

Children's Talk for September 20, 2020

Manna from Heaven Exodus 16:2-15 *Have a bowl of popcorn handy.*

Do you like to eat? What's your favorite thing to eat? (Allow kids to share.)

What if every morning you could open the front door and walk out into the yard and pick up your favorite food? All that you could eat! That would be great, wouldn't it?

We read in the Bible about a time when something almost exactly like that happened. God's people, the Israelites, had been held as slaves in Egypt for many years. After 400 years, God sent Moses to free them and take them home. When they were finally freed from Egypt, they started to look for the land that God had promised them. After they had been wandering around lost in the desert for a couple of months, the people started to grumble and complain against their leaders, Moses and his brother, Aaron. *(Invite kids to complain and grumble.)*

"We had it better when we were in Egypt," they complained. "At least we had plenty to eat. God, You have brought us out here in the desert to starve us to death!"

God heard the people complaining and told Moses that in the evening He would send birds called quail to cover the camp so that the people would have meat to eat. Not only that, but in the morning, after the dew was gone, there would be manna on the ground for everyone to eat. *(Give each child a handful of popcorn and instruct them to throw it in the air.)* All they had to do was go out, pick it up, and eat it.

Why did God do this for those grumblers and complainers? (Pause for responses.) He did it so that they would know that He loved them and that He would take care of them. God hadn't brought them out of Egypt

to let them starve in the desert! God was going to see to it that they made it to the land which He had promised them.

Have kids pick up all the popcorn around them as though it's manna.

Sometimes you and I grumble and complain, don't we? When do you complain? (Pause for responses.) We forget that God loves us and that He provides us with everything that we need. Instead of grumbling and complaining, we can say, "Thank You, God" and let's do that right now!

Dear God, sometimes we grumble and complain. When we do, help us remember that every good thing we have comes from You and you will take care of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Dinner on the Ground Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["Dinner on the Ground"](#)

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

To follow.....

BREAD PUZZLE: Each child can be given an envelope in the shape of a loaf of bread (made out of construction paper). Inside that bread envelope, will be 4 - 8 pieces of a bread shaped puzzle for children to put back together. Each puzzle piece can have a word or phrase from today's lesson, (ex daily needs, Israelites, Moses, God, obey, daily bread, etc). This will lead into a discussion about today's lesson and our prayer of thanks!

JOURNEY WALK: If the weather permits, take the children on a JOURNEY WALK that goes up and down and over and under obstacles along the way. Tell children to grumble and complain and then at the end of the JOURNEY, let children talk about the hard walk and what the Israelites went through with very little to eat and drink. Give children a SNACK at the end of the WALK --- mini loaves of bread or muffins could be served, or MONKEY BREAD!!!!

DAILY NEEDS COLLAGE: Provide a large poster board for children to glue magazine pictures of "things we are thankful for". Some children may enjoy using markers and writing ideas or a title, as well. (Magazine pics can be already cut out and spread out on the table for children to choose from... such as various foods, cars, houses, pets, friends, medicine, outdoor pictures such as flowers, trees, etc).

'WHAT IS IT?' MANNA: Since the word manna means, "What is it", the teacher can show items to the children to see if they know what the item is used for. The teacher or children will say, WHAT IS IT? If children are in teams -- let the children take turns for each item to see if they can decide what it is called or used for.

PLAYDOUGH MANNA:

Each child can be given white play dough to make many small pieces of round "manna". Flatten it as much as possible using the palm of your hand, (the size of a coin) and glue it on brown construction paper and allow each child to tell today's story while spreading the manna on the paper. If you don't have playdoh you can make a mixture of flour and water with a drop or two of oil to make the manna. (enough flour so that it is not sticky) Once made, it can be put in a low temp oven to dry out for an hour or so.

SHARE A SNACK:

To make a snack like manna, children can be given a flour tortilla shell and can spread butter or honey on the tortilla shell. Then each child can sprinkle sugar and cinnamon on the shell and ENJOY their own Manna.

Song: "God Is Great"

(tune ; Rock around the Clock Or happy Days theme song)

