

# Virtual Sunday School Lesson

## *In the Wilderness (Exodus/Numbers)*



### **Bible Verses (NIV):**

#### **Exodus 15:22-25 Water made sweet**

Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went for three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. That is why it was called Marah. And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?' He cried out to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

#### **Exodus 16: 3-4, 14-16 Manna from heaven**

The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: "Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents."

#### **Exodus 17:2-7 Water from a rock**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

#### **Numbers 11: 4-6, 31 – Quail from heaven**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.' Then a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quails from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, about two cubits deep on the ground.

### **Activity: Being Thankful**

**Theme:** We should always thank God for the things he gives us every day

**Supplies:** Heart, markers/crayons

**Lesson:**

How often do you thank God for the things you have, a home, a family, food...  
Every day? Every week? Only at Thanksgiving? *(let children respond)*

Long ago, God showed how much he loved his people every day, but they would forget to say thank you.

After Moses led God's people away from slavery in Egypt, they had to cross a great desert. They did not know where they were going, but God knew. Each day God appeared as a cloud to guide them and at night he was a pillar of fire.

One day, the people complained; "Why did you take us out of Egypt, where we had food and water?"

Moses led them to the well at Marah, but the water tasted bad. Moses prayed to God and the water became sweet.

Then the people complained that they were hungry. Moses prayed to God.

Every morning, bread from heaven, called Manna, would fall to the earth. Moses instructed the people to only pick what they needed for that day; any extra would go bad. Only on the day before the sabbath were they allowed to pick extra.

You would think the people would be thanking God, but they still complained. Again, they complained about the lack of water.

Moses prayed to God. God told Moses to hit his staff on a rock and water came flowing from the rock. It was a miracle.

You would think the people would be thankful... but no, they complained again. "We're tired of manna every day, we want meat. Again, Moses prayed to God and a great wind came up and blew quails into the camp.

We often forget that all we receive is from God, he created all that is around us. We may not have fancy cars, big homes or lots of food, but we should always be grateful for what we have.

### **Closing Prayer**

Gracious Father; thank you for things you have given us, especially your love... Amen

### **Video: Crossroads Kids Club: Wilderness** <https://youtu.be/IzN1ijiFnIA>

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. They certainly didn't pack enough for that whole time!

Duration: 4:46

### **Craft: God Provides for Us**

Supplies: Crayons/markers, scissors, glue/tape

Directions:

Give each child a set of pages to color, then cut just the outside edge.

Glue, or tape, the indicated flap and fold along the lines.

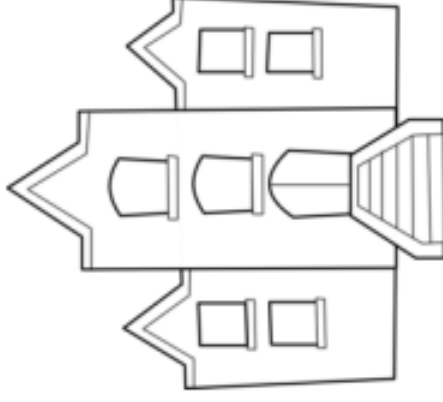


**God  
Provides  
For Us**

**At Home**



**At School**



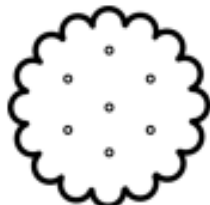
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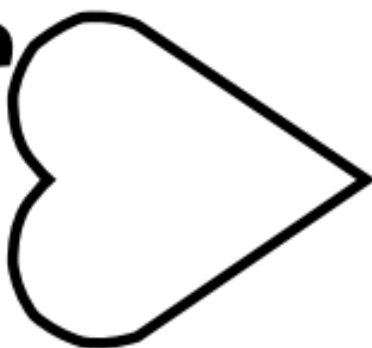
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**God Took  
Care of  
His People**



