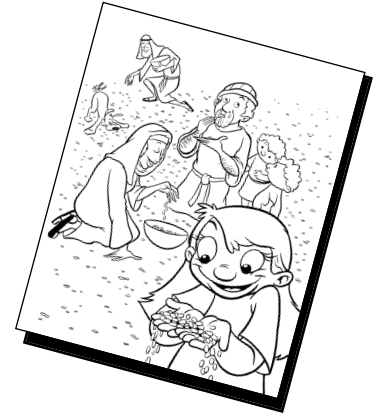




God Preserves Israel

Exodus 15:22–17:7



LESSON GOAL

Students will confess their need for God's mercy and thank Him for all He gives.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- List the three ways God tested Israel.
- Describe Israel's grumbling and complaining responses to Moses and God.
- Explain how God miraculously provided food and water in the wilderness.
- Explain what God was teaching Israel when He tested them.

KEY VERSE

"If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians" (Exodus 15:26).

APPLICATION

- Confess grumbling and complaining attitudes.
- Confess your need for God's mercy through Jesus Christ.
- Trust God, who is faithful to His Word.

NEXT WEEK

God Prepares Israel for the Covenant
Read Exodus 19.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The Israelites had no reason to doubt God’s goodness. He had chosen them to be His people. He had shown them how powerful He was through the sending of the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea. God had demonstrated through strong action that He cared for His people and that He had the ability to continue to care for them. But Israel did not yet trust God. Exodus records three stops along the journey to Mount Sinai; during each of these stops, both Israel and God revealed their character. Israel demonstrated that they were hardhearted and unwilling to trust or obey God; God demonstrated that He was gracious, compassionate, and faithful to His Word.

Testing at Marah

The joy of the Egyptian defeat at the Red Sea had begun to wear off. Although Israel originally responded with praises and singing, their joy turned to complaint only three days away from the sea. After three days in the Wilderness of Shur, located east of Egypt in the northwest part of the Sinai Peninsula, Israel arrived at Marah. The water was undrinkable there, perhaps brackish and salty. For obvious reasons, the people became worried and complained to Moses. When the people cried to Moses, God showed him a tree that, when cast into the water, made the water drinkable. There was nothing magical about the tree. With a clear sign, God demonstrated that He was the one who would provide them water.

God had tested His people to know what was in their hearts and to reveal whether they would keep His commandments (Deut. 8:2). He designed the Israelites’ coming to Marah to warn them about the unbelief in their hearts. At this time, He promised them, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians” (Ex. 15:26). God subsequently led them to Elim, which had an abundant water supply (15:27). God had graciously used this trial to show the people the hardness of their hearts. They had to obey Him. If they obeyed and trusted Him, He both promised and demonstrated that He would take care of them.

Testing in the Wilderness of Sin

Almost a month later, God allowed the people to hunger in order to test them again (Deut. 8:3). But instead of trusting God’s promise to preserve them if they obeyed, Israel complained against Moses. They did not trust God’s direction or His goodness. The Israelites began to wish that they were back in Egypt, where they “sat by the pots of meat and...ate bread to the full” (Ex. 16:3), no doubt an exaggeration for slaves! They pitifully said that they wished that God had killed them in Egypt rather than leaving them to face death by starvation in the wilderness. God’s promise and His past preservation meant little to the people. They ignored

Additional Reference Materials

Moses and the Gods of Egypt: Studies in Exodus
by John J. Davis

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

God's Word.

Although they had failed the test, God's grace had not run out. God heard the complaints they had made against Him (Ex. 16:8), but He did not act in judgment. Instead, His glory appeared in the cloud that led them (16:10). So that they would know that He was God, the Lord sent quail at evening, which "covered the camp" (16:13), and dew in the morning. When the dew evaporated, a "a small, round substance, as fine as frost on the ground" was left behind. The people asked "What is it?" from which the name "manna" came. The manna was "like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey" (16:31). God had brought food from the sky to feed His people.

God continued to test the people to see whether they would keep His commandments and laws. He told the people how to gather the manna and commanded them to not leave any for the next day. But the same people who did not trust God to take care of them ignored God's instruction when He did take care of them. Some of the people left the food for the next day, but "it bred worms and stank" (Ex. 16:20). Again, the Lord directed them concerning the manna. He told them that manna would not come on the Sabbath, and the people were commanded to gather twice as much on the day before the Sabbath. Once again, the people ignored God's Word; "Some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none" (16:27). The people still refused to keep God's laws. They stubbornly ignored the Word of the Lord.