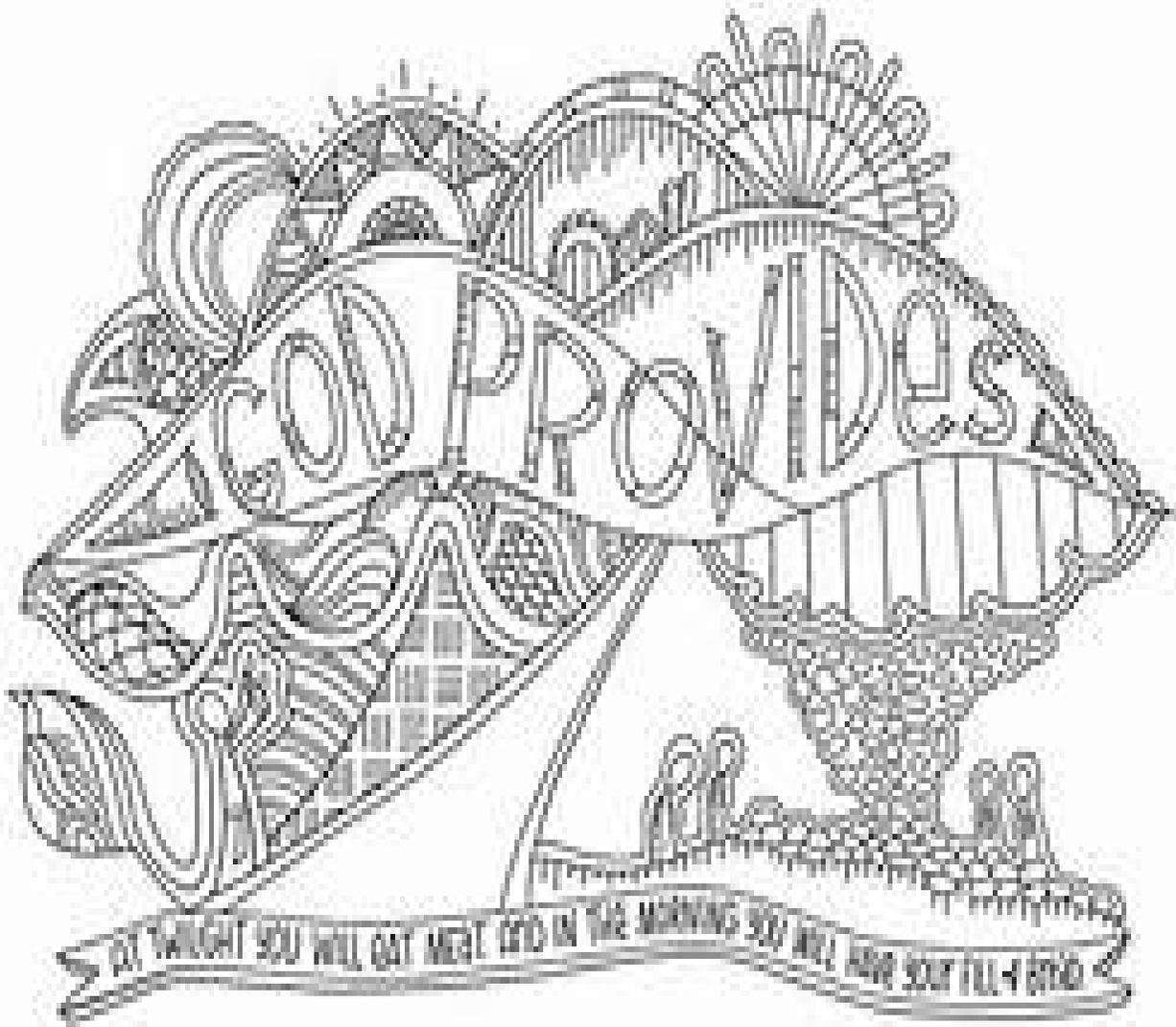
"God is Great, God is Good. Let us thank him for our food. We're gonna thank Him morning noon and night. Gonna thank Him cuz He's outta sight!! Amen Amen Amen.



Quail Craft (Quails appeared in great flocks every evening so the Israelites could eat them for dinner) Quails are small fat little birds that are known for their flavour.

Two colours of construction paper. - Using a bread and butter plate, trace and cut out a circle and fold it in half. – Cut out three hearts, the biggest becomes two wings, fold the small one in half to become the face, Cut out the centre of the third heart to become the plume on its head. – glue a feather (real or cut out) and a stick inside the body. Glue on the legs and feet. The stick can be a twig or a popsicle stick. It is so you can hold the quail and make it walk. Using a hole punch make two white circles for eyes. Have fun with your Quail.

