

THE MANNA



Passages to Study: **Exodus 16:1-36.**

Read with the class: **Exodus 16:11-21.**

Texts for memorization:

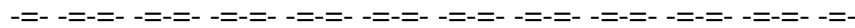
Younger: **John 6:35. "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to Me shall never hunger."**

Older **John 6:35.**

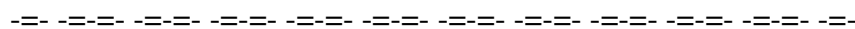


OBJECTIVES:

1. Mention that the bitter past has come to an end and is replaced by the sweetness of the present through confidence in God.
2. Indicate that God provides food for the hungry and maintains them through his infinite resources.
3. Describe the special characteristics of the manna and how they suggest truths about the Lord Jesus.
4. The Lord Jesus is spiritual food for us, which we need to take in daily.
5. Warn against selfishness and showing disregard of others.
6. Show that the provision of the manna was permanent while in the desert, as is the blessing of God.



Note: We include Scene 1 as an option based on Ex. 15:22-27. An event previous to the provision of the manna, it was the first lesson to be learned by the Israelites in the desert at Mara.



SCENE No. 1. (Optional.) Israel has reached a desert oasis called Mara.

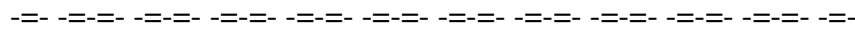
DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON:

- In their desert journey, the Israelites need water or they will die.
- Apl.** In the life of every person, there is need for refreshment such as water gives, to carry us through our earthly journey.
- There are over a million people and all, without exception, are thirsty.
- Mara means bitter. Mara was in the route laid out by God. They are not outside His will.
- Although they had to face a problem, they were still the redeemed of God.
- Cns.** The world offers it sources, but only that which has its origins in God can completely satisfy the thirsty.
- What looked to be good water turned out to be bitter, or brackish.
- Apl.** There are things in life which seem to offer satisfaction for man's thirst, but like the water seen by the Israelites, they turn out to be bitter and unpleasant, when we hoped for something sweet and refreshing.
- Sug.** With the older students, it would be proper to mention experiences which turn bitter, such as quick romances, looking for satisfaction in carnal pleasure, pornographic literature, etc., which come from the bitter water of the world.
- The people complain and forget God, whereas Moses turns to Him.
- The people should have learned to turn to the Lord, inquiring what He wanted to show them in this trial, instead of murmuring. See Ex. 15:25-26.
- The Israelites seem to have forgotten the great deliverance God gave them at the Red Sea.
- Despite the hard heartedness of this ungrateful people, Moses turns to the Lord for help.
- It was necessary to introduce something into the waters that would make them sweet.
- The tree cut off at it's roots (and therefore dead) represents what was once life in Egypt, but which is now over.
- They are at the beginning of a new life.
- The water that became sweet represents the new life as a source of satisfaction and pleasure. The Israelites are to find this from now on in God.

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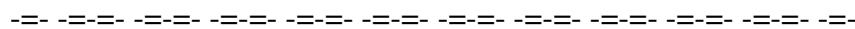
- The word SWEET means: Pleasant to taste.
- Like Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, salvation too is an experience of deliverance, (Col.1:13) and means a permanent transfer from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God’s dear Son.
- Apl.** When the Christian takes his place with Christ (Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:10), he/she better understands that unhappy and bitter experiences are permitted by God to teach us lessons.
- For the Israelites, the lesson was that the bitter past is finished and the new life will be sweet as it is lived in fellowship with God.
- Cns.** The act of throwing the dead tree into the bitter waters symbolizes the end of a sad experience. The miracle of the water made sweet by the power of God symbolizes the joy to be experienced in the new life.
- These experiences are sweetened when we realize that the Lord wants to make Himself known to us through them, and show us His power to solve the problem.
- Although it is a difficult concept for children, try to show them that the things that happen in life do not occur unless God permits them, and when they are correctly understood, sweetness is found in them.



SCENE No. 2. An Israelite camp in the desert.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON:

- Besides the water needed for drinking, the people needed bread to eat.
- The Israelites would have the meat of their animals, but other food was also necessary.
- God turned the needs of the people into an opportunity to show His power to provide for them miraculously.
- Instead of asking humbly and politely, the people complain and murmur against the servants of God.
- The short memory of the Israelites causes them forget the miracles of the past and to show a lack of confidence with regard to the future, while criticizing Jehovah for what He was doing with them.
- Sug.** It is wise to point out to the students how quickly we fixate on the problems of the moment while forgetting the care God has had toward us in the past.
- Apl.** Mention that many children are disrespectful of their parents when things happen in the home and the children attribute unworthy motives to the parents. This is sin.
- Apl.** Comment on the ways students ask older people for favors.
- Moses turns to God and is instructed as to what to do.



SCENE No. 3. Desert surrounding the Israelite camp, where manna is being gathered for every family.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON:

- The word for Manna in Hebrew is “Man-Hu” which means “What is it?”
- The manna is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Sug.** Make a list with large letters with the following points so the children can follow the teaching.
 - a. It came from heaven.
 - b. It was white.
 - c. It was round.
 - d. It was small.
 - e. It satisfied the needs of everyone.
 - f. It was a constant provision.
 - g. It had to be gathered in order to be of benefit.

