

# God Provides in the Desert

*Exodus 15:22-17:7*

**The Big Idea:** Christ alone is our bread and water. We depend on Him daily.

**Read the passage**

**Story Summary for Children:**

After crossing the Red Sea and praising God, the Israelites moved into the desert. They walked for three days without finding water. When they finally found water, they could not drink it, because it was bitter. Moses cried out to God and God told him to throw a tree into the water. When Moses did this, the water became drinkable. The Lord told them that day that if they listened to His voice and followed His instructions, they would be spared the diseases He brought on Egypt.

The Israelites drank and then continued on their journey. After several days, they ran out of food and complained again to Moses. They told Moses they would rather be in Egypt where they had pots of meat to eat! So God told Moses that He would send them bread (called manna) that tasted sweet in the morning and meat in the evenings for them to eat. They were not to save any except for the day before the Sabbath because God would give them what they needed each day.

After awhile, the Israelites complained again about the water because they were thirsty. So God instructed Moses to take some elders and go ahead to the rock at Horeb. When they arrived at the rock, God told Moses to strike with his staff, when he did, water poured out from the rock. In that moment, the Israelites knew that the Lord was with them.

**Family Story Discussion Questions:**

1. How did God provide water for the Israelites the first time? (By telling Moses to throw a log in the water and then making it drinkable)
2. What did the Israelites say when they were complaining about not having food? (They told Moses they would rather be in Egypt where they could eat as much meat as they wanted)
3. How did God provide food and water in the desert for the Israelites? (He provided manna in the morning and meat in the evening and made rain flow from a rock)

**Family Lesson Discussion Questions:**

1. How did God respond to the Israelites when they complained?
2. Why do you think God provided only enough for each day?
3. For what do we depend on God each day?

**Memory Verse:** “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.’” (John 6:35)

**Parents:** Talk with your family about what God does for you each day.

**A Look Ahead:** Next week the passage is Exodus 17:8-16 and the Big Idea will be, “Put on God’s armor so you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” Ask your family, “What do you need protection from and what protects you?” You may also want to read next week’s passage with your child and start explaining the story.