



Pillar of Cloud & Fire

Level B

Ages 7-10

Exodus 25:1-8; 35:10,21; 40:1-38 - selections

Series Theme: The Lord leads and provides for us, and we can choose to follow Him.

Lesson Focus: We can trust that the Lord is always leading and protecting us.

Reading Summary: The children of Israel followed the pillar of fire and cloud from the time they left Egypt. While the children of Israel were at Mount Sinai the Lord gave Moses directions for making a house of worship that could go with them on their journeys. It was called the tabernacle. It was made from precious metals, linens, skins, wood, oil and spices that people brought as offerings. People skillfully followed the Lord’s directions to make the tabernacle and its furnishings. They made an ark to hold the Ten Commandments, a table of showbread, a lampstand, an altar of incense, an altar of burnt offering, a laver, hangings for the tabernacle, and garments for the priests. They set everything up as the Lord had commanded. When the work was finished the pillar of cloud and fire covered the tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. When the pillar stayed over the tabernacle the people stayed where they were. But when the pillar was taken up, the children of Israel moved onwards in their journey, following the pillar.

Lesson 6		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Activity	Follow the Pillar directions p. 2 <i>Pillar of Cloud and Fire</i> p. 5	
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above; <i>Guiding Pillar Readings</i> p. 6 discussion guide p. 2	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make make edible pillars of cloud and fire to remember how the Lord led the children of Israel	Edible Pillars of Cloud and Fire directions p. 3	large pretzel rods (<i>note: gluten free rods may be available</i>); frosting; mini-marshmallows or popcorn; fruit leather, red licorice “shoe laces”, or other red candy; paper plates; plastic wrap; table cover; hand wipes if sink for washing hands is not available
	Make create a model of the ark of the testimony that housed the Ten Commandments in the tabernacle of Israel	Ark of the Testimony directions pp. 3-4 <i>Pictures of the Ark</i> p. 8 <i>Ark of the Testimony Templates</i> pp. 9-10 <i>Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions</i> pp. 11-12	stiff yellow paper for printing, scissors, tape, single hole punch, pens, wooden skewers, garden pruning shears to cut skewers to size
	Coloring Picture	The Pillar of Cloud p. 13	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 14	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Follow the Pillar

Supplies needed: picture of the *Pillar of Cloud and Fire* (p. 5), folded in half to show either the cloud or fire.

This activity is based on the game “Red Light, Green Light”. Line all students up on one side of the classroom. The goal is to get each child across the classroom.

When the teacher holds *Pillar of Cloud and Fire* (as if it is settled over the tabernacle), the children stand still. When the teacher lifts the pillar in the air, the children can move forward. (*Note:* to slow down the activity indoors, tell the children to take “baby steps” by putting one foot in front of the other with the feet touching each other.)

When all children have crossed the room, have them sit for the next activity.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Selections from 25:1-8; 35:10,21; 40:1-38 on p. 6. See teaching pictures on pp. 7 and 8.

The Lord led the children of Israel out of Egypt. He showed them where to go by means of a pillar of fire and cloud. The pillar led them to Mount Sinai. What happened there? Moses went up the mountain, and the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments.

After the Lord gave the commandments, He told Moses to build a house of worship, called the tabernacle. Since the children of Israel were traveling and needed to carry it with them it was a special tent that could be set up and taken down. It had a wood frame that was covered with beautiful fabrics and animal skins (see picture on p. 8). Do you have something that is special to you or your family? Where do you keep it? It is important to protect things that are special.

The Lord told Moses to make a special place to keep the Ten Commandments. It was a beautiful gold box, or ark made of special wood covered with gold. Its lid, which was called the mercy seat, was made of pure gold and had two golden cherubim on top. These cherubim were angels with large wings that stretched over the top of the ark like a kind of protection.

The ark was put in a special room inside the tabernacle called the Holy of Holies. This place was so holy that only Moses and Aaron could go inside. The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron from between the cherubim.

When we have an important decision to make, how might the Ten Commandments help us?

What came down and covered the tabernacle? The pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

Once the Ten Commandments were in the tabernacle, the pillar settled over the tabernacle where it could be seen all day and all night. It continued to guide the children of Israel until they got to Canaan.

What did the children of Israel do when the cloud lifted? Moved forward on their journey.

What did they do when the cloud stayed over the tabernacle? Stayed where they were.

