

# Week 11

## Israel in the Desert

Moses led God's people out of Egypt, where they had been slaves. Now, they were living in the desert. The desert was very hot. During the day, they walked under the hot sun. Whew! At night, they set up tents and slept.

The people were not happy. All of their food was gone. They could not find plants or animals to eat in the desert. There were no places to buy food. The people were hungry. They were thirsty. They grumbled, "Did you bring us to the desert to die, Moses?"

God heard them complain. He said, "I will send food from heaven for My people to eat." That night, God sent birds called quail into the camp. The people caught the birds and ate them for supper. In the morning, God covered the ground with pieces of sweet bread called manna.

This bread from heaven fed God's people. Moses told them to pick up only the amount they needed for a day. On the sixth day of the week, the people gathered twice as much so they could rest on the Sabbath Day and worship God.

(\*) God told Moses to use his walking stick to hit a certain rock. By God's power, water came rushing out for all the

people to drink. Although the people had complained and worried, God forgave them. Day after day, He gave His people just what they needed to stay strong and healthy.

*Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (\*), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

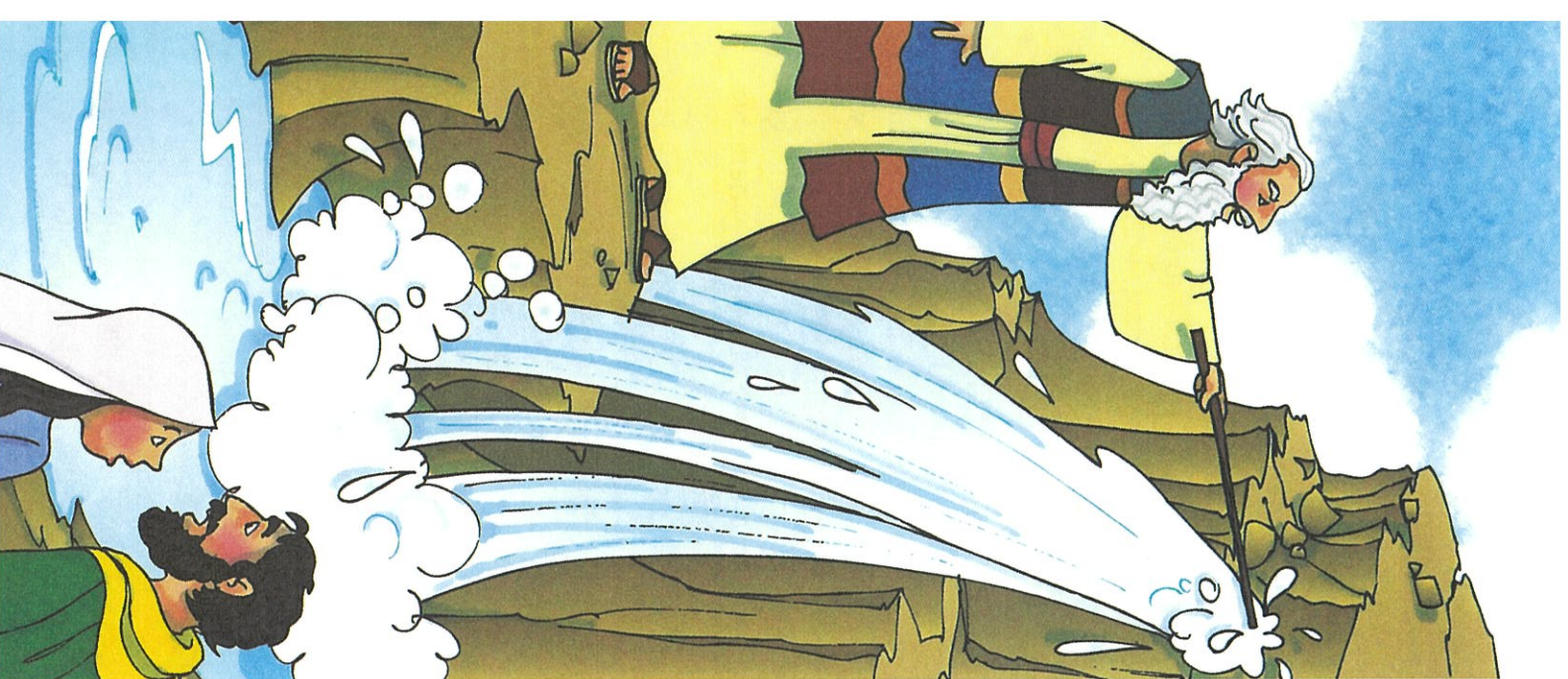
### Think about It

God doesn't give us everything we want. But He does promise to give us what we need. Read more about God's blessings in Exodus 16:1-17:7. We can trust that God knows what is best for us and when the time is right to bless us. His greatest blessing is Christ Jesus, our Savior!

### Bible Words

Give us this day  
our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11



## Dear Family,

Fuss! Fuss! Grumble some more! Once again, God's people complained to Moses. Does that ever happen in your family? Once again, the Lord hears His people and, in love, rains the blessing of bread from heaven on His children. He gives them manna—just what they needed—day after day, without fail. The Lord also hears *our* prayers and, in love, rains blessings on us.

God gives us what we need to support this life but not always in the way that we want. Help your child to learn the difference between needs and wants. Remember that God gives us what we need most—forgiveness through Jesus Christ and faith in Him. This daily gift gives us access to eternity, where we will lack for no good thing.

Like us, young children often fail to see that all the blessings they have (food, clothing, home, family) come from God. Like God's people, Israel, we complain. Play a game in which you help your child trace everyday things back to God. Help your child to thank God in prayer for His blessings.

Reinforce the meaning of the words, "Give us this day our daily bread." In this part of the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to give us each day what we need. By God's grace, He does.

Read more about the lesson on pages 114–116 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

