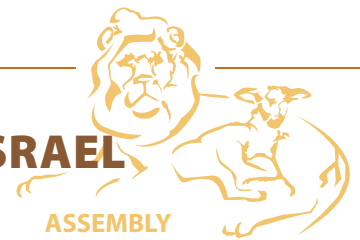


# GOD PROVIDED FOOD AND WATER FOR ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 16:1-17:7



ASSEMBLY

*Read Exodus 16:11-20 from the NIV or re-tell the story yourself in your own words. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### MANNA FROM HEAVEN

#### Supplies:

- box of frosted flake cereal
- sandwich bags. If you have any diabetic children in your class, purchase a non-sugared cereal like wheat or corn flakes.
- In addition, make sure your rug or floor has been vacuumed and well swept.

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching

Have the children act out the grumbling of the Israelites and read God's reply from Exodus 16:11-12. Tell the children to all lay down on the rug to sleep. Give each of the adult helpers a sandwich bag full of the flakes and spread them around on the floor, tables and other clean surfaces of the room. (Use only the large flakes and don't overdo the illustration by laying out more cereal than the children can eat in a short time.)

When you are done, wake the children and tell them to pretend they are the Israelites waking up to find the manna in the desert. Tell them they can eat what they pick up.

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## SMELLY MANNA

### Supplies:

- Look for two matching Tupperware™ or Cool Whip™ containers with tightly sealing lids.
  - In one container combine the following:
    - ½ cup of ammonia, ten drops of green food coloring. Add cereal flakes to this mixture until you have a goopy smelly mess.
  - In the other container simply add an equal amount of the flake cereal.
- Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching

Tell the story of the manna from above, only continue to mention how some of the Israelites were lazy and disobeyed God. (Read Exodus 16:17-20)

Pretend you are an Israelite that has gathered twice as much as you needed. Pull out the dry cereal and tell them, "Look what I have. Tomorrow when you all go out to collect the manna, I will already be eating because I am saving mine for tomorrow!"

Move out of character and ask the children what will happen to the manna. They should answer, "It will smell." Have them pretend to sleep by lying down on the floor and closing their eyes. While they are sleeping, swap containers and lay down more manna as in the activity above. Tell them to wake up and allow them to gather their manna. Laugh at them saying, "I already have mine! I hope you're having fun."

Then open your container and react to the smell. Invite them to take a quick whiff of the ammonia. (Don't allow them to stick their noses right in the container, just close enough that they get a quick smell.) Talk about why disobeying God's commands is not such a good idea.



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### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

God provided food for the Israelites in the desert. This food is a picture of Christ, who is the true spiritual bread, come down from heaven. Just as the Israelites needed to gather bread each day, so each day we need to draw near to Christ for the sustenance which comes from being in His presence.

Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. (John 6:31-36)

In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Paul tells us that the spiritual rock struck by Moses was Christ. In other words, Christ bore the blow of judgment for the forgiveness of the sins of Israel, foreshadowing a day when Christ would bear the wrath and judgment of God for all our sins.

... and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4, ESV)

