

Israel in the Desert

Exodus 15:22 - 17:16



The Story

God's people had left the land of Egypt. God led them safely through the Red Sea and saved them from the army of Pharaoh. Now God led them by a cloud through the wilderness.

The people traveled for three days in the hot dry desert. At last they came to Marah. There was water here, but it was too bitter to drink. The people did not trust in God to help them. They grumbled to Moses, "What shall we drink?"

God showed Moses a tree. Moses threw the tree into the water and the water tasted sweet!

The next stop on the journey had twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. They rested for a month in this wonderful place.

When it was again time to travel on, God led the people into the Wilderness of Sin. The people again grumbled to Moses. They said they wished they had stayed in Egypt where there was plenty of food.

God supplied this need also. That evening God sent so many quails into the camp that it was easy to kill them to eat. In the morning a small round seed lay all around on the ground. They asked, "What is it?" (Manna) Moses said that this was the bread that God had sent. For five days they were to gather

just enough for each person. If anyone gathered extra it grew worms and smelled bad. On Friday they were to gather twice as much, because God would not send any on the day of rest. The extra that they gathered did not grow worms or smell bad on Saturday.

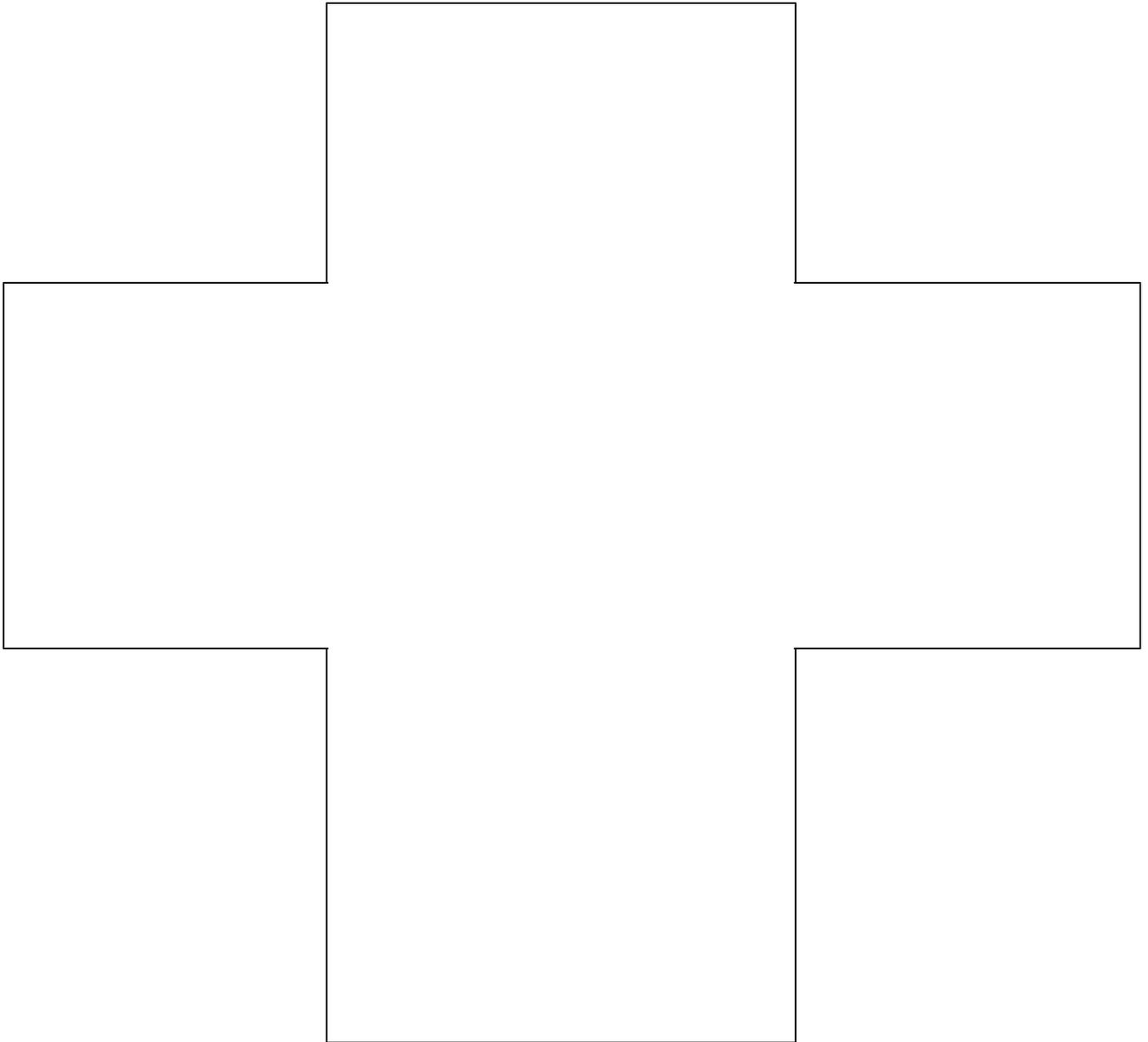
As they set out again through the wilderness, they came to Rephidim. There was again no water for them to drink. The people thought they would die of thirst. God commanded Moses to hit a certain rock with his staff and water poured out of it.

At Rephadim the Amalekites attacked the Israelites. Joshua led an army against the Amalekites while Moses watched from a nearby hill. As long as Moses held up his arms in prayer to God, the Israelites were winning the battle. After a while Moses' arms grew tired. When he let them drop to his sides, the Amalekites began to win. Moses then sat on a rock while Aaron, his brother, and Hur held up his hands until sunset. With the help of God Joshua and the Israelites won a great victory.

God continues to provide for a complaining people.

Activity One - Draw or cut and glue pictures out of a magazine to show blessings God has given us.

JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS IS OUR GREATEST BLESSING



God continues to provide for us.

Activity Two - Try any of these activities.

1. What does "bitter" taste like? Sample some bitter baking chocolate to see.
2. Role play Moses holding up his arms until they were too tired. Then show Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' arms until the battle was over. (rod optional)
3. Color this picture of the Israelites gathering manna from the ground.



Passage

Psalms 103:2 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Hymn - TLH #434 v. 1, 2

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for all the food and drink You give me every day. Thank You also for coming to the world to save me. Keep me every day in Your care. Amen.