

Questions / Answers

1. What was the food called that God provided every day?
Manna
2. How long was Moses up Mount Sinai?
40 days
3. What did the people do while Moses was up the mountain?
They persuaded Aaron to make a golden calf to be their god
4. Which tribe was on the Lord's side?
Levi
5. How many spies did Moses send out to look at the Promised Land?
12 spies
6. What fruit did they bring back?
A bunch of grapes so big that 2 men had to carry it
7. What did the spies say the land was like?
A good land, flowing with milk and honey, with good crops and fruit
8. Why did 10 of the spies say the Israelites could not go into the land?
The cities had strong walls and gates, there were some giants
9. Which 2 spies had faith that God would be with them?
Joshua and Caleb
10. What was the punishment because the Israelites did not have faith?
The would wander in the wilderness for 40 years

Memory verses

Numbers 14:8 Psalm 106:19—20 John 6:32—33

Discussion

Read Hebrews 3:9—14. The Israelites were always grumbling. Discuss the things the Israelites grumbled about. What should they have done? Discuss what our attitude should be when things are difficult in our lives.

Writing

Write about what happened while Moses was up Mount Sinai.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 14 The wilderness journey—1

READING Exodus 15:22—25; 16; 17:1—7; 32:1—8, 20 & 26
Numbers 13: 1 & 17—32; 14:1—4

LESSON

The people of Israel were led by Moses through the Red Sea into the desert of Sinai. The people lived in tents. The people soon forgot how much they had hated being slaves in Egypt. They forgot how God had saved them by giving them Moses to lead them, by sending plagues on Egypt and by bringing them through the Red Sea. They did not like living in the desert and they forgot to trust in God to look after them. They grumbled because there was no food and no water.

The people grumbled at Marah where the water was very bitter and at Horeb where there was no water. But God did look after them. At Marah God made the bitter water become sweet. At Horeb God told Moses to hit the rock with his rod (stick) - and water came out for the people to drink. Once God provided birds called quails for the people to eat. And every day for 40 years, God provided a special bread for the people to eat. When they got up in the morning the bread was scattered on the ground and the people collected enough for them to eat that day. This bread was called *manna*. On Fridays the people collected enough manna for two days and the manna was still good to eat on the Saturday - the Sabbath day when they did not work.

But still the people grumbled. They remembered that there had been good things to eat in Egypt: fish, melons, leeks and garlic - and they grumbled because they only had manna to eat.

Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites came to Mount Sinai. They camped at the bottom of the mountain. God reminded Moses that the nation of Israel was His special people. God had chosen them to be His people when he had promised Abraham that His descendants would become a great nation.



God had many laws and instructions to give the Israelites so that they could obey Him and be His people. God told Moses to go to the top of the mountain so that God could give him these laws and instructions. Before Moses went up the mountain he told the Israelites to obey God's commands while he was away. Moses told the Israelites that if they had any problems, Aaron would help them. Moses told the Israelites to worship God as they had been commanded.

God talked to Moses on the mountain for forty days. God told Moses about the laws He wanted the Israelites to keep. God explained to Moses how He wanted the Israelites to worship Him. God encouraged Moses. God promised to guide and help Moses as he led the Israelites through the wilderness. We shall learn more about the laws and instructions which God gave to Moses in a later lesson.

Meanwhile, down in the Israelite camp the Israelites did not know what had happened to Moses. He was away for 40 days. They thought he may have died up in the mountain. The Israelites forgot about God. They could not see God and they did not know where Moses was. The Israelites went to Aaron and said to him, "It is a long time since Moses went up the mountain. We do not know what has happened to him. Make us an idol that we can worship. We do not know where God is, or what has happened to Moses. We want an idol that we can see to worship."



Aaron was not a good, strong leader like Moses. Aaron was afraid that the people would kill him if he did not make them an idol. Aaron told the people to bring him all their gold earrings. Aaron melted down all the gold earrings. With the gold he made a golden calf. "Here is your god," he told the people. The Israelites did not have faith. They wanted a god that they could see. They worshipped a model of a calf instead of the Almighty God who made all things and who had cared for them and saved them from Egypt.

The Israelites made an altar and worshipped the golden calf. They did many wicked things. "This calf is our god which brought us safely out of Egypt," they said. But Moses was not dead. God saw how quickly the Israelites forgot Him and started to worship an idol. God told Moses that the Israelites were worshipping the golden calf. So Moses went down the mountain.

Moses was very angry when he saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. The Egyptians worshipped a bull calf which was a symbol of strength. But Moses knew that a golden model of a calf could not help them. Moses destroyed the golden calf.

Moses had faith in God who had done great miracles in Egypt and had given them food and water on their journey through the wilderness. Moses shouted, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The tribe of Levi came and stood by Moses. "We will worship the Lord," they said. God was pleased that one of the twelve tribes still loved Him. God chose the tribe of Levi to be His priests.

The Israelites travelled through the wilderness for two years. Then they came to the border of the land of Canaan. Moses gathered all the Israelites together. He told them that they had reached the land which God had promised to give them. They must be brave and strong. They must trust in God because He would help them to conquer the land.

Moses sent out twelve spies, one from each tribe of Israel. Moses told the spies to travel through the land to find out what it was like. The twelve spies travelled through the land for forty days. They saw strong walled cities with great gates. They saw some people who were giants. They found wonderful fruit. They brought back one bunch of grapes which was so big it took two men to carry it.

The spies had a lot to report. They said that the land was very good - a land flowing with milk and honey. It was a very fruitful land. There were good crops and many fruit trees. The Israelites were thrilled to hear the good news about the land. But ten of the spies did not trust in God. They said, "It is a good land, but the people living there are very strong. Some of them are giants. The people in the land live in great cities with strong walls and towers. We are afraid to go to live in the land. We shall not be able to fight against these strong people."

Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, were faithful. They told the Israelites, "God is stronger than the giants, He will help us to conquer the land." But the Israelites would not listen. They forgot all the miracles that God had done for them. They decided to choose a new leader and go back to Egypt.

Then the glory of God appeared in the Tabernacle in the middle of the camp. God told the Israelites that because they were afraid and did not trust Him, He would not allow them to go into the Promised Land. The spies had taken forty days to spy out the land. God said that they must go back into the wilderness and travel there for forty years. For every day that the spies had been spying out the land, the Israelites would have to spend a year in the wilderness. That was God's punishment because they did not trust Him.