

Desert Wanderings

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1

Israelites Wander the Desert

After the Israelites left the Red Sea, they started on their journey to the Promised land of Canaan, the land that God had given to Abraham all those centuries before, the land he promised Abraham’s descendants- the children of Israel.

The Israelites had been excited when they left Egypt. They had been even more excited when God parted the Red Sea and saved them from Pharaoh’s army. But it wasn’t long before they were grumbling and complaining throughout their journey.

- Their journey took them through a hot, dry desert where there wasn’t very much food and water. It wasn’t long before they were grumbling and complaining. “We’re starving!” they whined. “We might have been slaves in Egypt, but at least we had lots of food! Now we’ll probably die from hunger.” God told Moses, “I’ve heard my people complaining to you. So I’ll send the Israelites special food from heaven.” God provided water, quail and manna-thin sweet flakes-special food straight from God.
- The journey continued and over time the Israelites complained about the great gifts they had been given. “We hate this worthless food,” they said. “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” They wished over and over for the hard times to end, they wished they’d never left Egypt and questioned God’s promise.
- They were close to the land of Canaan. Moses sent one man from each of the twelve tribes to spy on the land. The men were gone for 40 days and returned with frightening news. People were already living there and seemed very strong and powerful. Most believed they would be devoured by the people. The children of Israel questioned why had they come all this way and suffer so much only to be killed before they could even reach the Promised land? Confident in God, two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb with Moses said to move on to the land. Most of the people argued with them. They were frightened. This was the land God had promised them? The children of Israel wanted to go back to Egypt. They refused to enter into the Promised land.

Even though God provided for his people throughout the journey, the Israelites continued to complain and show a lack of faith. Due to their unfaithfulness, God said they would wander the desert for 40 years, one year for every day the spies spent in Canaan. Because of their unbelief, no adults except Caleb and Joshua, would ever set foot in the Promised land. There would be a new generation that would settle there, the land of milk and honey.

Living our Faith Together

Family Fun: Choose an activity that focuses on Moses and the people in the desert.

Manna & Quail
Coloring Sheet
[-Click Here](#)

Paper Plate Quail Craft
[-Click Here](#)
[-Part 1](#)
[-Part 2](#)

Manna from Heaven
Maze
[-Click Here](#)

Word Search
[-Click Here](#)

"Catch the Quail"
Balloon Game
[-Click Here](#)



Israelites Wander the Desert

Tan: the color of the desert



You can see that God does not like it when people grumble or complain.

He wants us to be happy, and content. But the only way we can be truly happy and content is to put Him first. Not our selfish desires or material treasures. These things cannot give us happiness. God truly loves us, and does not want to see us sad. But we must also trust in Him, even during the tough times.

Questions

Why did the Israelites want to go back to Egypt?

How did God show the Israelites that He loved them while in the desert?

What did God provide for the Israelites to eat?

What should the Israelites do instead of grumbling?

What is something you can trust God about today?

What do you need? Do you have food, clothing, shelter, and safety? God has seen that your needs are taken care of through people in your life. Who helps take care of your needs? How can we show our appreciation?

Family Prayer

Dear Father,

Everything is under Your control and You are so wonderful. You only want what is best for me. Lord, help me to not be jealous of others, and not grumble or be unhappy about what I don't have. Instead, let me be content and satisfied with what I do have.
Amen

Ask Fr. Sean

After reading Israelites Wander the Desert,
do you have a question to ask Fr. Sean?

Email Fr. Sean at dbq005@dbqarch.org