

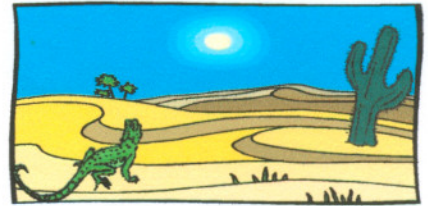
Do you know what a "wilderness" is or what a "desert" is? The wilderness or desert is a place that may be full of sand, or perhaps have rocks and a few bunches of dry grass or a few weeds. In a desert wilderness there may also be some lizards and maybe a snake or two, but mostly a wilderness is very dry with very little water and no fruit trees or gardens where people can get food to eat. Do you have any deserts or wildernesses near you? How would you like to walk and walk and walk in the hot, dry, wilderness every day? This is what the children of Israel had to do in order to reach the land that God had promised them.

At first the Israelites had food they brought from Egypt, but now their food was gone and they began to complain to Moses. "Why did you bring us out to the wilderness to die?" they asked. "Take us back to Egypt, there is food there."

They had forgotten all the miracles God had done for them.

They didn't think to ask God for help.

Do you think God had forgotten them?



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Moses hadn't forgotten God's promises and he prayed to God for help. God answered him and said, "Go tell the people that tomorrow they will have bread, for I will rain down bread from heaven." This sounds very strange, doesn't it? Does this make you think of loaves of bread coming down like rain? Well, it wasn't like that, for the bread God sent was new and different. It looked like big, white, seeds and tasted sweet, probably like a cookie.

Does your mother sometimes cook something new that you've never had before? Perhaps you've gone to someone's home and they put something new and different on your plate. What do you say when you see something new to eat? Do you say, "What's that?" Well, the next morning when the children of Israel woke up, they saw the ground covered with this new and different bread, and this is exactly what they said, "What's that?" They named the strange food "Manna" because Manna means "what's that" in the Hebrew language that the Israelites spoke.

Now you know a Hebrew word for "what's that" - it's "Manna!"



God told Moses to warn the people to gather the manna each morning, but only to pick up what they needed for the meals that day. When the sun came up the manna melted away. If they gathered too much manna for their families, it would turn smelly and have worms in it! Yuck!

The next morning the Israelites saw the ground covered with white, seed-like, manna. They took jars and baskets out and gathered enough to last them for their meals that day. However, some people didn't believe God's words. They got greedy and wanted enough manna to last all week long, so they gathered large baskets full of manna. They hid it in their tents, but do you know what happened?

The next morning their tents smelled very stinky and there were ugly, crawly, worms creeping all over the extra baskets of manna. When God gives us rules to follow, we need to follow them, don't we?

Each morning there was new manna on the ground for the Israelites to gather. They could bake it like bread, or boil it like hot cereal or fry it in a pan. It was sweet and good tasting.

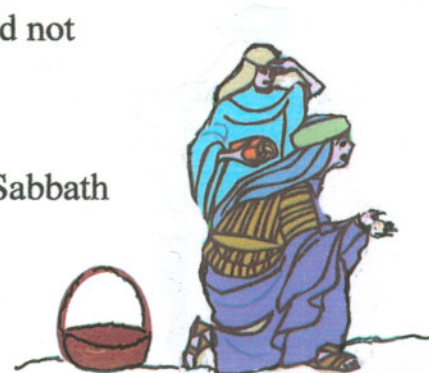


Then God told the children of Israel that one day of the week was to be special. This was called the "Sabbath" day. The Sabbath was like our Sunday; when families are together with no work or school to go to. It's a happy time to worship God and talk about his words and pray for his blessings. On the Sabbath the children of Israel were to do no work, so they couldn't gather manna that day. What do you think they did for food on the Sabbath? God made a new rule for the Sabbath day. On the day before the Sabbath the Israelites were to gather twice as much manna so there would be food left over for the Sabbath day. "Oh no," they thought, "the food would be stinky and have worms." But God told them that on this special day, the extra food would be good and would not have worms.

Do you think all the Israelites believed God's words?

No, some of them didn't believe God, so on the day before the Sabbath they only gathered enough for that day.

Guess what? On the Sabbath morning there was no manna to be found. The people who didn't listen to God went hungry!



