

2.11 FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS

EXODUS 16

God had told Moses and his brother, Aaron, to go to Egypt and rescue the Israelites from the Pharaoh, who had treated them badly. After many plagues had been put upon Pharaoh and the Egyptian people, the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt. God had promised a new land for them, the land of Canaan.

Although the Israelites were thankful to leave their hard life in Egypt, they soon began to complain to Moses and Aaron. "Why didn't God let us die in Egypt, where we had wonderful meat and bread to eat? You have brought us into this desert where we will starve to death!"

God told Moses, "I will rain down bread from the skies for you. The people will need to go out each day and gather a portion to eat. I will test them to see if they will obey My instructions. On the sixth day of the week, they will find they have enough for two days. On the seventh day, they should rest."

The next morning, the people discovered small pieces of something fine and flakey on the ground. They said to each other, "What is it?" The food was called "manna," a word in their own language which meant "What is it?" Moses told them it was bread God had given them to eat.

The Israelites were told the proper amount of manna for each person to take. Those who obeyed the directions had just enough to eat and they were satisfied. The ones who did not listen to Moses, and took more than they should, found that the next morning their extra manna had worms in it and it smelled bad. And those who went out for manna on the seventh day found nothing. They had to learn to obey what God said.

God said, "See? How long does it take to learn the rules? On the sixth day, take what you need for two days. Rest on the seventh day." The Israelites did not like following rules and they liked to complain to each other.

After a while, the people became tired of only eating bread and complained to Moses. Then God said to Moses, "Tell the people, 'In the evening, you will eat meat. In the morning, you will eat bread.'" That night, small birds called "quail" flew into their camp. There were enough for everyone to have meat to eat.

The children of Israel ate manna for forty years as they traveled in the desert. God provided manna and quail for them every day. They didn't have to worry. They had food until they came to the border of the land of Canaan—the land God had promised to them.

2.11 FOOD IN THE WILDERNESS - TEACHER'S GUIDE

EXODUS 16

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Moses and Aaron rescued the Israelites from the Pharaoh in Egypt. God told Moses to take the Israelites to Canaan, the land God promised them.
- 2) The Israelites complained they didn't have food to eat. They said to Moses, "Why didn't you let us die in Egypt. We had good food to eat there."
- 3) God sent down food to the Israelites. He sent bread in the morning—the people called it "manna"—and small birds, called "quail," in the evening. God also gave directions on how to gather the food for each day.
- 4) Some people followed the directions, others did not. Those who followed directions had just enough to eat. Those who gathered extra food, found that it had worms and smelled bad the next day.
- 5) God gave the Israelites this food for forty years. They ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan, the land God had promised to them.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What land did God tell Moses to take the Israelites to?
- 2) What did the people begin to complain about?
- 3) What food did God send to the Israelites?
- 4) What happened to the extra food people took?
- 5) How long did God give them this food?

ANSWERS:

- 1) God told Moses to take the Israelites to the land of Canaan.
- 2) The people complained that they did not have food.
- 3) God sent small birds, called quail. He also sent bread that the people called "manna."
- 4) The next day, the extra food would have worms in it and smell.
- 5) God gave them this food for forty years—until they reached the border of Canaan.