesus was telling them a parable, they wouldn't have real food, but they would have Jesus' words telling them the right way to live, by following God's ways. Then these people would have eternal life, just as the Israelites who ate the manna didn't starve to death, because they also believed God's words.



The next day the pillar of cloud rose up and moved ahead of the children of Israel. Each tribe of people had a certain order and they would pack their belongings and head out in the order Moses assigned them. In the evening the cloud would stop moving and each tribe would set up their tents in the proper order, take out the last of that day's manna, and cook supper. As the children of Israel settled down for the night the pillar of fire glowed softly over their tents.

The further the children of Israel traveled the dryer and more rocky the country looked. There were less wells or streams to get water from and one day when they came to a place that had once had water, but the stream was all dried up. The Israelites were hot and tired and very thirsty. They began grumbling and talking about Moses and the long journey and the more they talked the angrier they became. Aaron ran to tell Moses, "The people are talking about stoning you!" In those days one way of killing a person was having everyone pick up large stones and throwing them at the person until he was killed. Poor Moses fell to the ground and began to pray to God. "What shall I do with this people?" he cried. God answered Moses and told him to take his rod and lead the leaders of the tribes to a certain place near a mountain.

Moses gathered the people together and told them, "God has heard your cries, now all the leaders of the tribes, follow me." Then Moses led them close to the mountain and took his staff and raising it into the air, he hit one of the rocks.

Suddenly, out of the rock gushed a stream of water. Just a minute ago there had been nothing but dusty, dry rocks. Now there was cool, clear, water running down the rock and along the desert floor. Lots of water, enough water for all the people and animals to drink. How often God showed wonderful miracles to his people.



Shortly after this, the Israelites were attacked by a group of people called the Amalekites. These were sneaky people who wouldn't attack the strong leaders or warriors in the group, but would come up from behind and attack all the weaker ones, like the children and the women and old people who couldn't travel as fast. They would pick off the slower animals and steal whatever they could from the ones who couldn't fight back. Moses quickly called his young helper, named Joshua. "Gather the warriors together, we must attack the Amalekites and get our women, children and animals back."



Moses said that he would stand on the top of the hill and hold up his hands so the children of Israel could see him with the staff raised in his hands. This was called "God's staff" because God had Moses use it when performing the miracles in Egypt.

Joshua took the warriors of Israel and attacked the Amalekites. The battle raged on and on, but as long as Moses could be seen holding up the staff, the Israelites were winning. However, after awhile Moses' hands began to get tired. He would lower the staff for a few minutes to rest his arms, but then the Amalekites began to win the battle.

Aaron saw what was happening and he got a friend called Hur and they climbed up the hill and had Moses sit on a rock. Then Aaron and Hur stood at each side of Moses and helped him hold up his arms.



Have you ever tried to hold up your hands for awhile? Hold them up and see how long it takes before they get tired. Imagine Moses standing up for hours with his hands up in the air. He was very grateful for the help Aaron and Hur gave him.

Joshua and the army fought the Amalekites until sunset and won the battle. All the people and property that the Amalekites had stolen was recovered and there was a big celebration in the camp of the Israelites that night. The next morning Moses built an altar to God at that place and said prayers of thanks for God's help.

In our next lesson we'll see what happens when Moses meets up with his father-in-law, Jethro.

## Question Page

1. Who brought the Israelites into the wilderness, God or Moses?
2. How did the Israelites know when to march and when to stop and set up the tents?
3. When the Israelites were hungry and thirsty, what did they want to do to Moses?
4. What kind of food did God provide for the Israelites in the evening?
5. What kind of food did God provide for the Israelites in the morning?
6. What does the word "manna" mean?
7. What happened when the Israelites collected enough for two days during the week?
8. What happened when the Israelites collected enough for two days on the Sabbath?

*Put T or F in the blank to show if the sentences below are true or false*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The Children of Israel could only work for three hours on the Sabbath day.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus was like manna because God sent him to save lives by giving the people God's words.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Israelites trusted that God would care for them and never complained.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Amalekites were brave warriors who attacked Israel's soldiers, not the weak women, children or old people.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron and Hur helped Moses hold up his hands so he wouldn't get too hot.

Circle the correct answer in the questions below

1. When they couldn't find water Moses (a) dug a well (b) hit a rock (c) found an oasis
2. What kind of meat did God provide for the Israelites? (a) chicken (b) pheasant (c) quail
3. What did Moses hold up to help the Israelite warriors win the battle? (a) his hands (b) the rod of God (c) a tree branch



# BEAT THE PHARAOH

A game for 2-4 players. You'll need a dice and buttons of different colors for markers. Throw a 6 or 3 to start then throw again to move. The first player to reach the Red Sea crosses with the Israelites. The Losers drown with Pharaoh's army

Red  
SEA

Pharaoh's coming



Roll a 1 to part  
the Sea and WIN!

GO BACK  
TO  
FROGS

Borrow Jewels  
Roll  
again



Darkness  
lose 2 turns

Pharaoh changes  
his mind  
go back  
5 spaces



Bad hail storm  
Miss a turn



Locust  
Hop forward  
3 spaces



Fly  
Swatter



Pharaoh said  
Israel can go  
Run ahead  
4 spaces



Animals are  
sick. Lose a  
turn



Too many Flies  
Move ahead  
to Fly Swatter



Frogs - Jump  
ahead 3



Magicians copy  
Plagues - go back  
to  
start



Roll a 3 or a 6  
to start - then roll again  
to move

START



Connect the dots to find an answer to Moses' prayer



Psalms 105:40



Help the children of Israel find their way from the Red Sea to the place where Moses struck the rock and water came out.

