

27. Manna and Quail in the Wilderness

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

27. Manna and Quail in the Wilderness

- a. Tell children that in a wilderness there is no easy food, and they couldn't stop and plant gardens and grain.
- b. Right away the people complained.
- c. You might want to explain how the quails were caught. Apparently they migrated across the sea from Africa, and when they got to the wilderness they were very tired and flew low over the land, and were easily caught.
- d. Try to get them to picture what happened when they went out in the morning and saw the food lying all about on the ground. When they tasted it, it seemed like bread made with honey in it.
- e. There is a great example of being greedy—wanting too much. You might point out what happens if we get too greedy and eat more candy and things that are not good for us—it doesn't make us feel good after all. Inside our stomach it gets to be bad.
- f. But it's amazing that on the seventh day the manna didn't breed worms.
- g. Finally, emphasize how long the manna lasted—40 years, until they could plant food in the land of Canaan.



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The Lord Gives the Children of Israel Food

Moses led the Israelites to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. They camped there by the waters. Then Moses led them from Elim into the wilderness of Sin. And there was no food in the wilderness and the children of Israel complained to Moses and Aaron and said, “Why did you not leave us in Egypt where we had plenty of food to eat? You have brought us into the wilderness to kill us with hunger.”

The Lord said to Moses, “I will rain bread from heaven and the people shall go out and gather it every day that I may see who will obey My word. Say to them that I have heard their complaining. Speak to them, and say to them that at evening time you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread.”

And it came to pass, that at evening time the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay around about the camp. And when the dew was gone, there upon the ground lay small flat round things, as tiny as frost on the ground. When the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, “What is it?” And Moses said to them, “This is for bread which the Lord has given you to eat. And the Lord has commanded, “Gather it everyone according to how much you can eat and to the number of people in your family. Take no more than you need for one day, except on the sixth day when you shall gather twice as much as you need so there will be food for the Sabbath day.”

So the children of Israel gathered food, some more, some less. But some of them did not listen to Moses and took more than they needed. And in the morning the leftovers were filled with worms and smelled bad and Moses was angry with those people.

And on the seventh day there was no food, but the people had gathered twice as much on the day before so that they could eat on the Sabbath day, and so the people rested on the seventh day.

The manna was like small white seeds and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. And the children of Israel ate manna for forty years in the wilderness until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

