



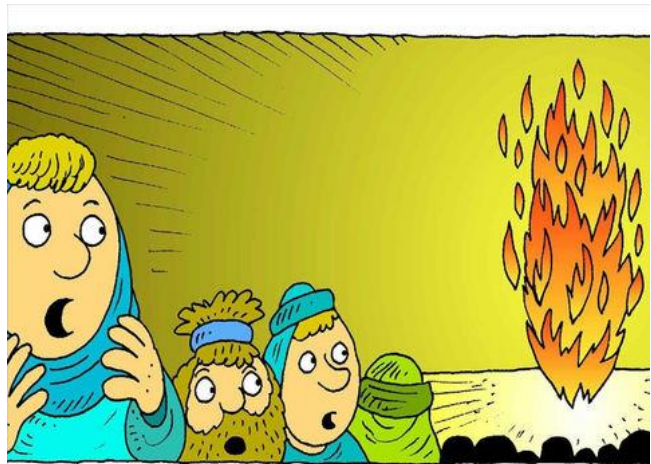
L2L38: Between the Army and the Sea

Exodus 13-15

God brought the children of Israel out of slavery with many miracles. They were finally headed for the land God promised them. God led the people across the wilderness to edge of the Red Sea where they stopped to camp. In the meantime, Pharaoh changed his mind again! He was angry that he had let his slaves go, so he sent his army after the Israelites. Israel was about to be trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. How would they escape? God had a plan to save them, but how?

Discuss:

- When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army coming, what did they say? What did Moses do?
- God worked many miracles to deliver Israel from Egypt. Why were they still afraid?
- The Israelites walked through the Red Sea between walls of water on dry ground. What do you imagine the Israelites may have seen?
- The Egyptian army thought they could cross over the Red Sea just as Israel did. What happened next?
- How did the Israelites react when they reached the other side of the Red Sea?



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Memory Challenge:

Exodus 14:16

But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.



L2L39: Bitter Water Made Sweet

Exodus 15:22-27

God saved Israel by bringing them through the Red Sea, protected from Pharaoh and His army. After a great victory celebration, the Israelites continued their journey. They traveled for three days, but they started running out of water. After seeing so many miracles, you would think that the people would look to God to help them, right? What did they actually do?

Discuss:

- Israel had witnessed many miracles that God had done, but they started forgetting them. Do you ever forget things? What helps you remember?
- The people complained to Moses because the water at Marah was bitter. What should the people have done - instead of complaining?
- In this difficult situation, Moses didn't complain. Instead, what did He do?
- Making the bitter water sweet was another example of God's miracles that preserved and protected Israel. This is a good time to think back on God's other miracles. What were some of those miracles?



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Memory Challenge:

Exodus 15:26

If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.



L2L40: What Is It?

Exodus 16

About a month after leaving Egypt, the Israelites arrived at a place called the Wilderness of Sin. They were running out of food and getting hungry. Again, instead of asking God for help, they complained to Moses. The people were forgetting the promises that God had given them. They still did not trust God to take care of them. Even though they did not have the right attitude, God still loved His people, and He was about to give them something to eat that no one had ever heard of before!

Discuss:

- The people blamed Moses and Aaron, saying they brought them out of Egypt to die of hunger. What should they have done?
- God does not like complaining. One way we can learn not to complain is by being thankful. What could the Israelites have been thankful for?
- God gave the Israelites food which they called “manna,” which means “what is it?” What do you think it would be like to be given food straight from God every day? Do you think it tasted good?
- Gathering manna would have been hard work. God showed the Israelites which day is the Sabbath by not giving them manna on the seventh day. Why didn’t God want them gathering their food on the Sabbath? How did God make sure they had enough to eat on the Sabbath day?



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Memory Challenge:

Exodus 16:4

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.”



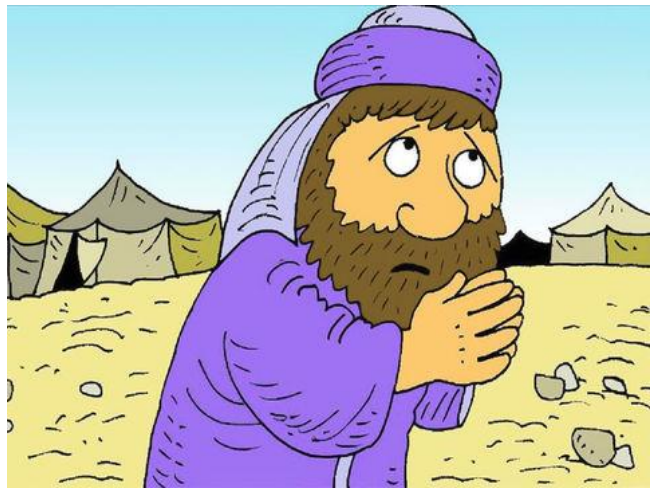
L2L41: Water from the Rock

Exodus 17:1-7

As the Israelites traveled across the wilderness toward the promised land, they came to a place called Rephidim. They discovered that there was no water there, and the people and their animals were very thirsty. They complained again, and blamed Moses for bringing them into the wilderness to die of thirst. Time and again they had tested God with their complaining and lack of faith. The people didn't seem to be thankful for what God had already done for them. Would He help them out again, even with their bad attitudes?

Discuss:

- Testing God is not a small matter. What does it mean to “test God”?
- The people contended with Moses. To contend means to struggle against, to oppose, or to debate—to fight. In what way did the Israelites contend with Moses? Do we sometimes contend with others? What can we do to make sure we don't?
- God demonstrated great patience and mercy in dealing with Israel. What are some other character traits that God showed when working with Israel?
- Imagine what it would be like in a desert wilderness with no food or water. If you were in their shoes, what would you have done?
- God instructed Moses to strike the rock to bring forth water. No matter what rock, no matter what type of device you use, you can strike a rock all day, and no water will come out. Do you think this miracle would help the Israelites remember Who was taking care of them?



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Memory Challenge:

Exodus 17:6

Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.