

March 8, 2020

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** Wandering: Israel’s Journey

### Lesson Objective:

This week we continue to journey along with God’s people in the Wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. We slow down to see how the Israelites respond to God’s deliverance – they soon forget everything He has done! Not to our surprise God’s people are no longer grateful for their rescue from Egypt, and thus no longer joyful. Full of complaints and cries, God finally hears them and answers their complaints but much more than they imagined. God’s reaction to their desire to return to Egypt is anger; He is outraged at the fact they would rather be slaves than free to follow Him. This is also true of us today; we would rather be slaves to idols and in bondage to sin than follow the God who saves. The saying proves true in this story, “Comparison is the thief of joy.” The lack of gratitude by God’s people led them down a very dangerous path, a very sinful path. The exhortation in the story is to not only remember how the LORD rescues but to be grateful for His provision in the rescue – for us, the provision of His Son.

### Teaching Points:

- God is faithful and never changes. God keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign (or in control).
- Man is sinful.
- God is kind and merciful.
- God is everywhere all the time.
- God communicates with man.
- God wants people to know He is a great God.
- God is holy. God wants His people to be holy.
- God is all knowing.
- God does not need any help.
- God saves His people.
- God provides for His people.

**Scripture:** Exodus 23:20-32; Numbers 10-12

**Story:** *Vos Child’s Story Bible*, Pages 89-91; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 76-79

### Scripture Memory for March:

“It is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 32:47

**It is no** (*cross arms to make an “X”*)

**Empty word** (*use hand to make a puppet and talk*)

**For you, but your very life,** (point at audience)

**And by this word you shall live long** (put both hands together and then move apart till arms are stretched out)

**In the land that you are going over the Jordan** (use one hand-arm to make hill or mountain motions)

**To possess** (take one hand and act as though you are putting a stake in the ground).

### Craft: Quail

**Supplies:** Paper plate, googly eye, triangle (beak), feathers, scripture verse, glue stick, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Color paper plate.
2. Attach googly eye, beak and feathers using glue sticks.
3. Add scripture reference sticker to back of quail.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

# Story

## Review

The Lord had saved His people from Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. Crossing the Red Sea on dry ground was a miracle and only God was powerful enough for it to happen. God's people saw the great work God had done. They knew God had saved them. The Bible says after the Red Sea closed and Pharaoh's army was defeated, the Israelites had a great big celebration. God saving His people would change them for forever. God gave His people commandments. These 10 commandments were the way God wanted His people to worship and follow Him. God wanted His people to worship Him only. God instructed the Israelites how to worship Him while they made their way through the wilderness.

## God's People Worship Him

God gave his people instructions on how to worship Him. God wanted His people to sing songs, pray, dance and learn about Him in a way that He thought was best. The Israelites followed God's rules. One of the rules was how to offer to God good gifts. This showed God that the Israelites loved Him and wanted to follow Him. The way in which the Israelites worshipped God showed their love for Him. But more importantly, it reminded the Israelites of God's great love for them!

## God's People Have A Big Celebration

God's house was finally built. God decided that He wanted His people to have special parties or celebrations. It had been a whole year since God's people left Egypt. Do you remember how God rescued them from the Egyptians and that God was taking them to the Promised Land? Well God did not want His people to forget Him or what He did for them in Egypt, so each year God's people celebrated. They called the celebration the "Passover." Then 50 days later, God's people got to have another celebration, it was called the Feast of Weeks. This celebration is much like Thanksgiving Day, in which the people thanked God for the blessings He had given them.

All of these parties were to help the people remember everything God had done for them. The celebrations were to remind God's people that God had not forgotten His promises and that He would always keep them.

## God's People Are on The Move

God was going to bring His people back to the Promised Land. He guided them through the desert. He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Whenever the pillar of cloud or the pillar of fire moved, the Israelites would pack up their tents, supplies, homes and God's house (remember it was a tent) and follow. Every time God had His people move Moses would shout, "Arise, O LORD, and let those who hate you, flee before you!" And when the pillar of cloud would stop, and God's people would then stop to camp, Moses would say, "Return, O LORD, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel!"

## Manna Every Morning

As God's people were travelling, they began to complain. The LORD heard their complaints and was very angry about their complaining. God did not want people to complain because it showed they were ungrateful for all God had done. So, God removed the complainers and took them away. Moses prayed an apology to God saying the people were sorry for complaining.

Soon after God had dealt with the Israelites complaining, they began to complain again. This time it was about food. They were really hungry and wanted something else to eat other than manna. Manna is a sort of grain that the Israelites made into bread each day. The Israelites remembered the great food they had in Egypt. They ate cucumbers, fish, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. God's people especially loved to eat meat, but they had not had meat in a very long time. The Israelites were so tired of eating manna that they thought it would be better to be slaves back in Egypt and eating fancy food rather than free to follow God and eating manna in the desert. Now

manna was actually pretty tasty to eat; in fact the Bible says it tasted like cake. But God's people were just tired of eating manna, so they complained and cried about having only it to eat.

