

Bread From Heaven

Exodus 16:4-35

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 6:33

"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Self-hardening clay or Sculpey.

Animal crackers or graham crackers.

White cornmeal, flour, yellow cornmeal, macaroni, or beans.

ATTENTION GRABBER

Kooky Creations

Use self-hardening clay or Sculpey to let the kids create something that they have never seen before! We are going to learn in our lesson today that if God chooses, He can make something brand new that no one has ever seen before in order to meet our needs. God did this for the children of Israel when they were hungry.

LESSON TIME!

Moses led the Israelites through the desert on a journey to the Promised Land. It was not easy to travel through a vast desert. Sadly, the people forgot the great miracles God had performed in delivering them from Egypt. They began to murmur and complain. They longed to return to Egypt and eat meat and bread like they had in Egypt. Not only did they forget God's miracles and fail to trust Him with their present situation, they forgot how painful were their years of servitude in Egypt. Their unbelief had blinded their eyes. May we trust God in hard times. **Let us not be guilty of murmuring and complaining.**

EXODUS 16:4-8

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

"And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt.

"And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your murmurings against the LORD. But what are we, that you murmur against us?"

Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your murmurings which you make against Him. And what are we? Your murmurings are not against us but against the LORD."

God had a special plan for the Israelites--that is why He called them out of Egypt. God intended to provide for their needs the whole time, but the Israelites lacked faith.

The Israelites needed to trust God to provide their daily needs. This should not have been difficult—they had seen God do greater miracles! However, they again let doubt and fear overcome them and murmuring was the result. Murmuring is complaining in a low tone or in private; when the Israelites complained against their circumstances, they were complaining against God. God had

brought them there and given them great promises; complaining revealed their doubt that God had led them into the desert and would certainly provide for them. **Let us not be guilty of murmuring and complaining.**

EXODUS 16:9-18

Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your murmurings.' "

Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

"I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.

And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

"This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' "

And the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.

So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.

To prove that He was with the Israelites and that He would care for them, God displayed His glory in a cloud in the wilderness. Then, God provided food for them miraculously. God caused quail to come in the evening to provide meat for them. In the morning, small pieces of bread-like food had formed on the ground.

They called the bread “manna” which means "what is it?" because no one knew what it was. God provided just enough every day for each person. No one had too much or too little.

God is patient and compassionate. His people were complaining about how God was not taking care of their needs; yet He miraculously provided for them. God’s provision of manna would continue for the Israelites for 40 years as they lived in the wilderness. God always provides our needs.

What’s That?

Make some pretend manna by crushing animal crackers or graham crackers to cornmeal size crumbs.

Give your students a taste in individual paper cups. Be sure to tell them that this is pretend manna. Talk about what the word "manna" means.

EXODUS 16:19-29

And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning."

Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' "

So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.

Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.

"Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none."

Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"

"See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

The Israelites were not to keep manna overnight or to gather it on the Sabbath. God promised to provide it fresh every day except for the sixth day. On the sixth day, He would provide double so they could save it and not need to gather on the Sabbath.

However, the people lacked faith--some tried to keep it overnight; some tried to gather on the Sabbath. God saw that the people did not keep His commandments. The Sabbath was to be holy; no work was to be done on this special day. God gives us His commandments to bless us and protect us. When we do not trust the Lord and obey, we miss out on the blessings He desires to bestow upon our lives. **Let us not be guilty of murmuring and complaining.**

EXODUS 16:30-35

So the people rested on the seventh day.

And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "

And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations."

As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

Omer Pile!

Bring two quart sized containers and some substance you have on hand such as white cornmeal, flour, yellow cornmeal, macaroni, beans, etc. Let the kids take turns measuring into the jar. Older kids could guess how many loaves of bread could be made out of it.

Explain that a quart is approximately the amount of an omer.

God knew that the Israelites had a tendency to forget His miracles, so He commanded Moses to keep an omer of manna so that future generations would have evidence of God's miracle. We, too, can so easily forget God's miracles of the past and fail to trust Him in our present difficult situation.

May we not, as the children of Israel did, forget God's past miracles and begin to murmur and complain about our present circumstances. Our God can rain bread from Heaven upon us if necessary. We can trust Him to provide our needs *daily!* Our trust should lead us to fully obey God, knowing His plans for us are good. Jeremiah 29:11 states: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." **Let us not be guilty of murmuring and complaining.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for His wonderful provision. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.