Testing at Rephidim

Having led the people through the Wilderness of Sin, God then led them to Rephidim, located in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula, not far from Mount Sinai. The Lord again tested the people, leading them to a location without water. They were there "according to the commandment of the LORD" (Ex. 17:1). But God's direct leading in the pillar of cloud and fire, His providing water at Marah, and His daily giving of manna were not enough for stiff-necked Israel. They again refused to live by God's Word.

The people contended with Moses and tempted the Lord (Ex. 17:2). Moses called out to the Lord, eager to learn what to do with the Israelites, who were on the verge of stoning him. The Lord commanded Moses to take his rod and strike the rock. When Moses did so, water came out of the rock. Even though Israel had failed God's test and refused to trust His Word, God had mercy on the people and again provided for them. Even though God showed mercy, Moses recognized the danger of Israel's disobedience. Twice, he said that Israel tested, or tempted, God. As Israel refused to submit to God's testing of them, they in effect tested His patience. They asked, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (17:7), even while the pillar of fire was there before them. But God was gracious and patient with Israel. He continued to refrain from punishing, though Israel persisted in their disbelief and denial of His words.

Purpose of Testing

God tried Israel so they would have faith in Him. In Deuteronomy, Moses said to Israel, "He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD" (Deut. 8:3). If God continually gave Israel unlimited food and water, they would not have lived by His Word. They would not have known their need to trust God. God tried His people, allowing them to be hungry and thirsty, so that they would cling to His words. God was about to make His

covenant with the Israelites, and they needed to learn to cherish God's Word as the source of life.

Believers can learn from the Israelites' example. The Israelites were unwilling to live by God's Word. When they had a need, their hearts were shaken, and they imagined the worst. They ignored God's training, and in the days of trial, they ignored His Word. The Lord will refine His saints. He will allow them to have needs and have no apparent answer to their problems. The purpose is that believers learn not to live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

Our sustenance must be from God as He reveals Himself in His words. Praise God who is gracious, even when we ignore what His Word promises.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Why did God make it look as though the Israelites were lost in the wilderness?

- 1. So Pharaoh would think he could trap them and bring them back to Israel.*
- 2. So the people would learn to trust God.*
- 3. To show His great power to all the earth.*

Why were the Israelites angry and afraid?

They thought Pharaoh was going to kill them, and they did not trust God.

What did God do for Israel?

He parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could pass through. Then He destroyed the Egyptians who followed them.

What did the people do in response?

They believed God and praised Him for delivering them.



Bitter to Sweet

Materials: can of tonic water, a can of lemon-lime soda, clear plastic cups

Directions: Ask for one or several volunteers to come to the front of the class to do a taste test. Explain that the students may not like what they are about to taste. Show the students that the cups' contents look the same but are very different. Give the volunteers a cup with a small amount of tonic water; ask everyone to drink at the same time. This should elicit a "yuck" response. Then give them a cup with a small amount of lemon-lime soda and instruct them to taste. They should like this better. Explain that in today's lesson, they will learn how God made bitter water sweet and continually cared for the children of Israel.



Remembering God's Goodness

Divide students into groups. Each group of students will need a set of the "Remembering God's Goodness" cards, located at the back of this lesson. Copy the cards onto cardstock and cut them apart. See how fast each student in your group can arrange the cards in order. These cards represent the miracles God performed for His people before and during this morning's Bible lesson, showing God's power and sovereign control over all the events in the exodus. The Israelites kept forgetting how trustworthy God was in taking care of all their needs. They grumbled instead of trusting. The cards should be placed in the following order: (1) Moses in the basket, (2) Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses, (3) Burning bush, (4) Moses' rod turns into a snake, (5) Plague of frogs, (6) Plague of lice, (7) Blood on the door, (8) Passover dinner, (9) Moses parts the Red Sea, (10) The Egyptian armies flee.



1
2

Grumbling Puppet

Use a puppet to demonstrate how Israel complained while they were in the wilderness. The puppet can exaggerate the whiny complaints of the Israelites, and you can then let the students imitate. (They might laugh, but it will help them identify when they make those "noises" at home.) Then explain how they should have responded. Show the students the right way to speak and respond to trials. Have them imitate speaking with the right attitude.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of Exodus 15:22–17:7.

Introduction

Last week we learned how God powerfully brought the Israelites through the Red Sea. God had done what He had promised and rescued His people. Israel was well on the way to becoming God's special people. But before God entered into that special relationship with His people, Israel had to learn much about trusting God's word. God led Israel away from the Red Sea and into the wilderness in order to teach them to trust His word. We will see how God tested the faithfulness of His people with three tests. We will see how undeserving the Israelites were to receive God's care because they always complained. And we will see God's care for the people as He performed miracles to supply them with water and food.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What does it mean to grumble?