The pillar of cloud and fire and protected the children of Israel all the time. The Writings for the New Church tell us that the pillar was the Lord with a group or “choir” of angels (*Arcana Coelestia* 8195). It is a picture of the Lord leading us through the Word. He is within the Word, leading us both when we can see and trust Him clearly (day) and when we are discouraged (night). The Lord talks to us in His Word as He talked to Moses and Aaron from the mercy seat.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Edible Pillars of Cloud and Fire

The pillar of fire and cloud protected the children of Israel throughout their journey. Help children remember that the Lord protects us all the time by making two edible pillars that are fun to eat! Decide ahead of time whether the children will eat the pillars in class or take them home to eat later.



1. We are going to make two pillars—a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. Since they will be edible, we will start by washing our hands. Once hands are washed and thoroughly dried, give each child 2 pretzel rods.
2. To make the pillar of cloud, dip one rod into the frosting, or coat it with frosting using a knife or spoon.
3. Cover the frosting with popcorn or mini-marshmallows. Put on a plate to set. If the frosting is runny, you may need to put it in a refrigerator to set.
4. If you have fruit leather, start the pillar of fire by making “flames”. Cut the fruit leather into flame-shaped pieces. *Hint:* If the candy is very sticky, put plastic bags over the children’s hands to make this easier.
5. Cover the second rod with frosting, and then stick the flames on or stick on the other kinds of red candy.
6. Put the pillar of fire on the plate with the pillar of cloud. Enjoy eating in class or cover with plastic wrap to take home.
7. Review the fact that the children of Israel followed the pillar of cloud during the daytime, and the pillar of fire at night.

Materials Needed

2 large pretzel rods for each child (*note:* gluten free rods may be available if needed); frosting; mini marshmallows or popcorn; fruit leather, red licorice “shoe laces”, or other red candy; paper plate, plastic wrap; table cover; hand wipes if sink is not available

Prepare in Advance

Purchase supplies. Cover the table. Lay out supplies, dividing portions if necessary. If using fat-based frosting, make sure it is room temperature for easy use.

New Church Concept Fire and Cloud

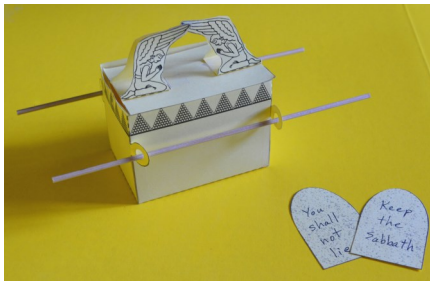
The “cloud appearing by day, and the fire by night,” represented the Lord’s protection of heaven and the church. For “the day when there was the cloud” signifies Divine truth in light, and the “night” signifies Divine truth in shade. *Apocalypse Explained* 504.10

Choice

Ark of the Testimony

The Ark of the Testimony was a special box that the Lord commanded Moses to make to hold the Ten Commandments.

The box was made of wood and covered with gold. The lid, which is called the mercy seat, was made of pure gold. It was here, between the two cherubim, that Moses spoke with the Lord. Students will create models of the ark.

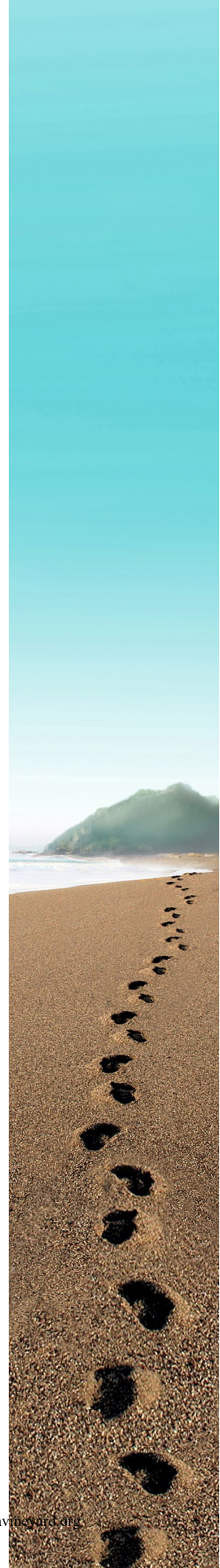


Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Ark of the Testimony Templates* pp. 9-10 printed on stiff yellow paper, 2 wooden skewers, tape, pen, single hole punches to share, copies of *Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions* pp. 11-12 to share *optional:* markers or crayons

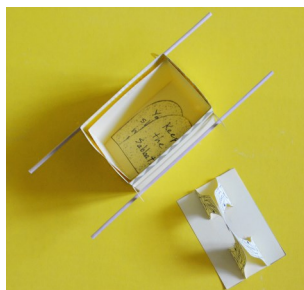
Prepare in Advance

See next page.