### **God Is Unhappy**

Once again, Moses heard the people crying and complaining. This time it was about only having manna to eat. And Moses knew that God's people would be in trouble because God also heard the complaining of His people. God was not happy. He was not happy because His people should have thanked him for the food. Manna was free, God provided it all the time, and people could eat as much as they wanted each day. But the Israelites were not thankful for the food, so they grumbled against God.

Moses was afraid of these complaints. Moses went to God and said, "Why have you given me such a hard job to lead these people? What did I do to deserve such a hard job? I am not their parents, yet all of your people come to me to complain. I cannot take care of all of them. They want meat to eat with their manna; where can I find that much meat to feed 600,000 people? This job is too big for me God. I cannot be the leader of your people anymore, God, you are going to need to help."

### **God's Plan for His People**

God heard Moses' cry for help, so God had a plan. God told Moses, "Gather for me 70 men of the elders of Israel. You know these men to be over others and helpful to everyone. Then bring them to My house, where everyone worships me." God went on to tell Moses, "I will come down and talk with you there. I will take some of the power that I gave you and give it to them as well. These 70 men will help you guide My people, they will help you take care of everyone, so you do not have to do it alone."

### **God's People Eat Meat**

God gave some instructions to Moses for the Israelites. God said, "Prepare for tomorrow because tomorrow you will eat meat! You have cried and the Lord has heard you. You cried out, 'Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt.' So, I, the LORD, will give you meat to eat."

God went on to tell His people just how much meat He would give them. "You will not eat meat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, but a whole month, until you become tired of it and you hate it." God's people had become ungrateful. They complained and wanted to go back to Egypt. They forgot how the LORD had rescued them from Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. God was not happy with their attitude.

Moses then asked God, "Where do we get all this meat from?" God told Moses, "Is the LORD'S hand too short? Now you will see whether my word will come true for you or not."

### **Just Like God Said**

Not much time had passed when suddenly the LORD caused a wind to come out of nowhere. The wind brought quail from far away and there was a lot of quail on the ground! A quail is a type of bird that people eat. There was so much quail on the ground it measured three feet off the ground around the whole camp.

All of God's people were really excited to finally have meat to eat. They woke up early in the morning and gathered the quail till the next day. People had more than enough quail to eat and store. God's people took the quail and placed it on the hot desert sand to dry out (kind of like beef jerky). They could eat the quail later because the hot sun would dry out the meat. Yet the LORD was still unhappy about His people wanting to go to Egypt instead of following Him. God removed many people who complained and wanted to go back to Egypt. God did not want His people to be disobedient and ungrateful. God wanted His people to realize that He was taking them home and that He, GOD, would take care of them.

## **Miriam Punished**

A few days later Moses' brother, Aaron, and sister, Miriam, became very jealous of Moses. They began to talk about him to others; Moses' brother and sister said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" Moses did not hear his brother and sister say this, but the LORD did. Moses was very gentle and humble, and the LORD knew this. The LORD came down into His house as a very big cloud and called Moses, Aaron and Miriam to come and meet Him. God told Aaron and Miriam to come forward into the cloud, and they did. The LORD said to them, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet (someone who speaks for God) among you, I the LORD will let him know in a dream. But not with my servant Moses. He is faithful to Me. With Moses I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles and He knows Me."

God then asked Miriam and Aaron a very important question, "Why are you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? You should be very afraid." The LORD was upset with Miriam and Aaron. After God finished speaking with Aaron and Miriam, He left.

When the cloud went away Miriam was covered with spots called leprosy. The Bible said she was covered head to toe in spots. Leprosy is a very serious skin disease that others can catch; it's very painful to have. Aaron was very afraid and spoke to Moses. Aaron said, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. Do not let Miriam die from the leprosy!" Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her—please!!!" But the LORD said to Moses, "The spots will go away in seven days. Since she has leprosy, she must live outside of the camp for seven days, and after those seven days are over, she can come back into the camp." Seven days passed and then Miriam was brought back into camp. Soon after this the LORD decided to move, and so His people followed.

## **Questions for Review with Younger Children**

Have the kids answer "Yes" if it is true, or "no" with the correct answer if it is false.

- God's people were in bondage in Egypt. (Yes)
- God left His people in Egypt. (No! God rescued them and took them out of Egypt).
- God wants us to worship and love Him. (Yes)
- God instructed Moses and the people to build Him a place for them to worship Him. (Yes)
- The Israelites never wanted to go back to Egypt. (No! They wanted to go back).
- The Israelites were happy traveling to the Promised Land. (No! They complained and grumbled.)
- The Israelites wanted to eat, so God made it rain chicken nuggets. (No! God brought quail to His people.)
- The Israelites continued to complain, but God did not mind it. (No! Their complaining made God angry.)
- God punished the Israelites for their complaints. (Yes)
- Miriam and Aaron were jealous of Moses, and so God punished Miriam. (Yes)
- Even though God's people complained, God never left them in the desert. (Yes)
- God will never leave us either. (Yes)