Answer: It means to complain or whine.

LOQ: Why do people grumble?

Answer: Sometimes people do not want to do what they are asked. Sometimes they think they should have better things than they already have. Sometimes they are mad because things are not going their way.

LOQ: Have you ever grumbled? When? Why?

Answer: *[Students should answer "yes." Perhaps they grumbled when a parent or teacher asked them to do something they really did not want to do. Ask them whether they were trusting God's Word or worrying when they were grumbling.]*

LOQ: How many days had passed since the Israelites left the Red Sea?

Answer: Three.

LOQ: Why did the Israelites complain in Exodus 15:22–24?

Answer: They did not have water. Emphasize how fickle the Israelites were; they stopped trusting God only three days after the Red Sea rescue.

LOQ: What miracle did God do to provide for the people?

Answer: He made the water drinkable by having Moses throw a tree into the water.

LOQ: What four things did God require from His people?

Answer: (1) Earnestly heed His voice. (2) Do what is right in His sight. (3) Listen to His commandments. (4) Keep His statutes.

LOQ: What did God promise if Israel obeyed?

Answer: God promised to protect and care for His people. God taught the Israelites that He required them to listen to and trust His word. God tested Israel to reveal to them that they needed to depend on His word. Complaining is not dependence.

LOQ: Why did the Israelites complain again in Exodus 16:1–3?

Answer: They did not have food. They wanted food like they had had in Egypt. They thought they were going to die.

LOQ: Do you think God brought the people out of Egypt so that they would die from hunger and thirst in the wilderness?

Answer: Of course not. This shows how ridiculously the Israelites were behaving.

LOQ: Why do you think God did not give Israel food?

Answer: So they would learn to trust God and keep His commandments.

LOQ: What food did God give them in the morning? At night? What was the bread like?

Answer: God gave them manna in the morning and quail at night. The manna tasted like wafers made with honey.

LOQ: After God's wonderful provision, did the people listen to His word? How did they disobey? Did they deserve God's provision? Do you think the people were done complaining?

Answer: No; the people still disobeyed. They kept the manna too long, and it bred worms (16:20), or they did not gather twice as much on the Sabbath and did not have enough (16:27). The people were hardhearted and stiff-necked. They were stubborn and would not listen to God's instructions and obey His word. Once again, the people were going to complain.

LOQ: Why did the people grumble this time?

Answer: They still did not trust God. Once again, they accused Moses of bringing them into the desert to kill them. God's word meant nothing to them.

LOQ: How did God miraculously provide for His people this time?

Answer: God had Moses strike the rock with his staff. Water came out of the rock. Moses, unlike the Israelites, obeyed God and kept God's word.

LOQ: What sins had Israel committed?

Answer: The Israelites did not trust God. They complained when they did not get their way. They did not obey God's instructions. They listened to their bellies instead of God's law.

LOQ: When you sin, do you do any of these things?

Answer: *[Let the students answer, but make as many connections to Israel's sin as possible.]*

LOQ: What should Israel's right response have been?

Answer: To trust in the character of God. He provides for His people and keeps His promises. He is faithful to His word, and He can be trusted. His word can be joyfully obeyed because He always lovingly does what is best for His saints.

LOQ: What attitude was God developing in His people by testing them?

Answer: God was teaching Israel that they could be faithful to His word because He was faithful to them. They could obey God's commands because they could trust His promises. Not trusting God's promises led to not obeying His commands.

Summary

God loved His people. He sovereignly allowed them to go through trying times, even times without food and water. He used these times to test them. At each testing, Israel chose to disobey and not trust God. The people disobeyed because they did not love God. They did not trust God to love and provide for them. Their hearts were not right with God.

Application

God gives us many opportunities to trust Him and obey Him. We can choose to exalt His character and His Word by trusting Him that obedience is better than complaining or any other type of disobedience. God is a providing, caring God. We can trust Him to be faithful to His Word.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Water from a Rock

Bring a one- to two-pound rock to class. Ask students to squeeze it as hard as they can. Ask them to squeeze water out of it. Ask them to try really, really hard. Ask them why water will not come from the rock. Then tell them that there is no water in the rock; to get water from this rock would be a miracle. Tell them that in today's lesson, we will see God get water from a huge rock. It will be a sign of His power and His patience.

Praise and Worship

Give Thanks

My God Is So Great

Seek Ye First

Tell out, My Soul

There Is a Redeemer

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Manna—What Is It?