Ark of the Testimony *continued*

1. Show pictures of the ark (p. 8) and discuss.
2. Hand out copies of *Ark of the Testimony Templates* (pp. 9-10), wooden skewers trimmed to 8" (20cm), and copies of *Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions* (pp. 11-12). Help students to follow the step-by-step directions.
3. After the models have been assembled, read the short version of the Ten Commandments below aloud slowly. Ask each child to choose two commandments that are particularly important to him or her right now. You might ask for volunteers to say which ones they chose and why.
4. Remind children that all the commandments are important and they all go together, but we may focus on different ones at different times in our lives as we work to keep them.
5. Have children write their chosen commandments on their two tables of stone and place them inside their ark.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. You shall have no other gods. | 7. You shall not steal. |
| 2. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain. | 8. You shall not bear false witness (lie). |
| 3. Remember the Sabbath. | 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. |
| 4. Honor your father and mother. | 10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's. |
| 5. You shall not murder. | |
| 6. You shall not commit adultery. | |

Prepare in Advance

Copy *Ark of the Testimony Templates* pp. 9-10 on stiff yellow paper. Make copies of *Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions* pp 11-12. Cut wooden skewers to 8" (20cm) length. Make a sample ark so you can help students with the directions.

New Church Concept Ark of the Testimony

The ark was most holy because it represented the Lord's Divine Human in respect of the Divine Law. Since the ark represented something so holy, the mercy seat with the cherubim was placed over the ark, and next to it were the lampstand and the table of gold, both of which were signs of the Divine Love. *Arcana Coelestia* 6723.4

Materials Needed

copies of *The Pillar of Cloud* p. 13; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Choice

Coloring Picture: The Pillar of Cloud

Hand out copies of *The Pillar of Cloud* (p. 13) for children to color.

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Read the following verse. Invite the children to repeat it after you, one phrase at a time. Try saying it all together. When the children seem comfortable, encourage them to try saying it on their own.

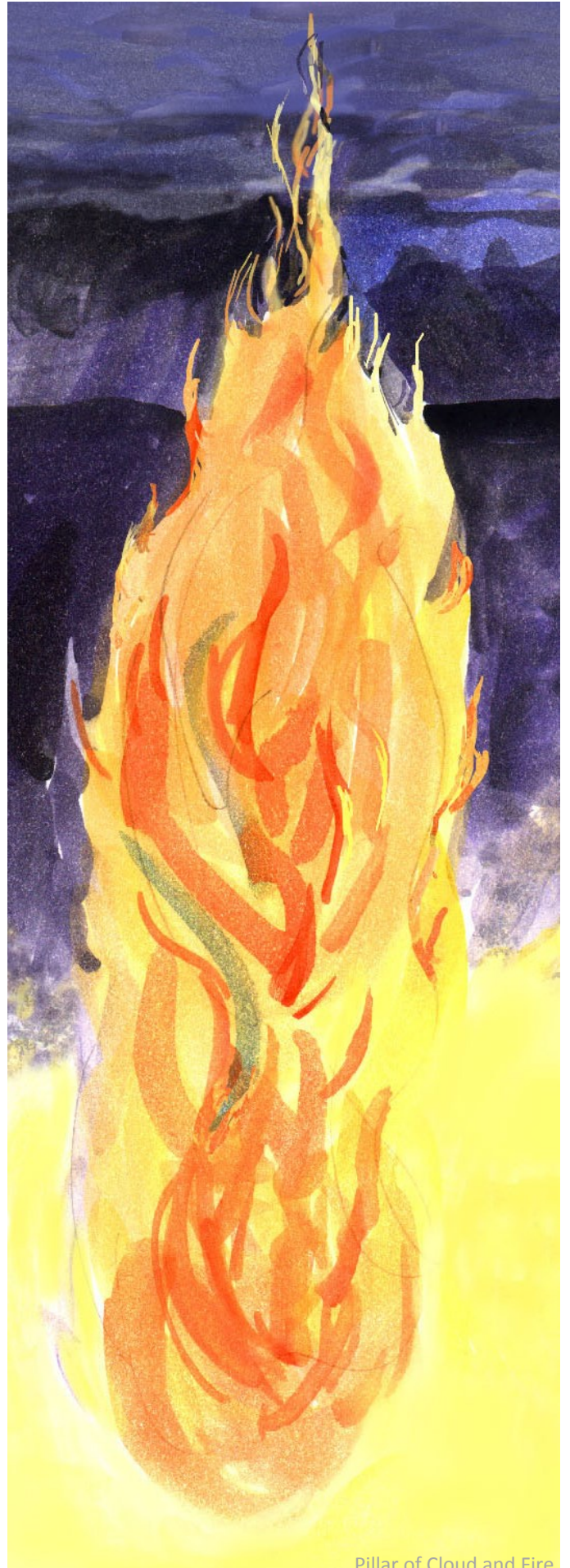
**In the daytime He led them with the cloud,
and all the night with a flame of fire.**

Psalm 78:14

Closing

The Lord gave the children of Israel a pillar of cloud and fire to lead them on their journey. And He gives us His Word to guide us on our own journey. When we do what the Lord teaches in His Word, we are letting Him lead us to heaven.

