

God provides for his people in the desert – Exodus 16,17



FOR YOU

Even though the people of Israel were desperate to leave their slavery in Egypt it must have been very scary leaving what was familiar for an unknown land. It is perhaps not surprising then that they moaned about the conditions in the desert. God had it under control though and provided miraculous water and food that was delicious and nutritious. Not only was God looking after their bodies but he was also caring for their hearts and minds as he gave them his guidelines for living - often referred to as the Ten Commandments. These rules were not about stopping people from having a good time but instead about keeping them safe and helping them to live contented and fulfilling lives.

STORY



Ready-steady

Show a selection of items that represent some of the very ordinary things that God has provided for you in the last day or so, e.g. a glass of water, a toothbrush, a chat with a friend

Sometimes, particularly when things are hard, it is easy to forget how much God gives us every day. Today's story starts with God's people moaning and ends with him sharing his plan for how we can live well.

Sing – As I sit quietly



Read-tell

Read Living in the desert (p44). When you get to 'In the mornings...' throw lots of white paper disks around the room. Give out some baskets and encourage everyone to collect up the 'delicious honey biscuits'. Do the same for the meat in the evenings with brown paper disks.

Read Rules from God (p45). As you read each rule put a finger up until you have ten fingers showing.



Wonder together

*I wonder what the white flakes tasted like?
I wonder which of God's rules is the most important?
I wonder which of God's rules I find hardest to keep?*



Additional ide-

MAKE & PLAY



- Decorate plain circular biscuits with icing and sprinkles as a reminder of the manna from God in the desert
- Play grandmother's footsteps and talk about keeping rules
- Create a 'thank you' board where people can stick the pictures of the things that they thank God for providing cut out from magazines and catalogues



PRAY

Encourage everyone to use the Makaton signs for thank you and help when you say each of the words in the prayer

Thank you for listening to us.

Help us to listen to you.

Thank you for giving us a hope for the future.

Help us to share this hope with others.

Thank you for providing food and water.

Help us to share this with others.

Thank you for your guidelines for living.

Help us to live well for you.

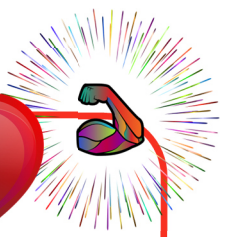
SONGS

- Nothings to big, big, big
- Jesus love is very wonderful
- Big thumbs tough

@HOME

Give each family a communion wafer to take home as a reminder of God's provision in the desert. Explain a little bit about what it is and how and why Christians use them in church

@HOME



When things are going great and I am really happy

Thank you God for looking after me

When things are not so good and I am really sad

Thank you God for looking after me

When everyone around me is on my side

Thank you God for looking after me

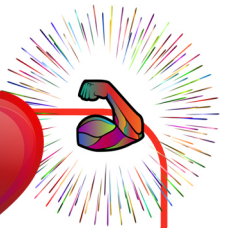
When I feel like no-one cares

Thank you God for looking after me

All the time, everywhere

Thank you God for looking after me

@HOME



When things are going great and I am really happy

Thank you God for looking after me

When things are not so good and I am really sad

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