Write review questions on slips of paper and scatter them around the room. Instruct the students to gather pieces of "manna." Have the students sit on the floor and take turns standing up to read the question on their piece of manna. Allow them to call on other students for the answers to the questions.



Manna in a Jar

Materials: baby-food jars, frosted cornflakes, one-inch piece of white string, verse labels from the back of the lesson

Directions: Glue the labels onto the baby-food jars. Color the small picture and glue it to the lid of the jar. Fill the baby-food jars half full with corn flakes. Put in a dozen pieces of white string for "worms." Have the students stir in the "worms." Tell the students that some of the Israelites did not obey the Lord, and as a result, their manna was filled with worms. Instruct the students to tell their parents what happened to the Israelites who did not follow God's directions.



Wilderness Snack Time

God provided for Israel in three special ways. Even though the people grumbled and complained, God was very patient and gracious. For your snack time, you may wish to have mineral water (which usually tastes a little bitter), frosted corn flakes, and regular water. As the students eat, ask them about the three tests God gave Israel. Be sure to pour only a small amount of bitter water into each cup.



God Provides for Israel

Materials: Bible scene page (at the back of the lesson), uncooked oatmeal, quail cutouts (at the back of this lesson), "sun" circles (cut out ahead of time), land pieces

Directions: Have the students glue the land and the sun to the paper. Then have them glue on pieces of oatmeal (for manna) on the morning side and the quail on the evening side. Talk with the students about how God tested Israel. Ask them in what ways they grumble and complain. Share with them ways you grumble and how God is convicting you to stop. Next week, be sure to tell them how God has helped you.



Hey, Israel, What's for Dinner?

Materials: paper plates, hole punches, brown construction paper, brown feathers, glue sticks, white glue, paintbrushes, small paper cups, markers

Directions: Have each student glue a few feathers to one side of the plate. Next, punch several holes out of the brown construction paper, saving the small circles. Brush a section of the paper plate with glue, and sprinkle the brown circles all over the glue. Older students can write "manna" and "quail" over the feathers and circles.



What Is in Your Heart? Part One

God uses adverse circumstances to reveal what is in our hearts. That is exactly what we do when we squeeze a tube of toothpaste to get the toothpaste out. Show the students various containers, and let them guess what is inside (ketchup, mustard, toothpaste, suntan lotion, etc.). Replace the contents of a well-known product with something else. Explain that if we look only on the outside (at the things we do and say), we may be wrong about what is inside (why we do them). Even though the Israelites were saying they loved God very much (Ex. 15:1–21), when things were not going well, they grumbled and complained to God (Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3) and showed how ungrateful they really were and how little they trusted Him.



What Is in Your Heart? Part Two

Materials: two hearts per student, hole punch, yarn, 3 x 4-inch pieces of construction paper, Bible stickers, tape, parent directions

Directions: Cut out two large identical hearts. Punch holes through the edges of both hearts. Give students yarn with one end taped to form a needle. Have them sew the hearts together, using yarn. Leave an opening at the top so students can put things in and take things out. Have students put Bible stickers on some and verses on others. Select verses appropriate for your class, print them out, and glue them to the pieces of construction paper. Tell the students that one thing God wants them to do is to put His Word in their hearts. Not only that, but He also wants them to confess their sin and repent from it. Ask them to show their parents the verses they learned. Tape the parent directions to the heart so the parents can use this activity at home. Tell parents that their student has a special project to do with them this week.



Making Moses Memories

If your students are making the scrapbook discussed in the first lesson, reduce a coloring sheet to about 4 x 6 inches. Have each student color the picture, cut it out, and glue it to the next page of his scrapbook.



“God Provides for Israel”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of this week’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: “Test of Faith”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

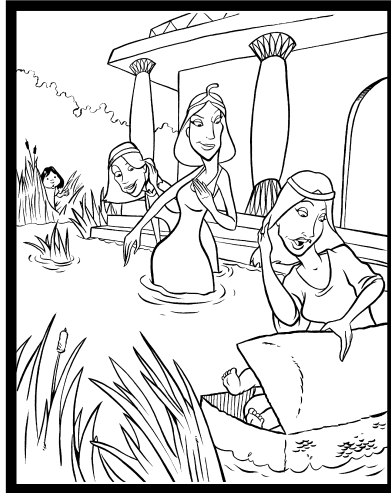
“You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).