Give a *Parent Note* (p. 14) to children as they leave.



Pillar of Cloud and Fire

Guiding Pillar Readings

Exodus 25:1-2,8; 35:10,21; 40:1-11,16-17,34-38 - *selections*

To shorten readings, read only the bold text.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, that they may bring Me an offering.... And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.... All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded.”

Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord’s offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.

You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.

Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.

“And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy. And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.”

So Moses did all that the Lord had commanded him.

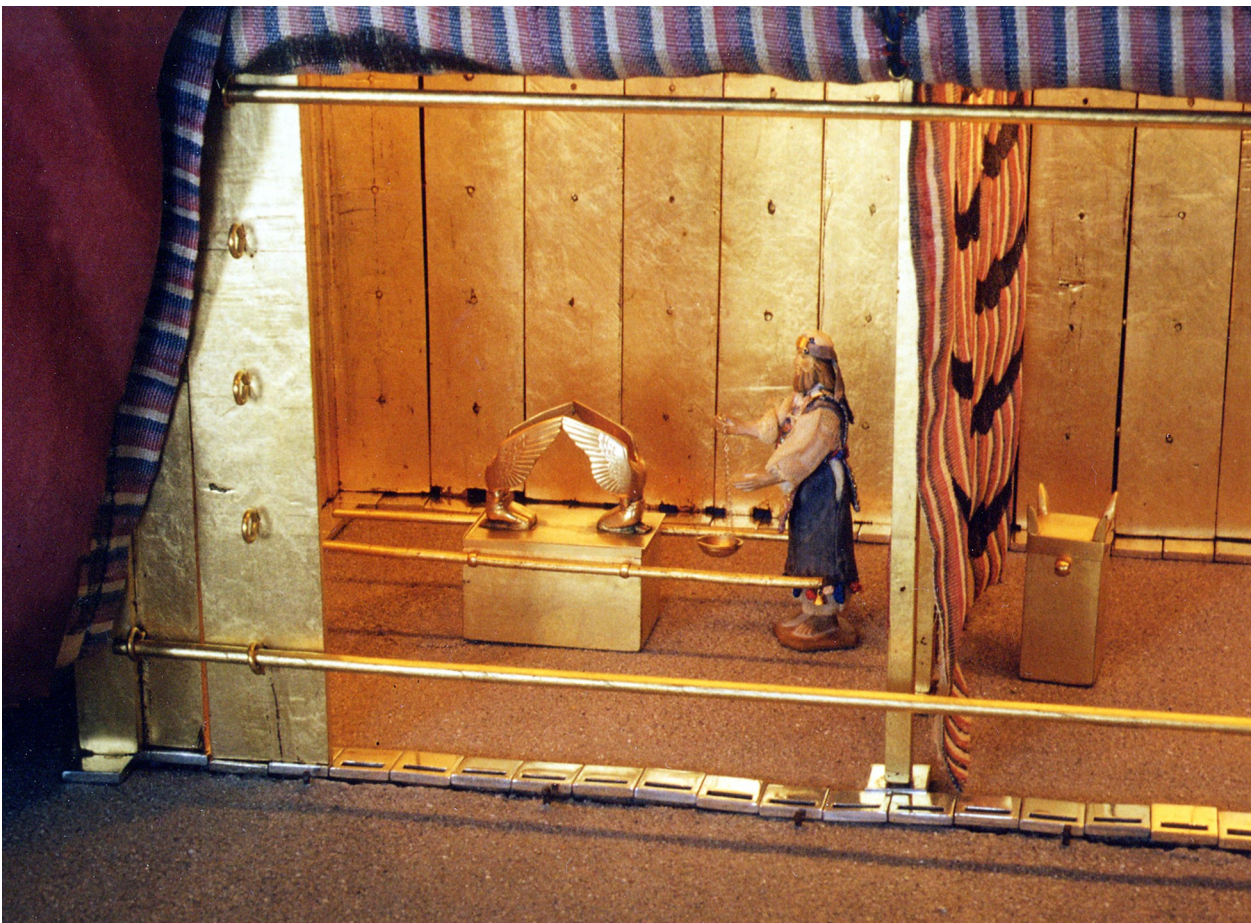
And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

