



THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

GOD PROVIDES WATER

Scripture to be studied: Exodus 15:1-27; 17:1-7

The aim of the lesson: To show that God knows the needs of His people and is able to provide for them.

What your students should know: Because God works according to His purpose, He may not provide everything immediately.

What your students should feel: An assurance of God's love and care when they are in need.

What your students should do: Tell God about their needs and trust Him to provide according to His will.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. People need water (Exodus 15:22-23).
2. Although the people complain, God provides water (Exodus 15:24-25).
3. The people ignore the power of God (Exodus 17:1-3).
4. The people need the help of God (Exodus 17:1-7).

The verse to be memorized:

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes. (Psalm 119:71)

THE LESSON

Did you ever go on a long hike when the sun was hot? Did you take water with you? What happened when the water was all gone? (Let the students discuss.)

1. PEOPLE NEED WATER

Exodus 15:22-23

Next to the air we breathe, water is the most important thing in life. The normal person may live for weeks without food. But he can live only a few days without water. God knows our need for water. He created us this way.

The Israelites, having left Egypt, turned their backs to the Red Sea. By His power, God had led them safely through the sea. They were amazed and talked happily. "We are free! FREE! No slave masters to shout at us or beat us. No soldiers to frighten us! We are going to our homeland. We are free!"

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Divine providence is God's continuous care over everything He created. His care includes a personal concern for each of His people. He knows all about us; even the hairs of our head are numbered (Matthew 10:30). He sees us (Psalm 33:13). He knows our needs (Matthew 6:32). He has the power to meet our needs (Philippians 4:19). He loves us (John 3:16). In all things God works for our spiritual good.

We must *not* blame the providence of God for the bad things we suffer. God did not create evil. Difficulties and suffering are the result of man's sinful disobedience. Only because of God's providence is there any good in the world.

Throughout the lesson, refer to the map on the back cover.

We are bringing together the two events of God's providing water as recorded in Exodus 16 and 17. Actually these were separated by the time spent in Elim and in the wilderness of Sin where God provided meat and manna, as taught in Exodus 16.

Suddenly the cloud of God began to move. "Look! The cloud is moving southward!" "Pick up your belongings." "We're on our way!" Everyone shouted at once.

Moses and Aaron walked ahead of the great crowd. Could they have said something like this?

Moses began, "Pharaoh tried to destroy our people. He thought he could defeat us. Instead, God multiplied our numbers. Now, here we are, more than two million people!"

Aaron asked, "How do you suppose we will ever have enough food and water for everyone? It will take many days to get to Canaan."

"I wish I could answer that question, Aaron," Moses replied. "I lived in this wilderness for 40 years. There really is little here to eat or drink. But God knows what He's doing. We must trust Him. He will meet our needs somehow. I wonder why the cloud of God is directing us south. It would be much closer to go up along the north coast (Point out on map.)"