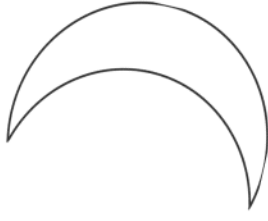
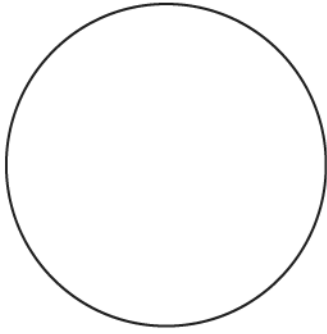
Sixth Commandment

If you have decided to assemble the Ten Commandments as you go through them, post the sixth commandment. Man was made in God’s image. Murder is destroying something in God’s image. Noah left the ark in Genesis 9. God said any man who murders should be killed. Jesus said if we say a harsh word to a neighbor, we will be guilty of a sin as bad as murder (Matt. 5:21–22).

Remembering God's Goodness



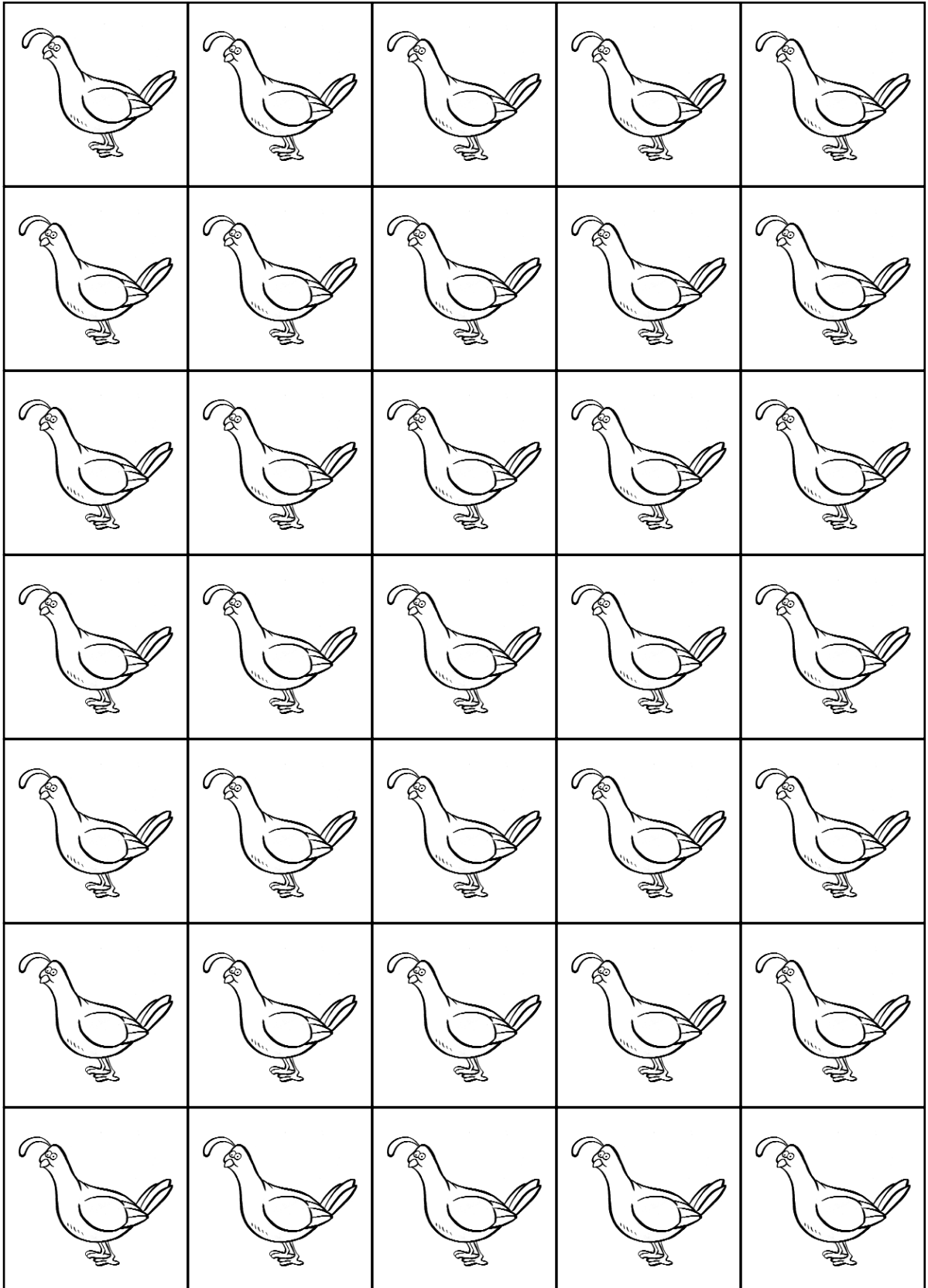
God Provides for Israel



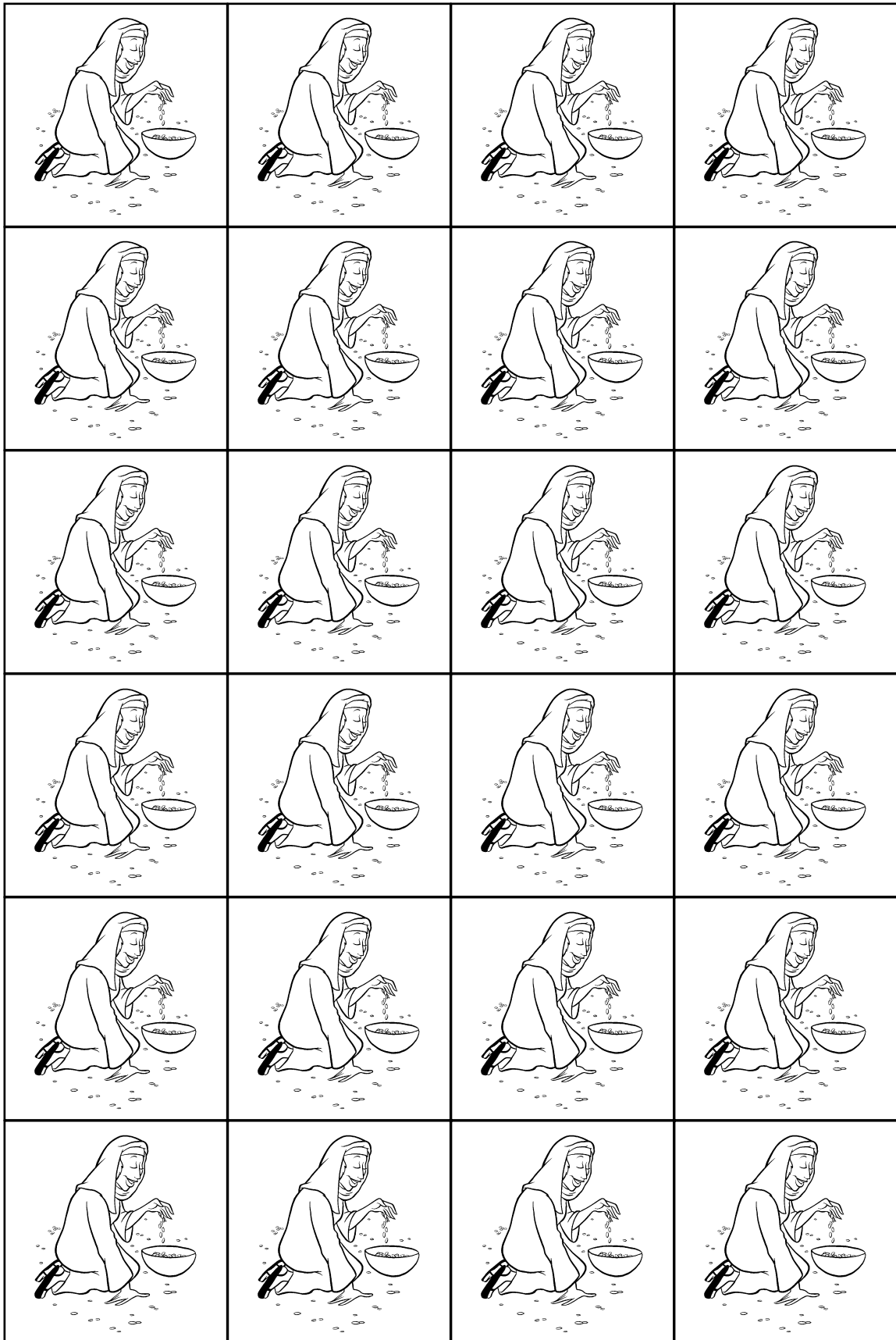
“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you’” (Exodus 16:4).

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you’” (Exodus 16:4).

Quail



Manna in a Jar



Manna in a Jar Verse Labels

“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” (Exodus 16:20).

“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” (Exodus 16:20).

“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” (Exodus 16:20).

“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” (Exodus 16:20).

“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” (Exodus 16:20).