God took good care of his people, didn't he? Every day there was the special manna and on the Sabbath day those who listened to God had enough food for the Sabbath as well. Then one evening God gave the Israelites a special treat. Well God gave the children of Israel some special food that tasted like chicken. Do you like to eat chicken? God sent the Israelites some birds called quail into their camp. Hundreds of quail were blown into the camp by a strong wind and the Israelites were able to eat the quail for their meat that night. Whenever God's people need help they only need to pray to God and he will help them. Do you say prayers to God sometimes? God likes to hear from us; he likes us to thank him for the good things he does and when we need help God will answer our prayers.



Question page

1. What did the Israelites complain about after they left Egypt?
2. What did Moses do when the people complained?
3. Did God send the Israelites some food when Moses prayed to him?
4. What did the food look like?
5. When the Israelites saw the food did they say, "Oh Good" or say, "What's that?"
6. Is the Hebrew word for "what's that" called "Manna" or called "Moses"?
7. Was the manna sour or sweet?
8. What other kind of food did God send for the people to eat?
9. What does quail meat taste like, (a) chicken (b) beef (c) ham?
10. What happened when some gathered too much manna and kept it overnight?
11. If we have an extra good day or are happy about something God has given us (like a puppy or kitten or pretty flowers or a day fishing with dad), can we tell God thanks?
12. On the day before the Sabbath what did the children of Israel do that was different?
(a) washed clothes (b) made bows and arrows (c) Gathered manna for two days
13. Did the manna gathered for the Sabbath day have worms in it and smell bad?

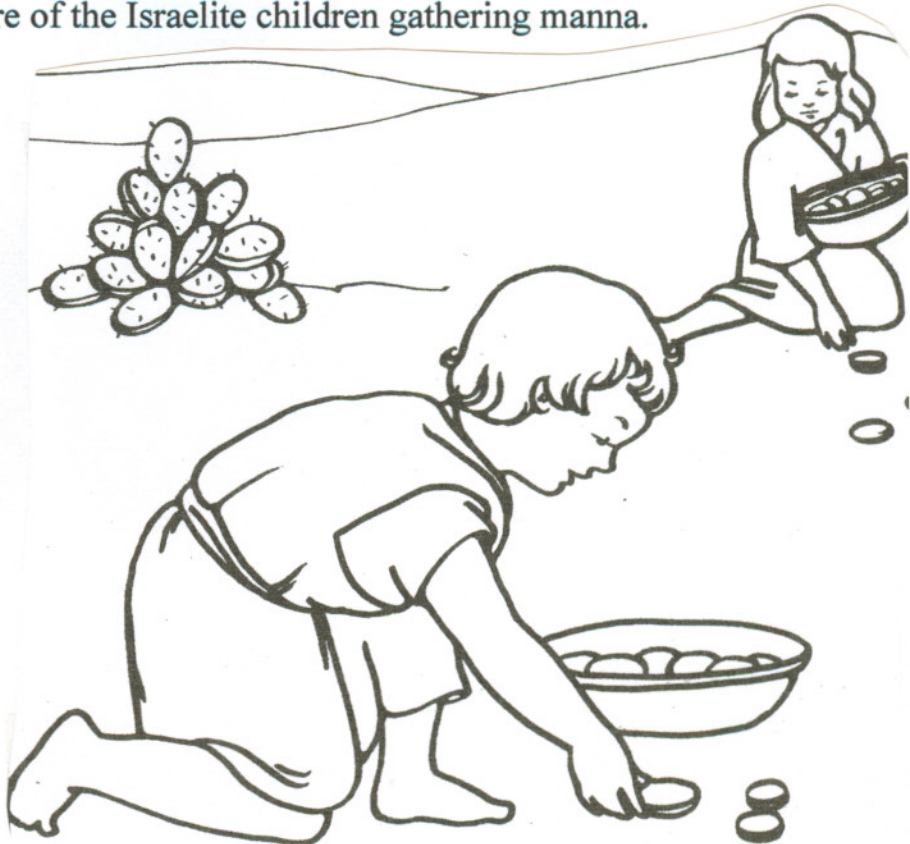
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Draw some smelly worms in the extra basket of manna that this boy hid in his tent. Draw the rest of the boy's body and color the picture.



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Color the picture of the Israelite children gathering manna.



This is a picture of a quail like the ones that were blown into the Israelite camp. Can you draw some more quail behind this one and color them brown and orange? The dotted lines will help you get started.



Circle the way the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness and put an X by the things they may have seen along the way.