Manna From Heaven Coloring Page



God Feeds the People

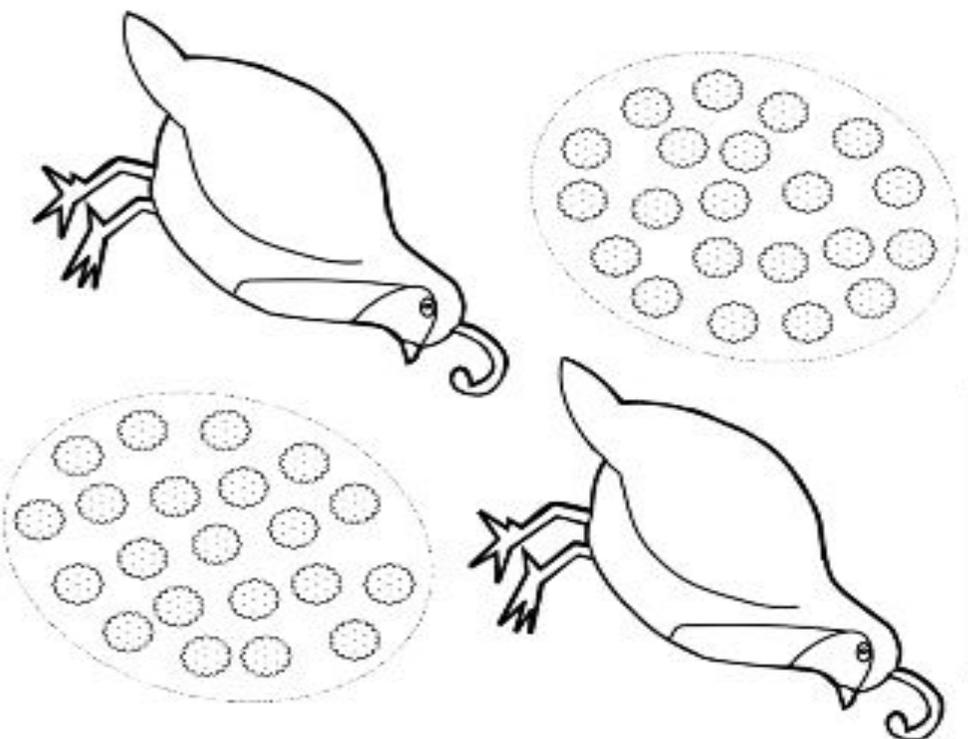
God sent _____ in the morning

and _____ in the evening! Exodus 16:13

Morning
Evening

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Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness after fleeing Egypt, God provided manna for them to eat. It appeared on the ground each morning, and it's described as a kind of sweet wafer. Teach kids more about manna and the Israelites by making crafts that illustrate the theme.

Edible Manna

Kids will love making edible manna, but first explain to them that nobody knows for sure what manna looks like. This craft will give kids an idea of what manna possibly looked and tasted like. Give each child a plain tortilla, and let them spread honey and cinnamon on the top. Let them rip their tortilla into small pieces, and explain that this is similar to what the Israelites saw each morning when they awoke. The people were only supposed to gather the manna they needed for that day. If they tried to sneak more, the manna would become rotten. Have kids mix gummy worms in with the "manna" to represent maggots that infested the hoarded food.

Desert Landscape

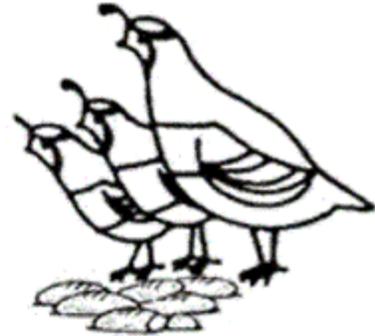
Set the scene creating a diorama of what the Israelite camp looked like in the desert. Use an old shoe box or large cereal box, and several fabric squares. Let kids glue the squares to the construction paper twisted into cones to represent the Israelites' tents. Glue sand on the bottom and add cactus shapes etc. Next, give kids a handful of dry Israeli couscous or crumble thin crackers, wafer cookies etc), which they can glue on the sand to represent the manna that the Lord provided. (*Cooked couscous mixed with honey could make a plausible representation of manna. Cook a batch before class, and let kids try a spoonful.*)

Hunger Bags

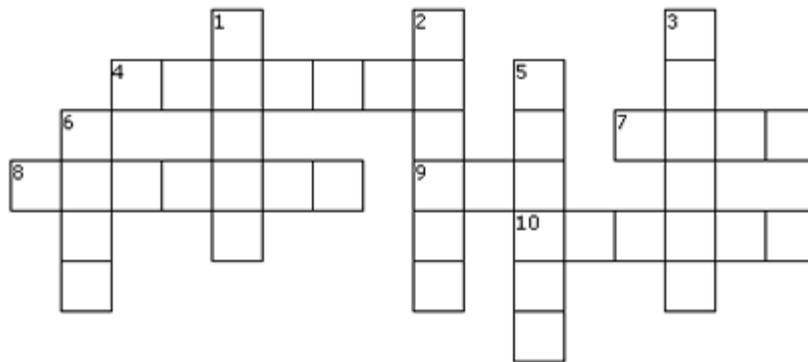
Explain that the Lord provided food for the Israelites so they wouldn't go hungry in the wilderness. Tell the kids that millions of people in the world go hungry each day, and it's our job to help. Give each child a large paper grocery bag turned inside out. Tell kids to write, "Hope for the Hungry" on the outside of the bags and decorate them with eye-catching colors and embellishments. Each child will fill it with non-perishable food items take the bag to the local food bank or church to donate to a local food bank or homeless shelter.