God

Provides for
Israel



Exodus 15:22–17:7

Name _____

- 1.** Choose from the following words and fill in the blanks with four things God required from His people: *Keep, Heed, Do, and Listen.*

_____ the voice of the Lord your God.

_____ what is right in His sight.

_____ to His commandments.

_____ His statutes.

- 2.** In Exodus 16:1–3, the Israelites grumbled because _____.

they did not have any water they did not have any food

they liked the Egyptians and wanted to go back

- 3.** God showed His mercy by providing _____ in the morning and _____ in the evening.

- 4.** When some of the Israelites disobeyed Moses' command and left part of the manna until morning, it bred _____ and _____ (Ex. 16:20).

- 5.** In Exodus 17:6, God provided water from a _____.

Test of Faith

Do you know why your schoolteacher gives you tests? So he can see what you know. God gives tests, too, but not because He wants to see what you know. He already knows everything about you. He gives you tests so that you can examine your faith. In our lesson today, we learned about three ways God tested the Israelites. In the spaces below, write how the Israelites were tested and how they responded to their tests.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Can you think of a time when you were tested? How did you respond?

Test of Faith

Do you know why your schoolteacher gives you tests? So he can see what you know. God gives tests, too, but not because He wants to see what you know. He already knows everything about you. He gives you tests so that you can examine your faith. In our lesson today, we learned about three ways God tested the Israelites. In the spaces below, write how the Israelites were tested and how they responded to their tests.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Can you think of a time when you were tested? How did you respond?

How do people who have strong faith respond to tests?

How do people who have weak faith respond to tests?

Why does God want us to know whether our faith is strong or weak?

This week, watch for a faith test and record your response below.

My faith test was when _____

I responded by _____.

God is teaching me _____.

I will _____.

How do people who have strong faith respond to tests?

How do people who have weak faith respond to tests?

Why does God want us to know whether our faith is strong or weak?

This week, watch for a faith test and record your response below.