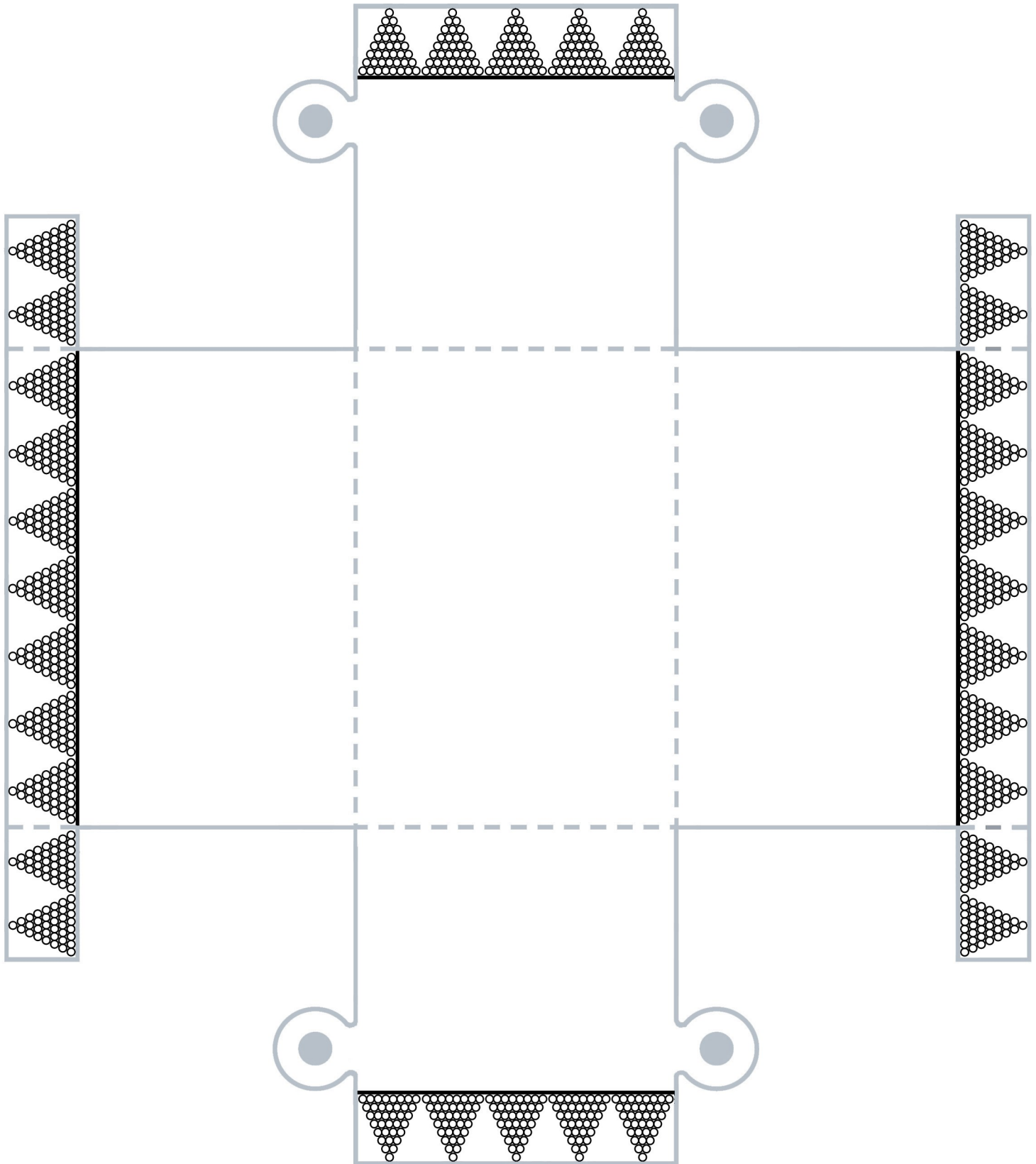


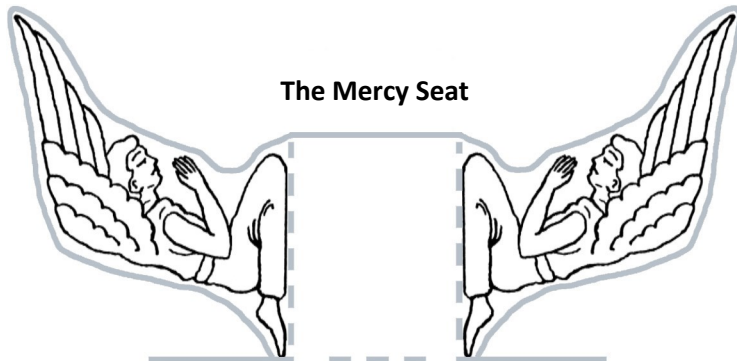
Pictures of the Ark

Photos of Glencairn Museum's model of the Tabernacle. (See www.glencairnmuseum.org.)