Manna from Heaven Crossword

Dinner on the Ground



"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" Exodus 16:12 (NIV)



ACROSS

4. To complain; express feelings dissatisfaction, or resentment
7. A place where tents or temporary shelters are set up by travelers
8. The early part of the day, lasting until noon
9. To take food into the body through the mouth
10. The place where God is

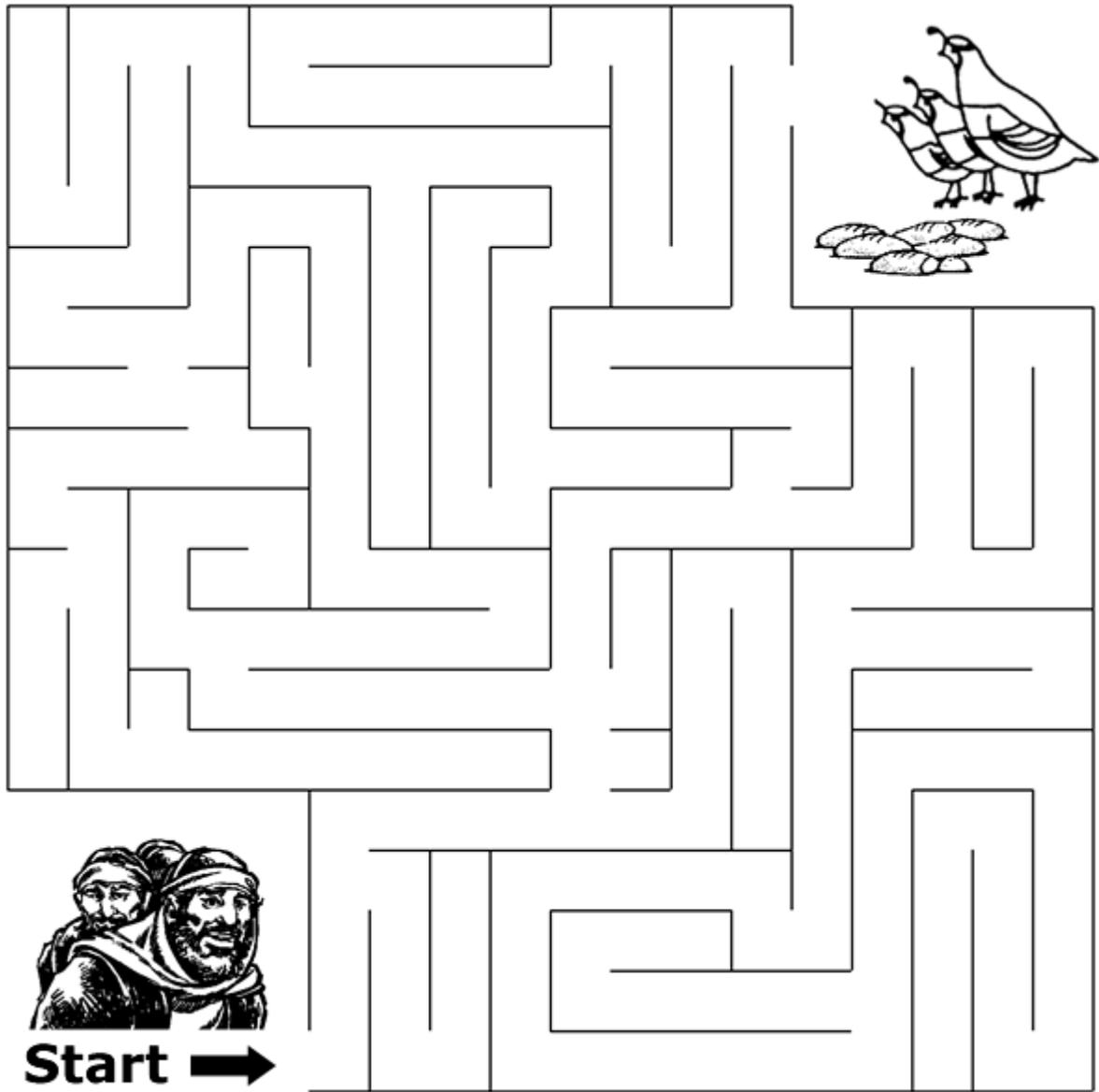
DOWN

1. A small game bird with a rounded body and short tail
2. A dry, sandy area with little rainfall
3. To suffer or die from the lack of food
5. To pick up or collect into one place
6. Something that is eaten to provide nourishment for our bodies

WORDS USED

desert	food	heaven	morning	camp
grumble	starve	gather	quail	eat

Manna from Heaven Maze



Help the Israelites find the bread and quail!