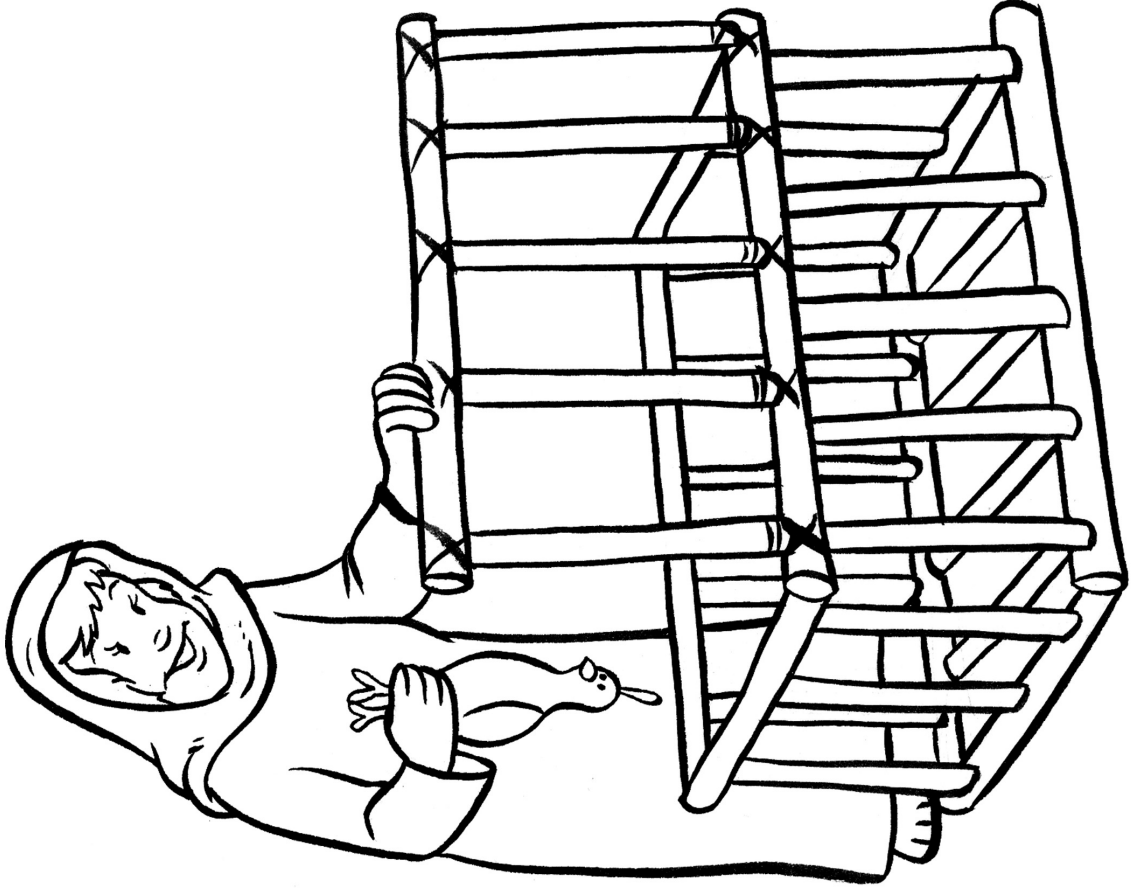
My faith test was when _____

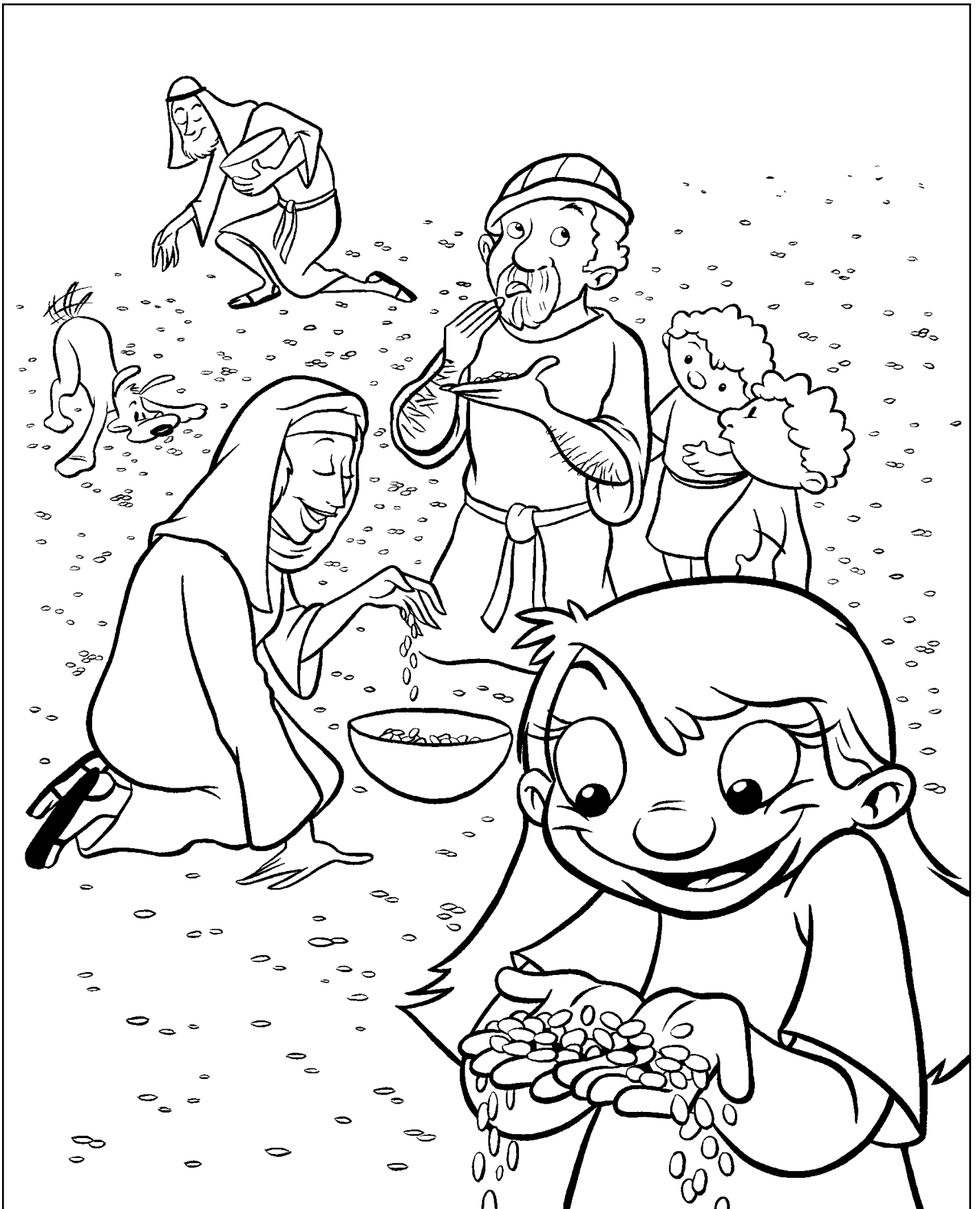
I responded by _____.

God is teaching me _____.

I will _____.







“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!’” (Exodus 16:4).



**“Behold, I [the LORD] will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink”
(Exodus 17:6).**