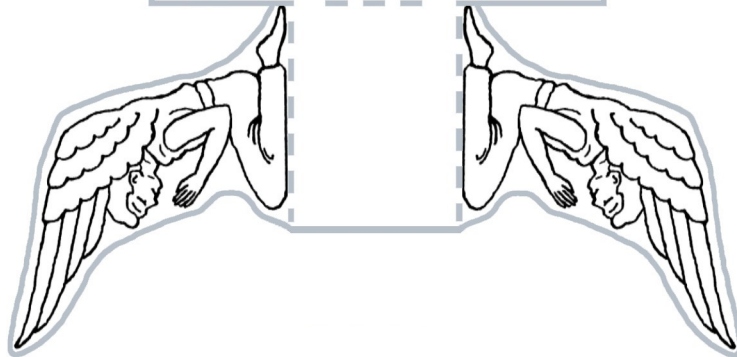


The Ark of the Testimony

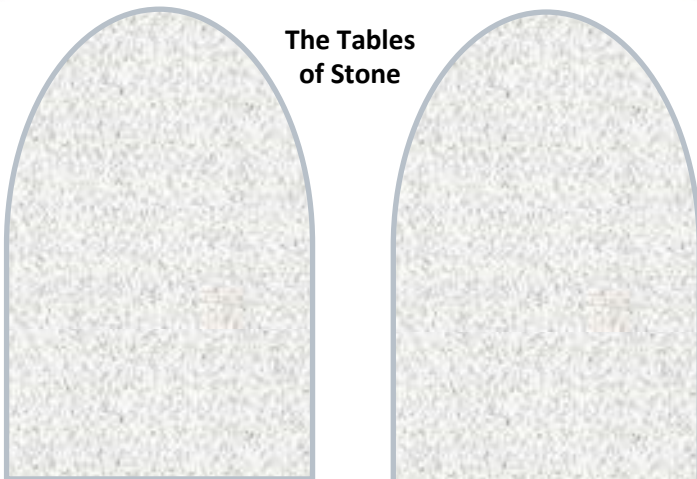




The Mercy Seat



The Tables of Stone

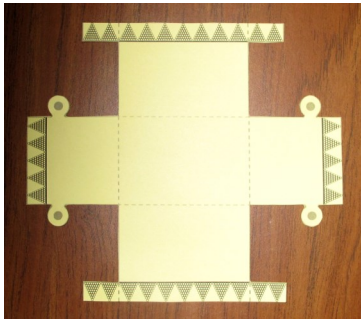


Reinforcement Strip for the Ark

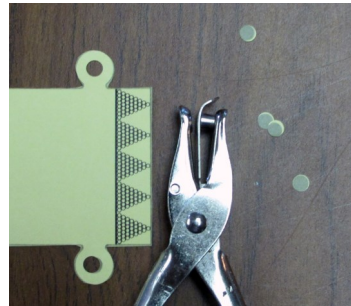
A vertical strip on the right side of the page, bounded by solid lines on the left and right, and featuring four horizontal dashed lines for reinforcement.

Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions

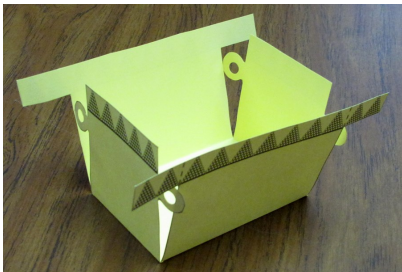
1. Cut out the *Ark of the Testimony* on the solid gray lines.



2. With a single hole punch, punch out the gray circles in the centers of the four rings.



3. Fold ark along the four center dashed gray lines to make a box.



4. Fold the tabs over the outside of the short ends of the box and tape them flat.



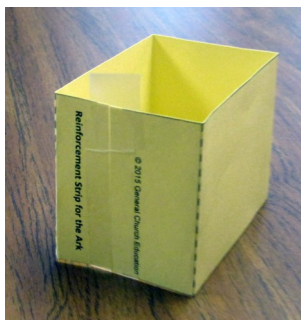
5. Tape the four corners of the box together in the area under the rings.



6. Cut out the *Reinforcement Strip for the Ark* on the solid lines. **Cut to the edge of the page.** Do not trim the ends off. Fold it into a rectangle on the dashed lines so the writing shows on the *outside* of the box.