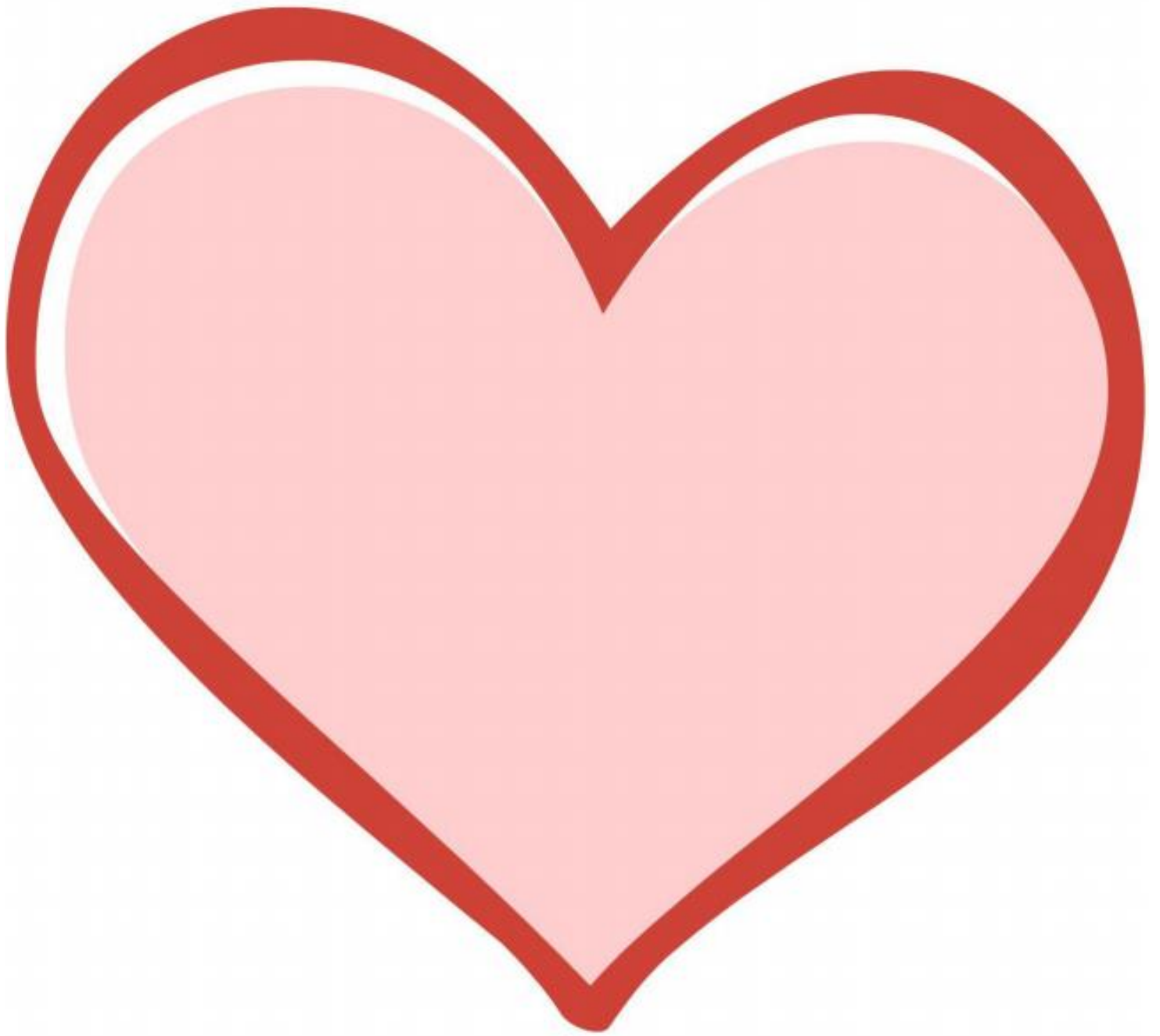
**Always**



**At Play**



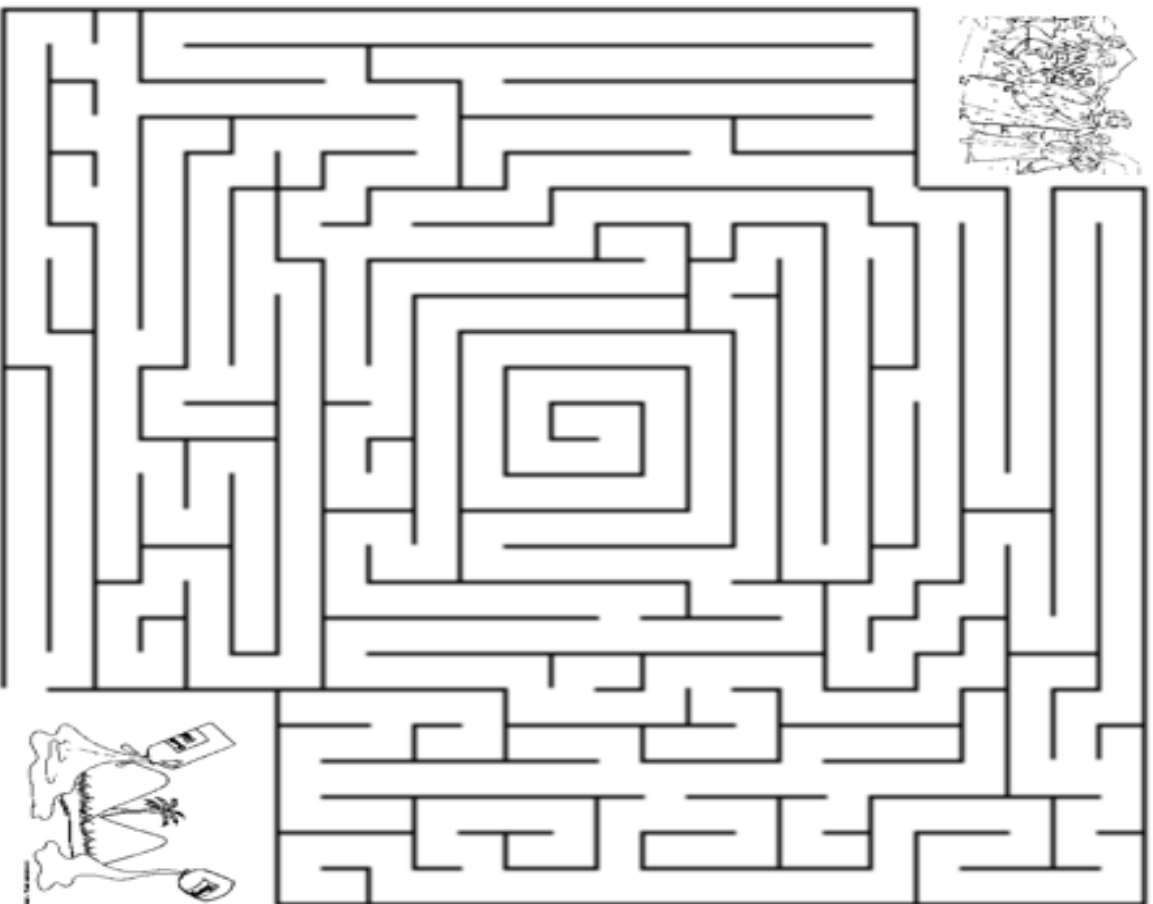
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God provides for us.

Help God's people reach the promised land.



Q K U O Y F G U Z Y J W  
 D U X G Y E T D E O N P  
 X P A N S H R G U D T V  
 A T D I U D V R R R E N  
 T N C Z L I N Q E J T Z  
 J O N H P E N S Y I E G  
 Z K O A Y J E T D G O L  
 D W M H M D A N W N Y U  
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 Q T O V F Y B L Z O O E  
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DESERT	EGYPT	GRATEFUL
JOURNEY	LORD	MANNA
MOSES	PEOPLE	PRAY
QUAIL	SLAVERY	WATER