7. Tape the ends of the strip together. **Do not overlap the ends.**

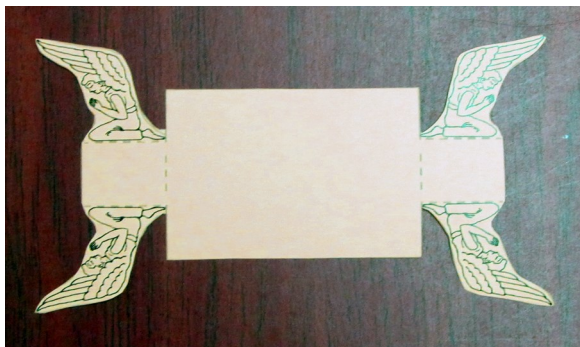


8. Put the *Reinforcement Strip* inside the ark. It will hold up the mercy seat. No writing should show on the inside of the ark.

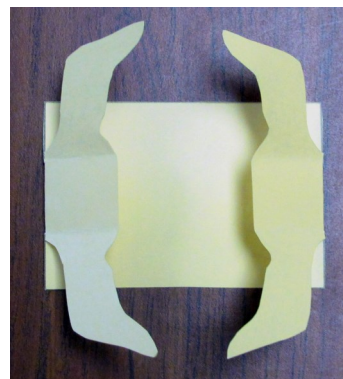


Ark of the Testimony Assembly Directions, *continued*

9. Cut out *The Mercy Seat* along the solid gray lines.



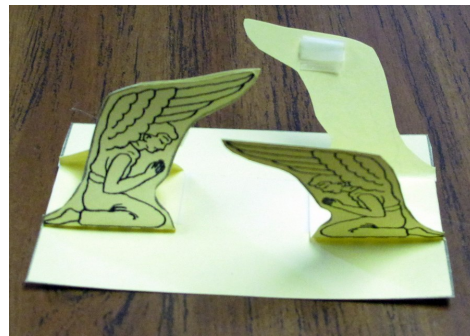
10. Fold the two sides of the cherubim and the tabs in between them over the lid. The cherubim will face downwards.



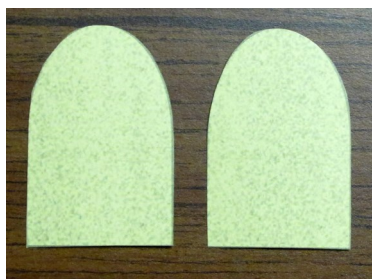
11. Fold the sides of the cherubim up. You may need to clip the cherubim's feet so they bend all the way down.



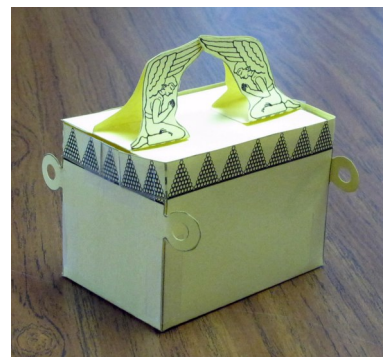
12. Tape the ends of the tabs down flat on the lid (between the cherubim). Tape the tips of the wings together.



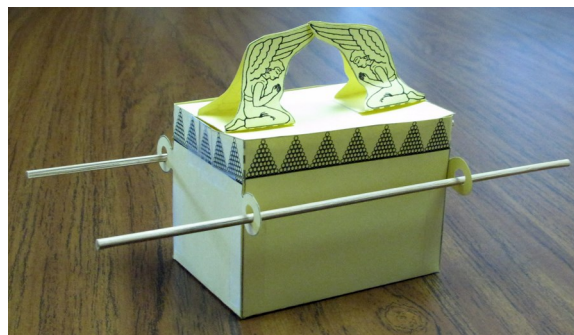
13. Cut out the *Tables of Stone*.

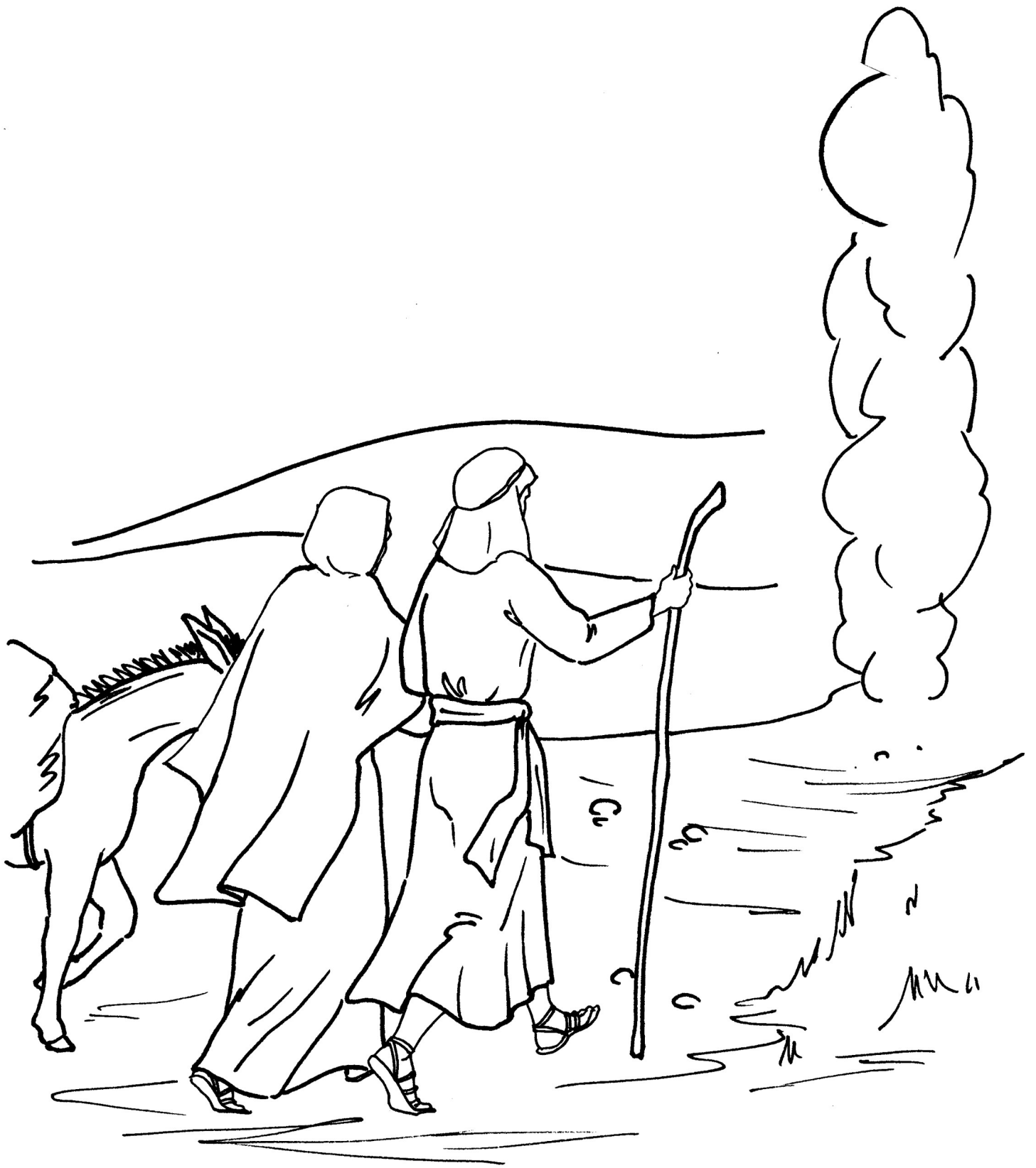


14. Put the *Tables of Stone* inside the ark and place the *Mercy Seat* on top of it.



15. Insert wooden skewers cut to 8" (20cm) through the holes for carrying the ark. (See picture at right.)





The Pillar of Cloud

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

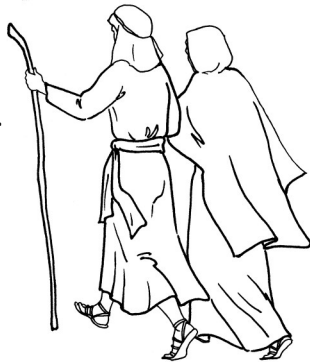
Dear Parents,

Today's lesson concludes the series on the Lord leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. We learned that the Lord gave them a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night to protect them on their journey through the wilderness. He guides and protects us with the love (fire) and wisdom (cloud) in His Word. When we follow Him, He will lead us to heaven.

Please help your child learn the following Memory Verse this week.

Memory Verse

In the daytime He led them with the cloud, and all the night with a flame of fire. (Psalm 78:14)



PARENT NOTE

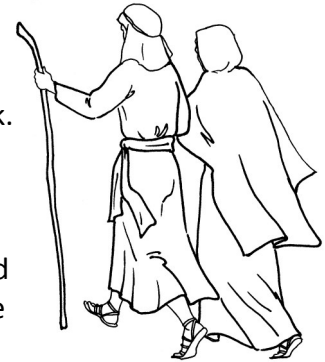
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