

## Cloud by Day, Fire by Night- Exodus 13:17-22

### THE POINT

#### Focus:

God was present with the people, leading their escape from Egypt.  
God cared for and guided the Israelites every day and night.

#### Application:

We can trust God's guidance and provision.  
We can trust God while doing difficult or scary things.

#### Last Week:

#### 2 Weeks Ago:

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### HEART CONNECTION (7-9 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- A small treat like a sticker, piece of candy, or special snack (a breakfast treat like a muffin works well for morning classes!) for each child in the class.
- A basket or box to hid the prize in
- a blindfold.
- a simple map of the classroom with an X where the prize waits.

#### Instructions:

1. Tell the class that you have a special treat for each of they if they can find it. Here's the trick: They can only send 1 person to look for it, and that person is going to be blindfolded. He will have to listen to the instructions.
2. Have the class sit in one part of the room (where the treat is NOT hidden) and verbally give instructions to the treat-finder. They don't have the map yet, so they're just giving him instructions of places to try to look!
3. Pause the game after a minute or two and suggest to the direction-givers that things might be easier if they had a map. Give them a map to the treasure, and have them use their words to guide their classmate again towards the treat. When the treat-finder locates the treat, pass it out when the children have found their spot in a circle to talk about it.

Talk about it using the following questions as a general guide:

**What happened at first?**

**How did it feel to be the seeker?**

**What happened when you had the map?**

**Have you ever tried to figure something out and not had enough clues? When someone guided you, were you able to figure it out more easily?**

**In our story today, we're going to see how the Lord guided the Israelites out of Egypt. He used a very special method to show them that He was with them and to help them make the right choices.**

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## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Drawing materials- crayons, paper, and a hard surface to draw on. Flameless Candle\*

### Instructions:

This week we're going to draw the story as it is read aloud. The "Spirit Connection" time at the end of our time together will not have coloring this week.

### Instructions:

**This week as I read the story aloud, you're going to draw a picture of what you hear me reading at your seat. When we're finished with the story, we'll have a little bit of time to finish our pictures and then we'll ask our "I wonder" questions and share with each other.**

\*We've been using a flameless candle throughout the Old Testament as a visual reminder of God's presence with God's people, and God's presence with us today through the Holy Spirit.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*The idea of **carrying bones** with a group is strange and it's tempting to leave this part out. The idea is that the whole nation is leaving Egypt for good and re-establishing itself. Since Joseph is the one who led them into Egypt originally, it's significant that their whole society and family is being re-rooted in a new space.*

*The **Pillars of Cloud and Fire** were a reassurance of God's presence with the Israelites, a form of supernatural guidance, and a visible symbol to other nations of the presence of God.*

**Read Aloud: This story comes after the 10 Plagues the Israelites leaving Egypt. God delivered them miraculously by parting the Red Sea to help them cross. God will continue to guide them this week.**

Exodus 13:17-22

17 Pharaoh let the people go. The shortest road from Goshen to Canaan went through the Philistine country. But God didn't lead them that way. God said, "If they have to go into battle, they might change their minds. They might return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people toward the Red Sea by taking them on a road through the desert. The Israelites were ready for battle when they went up out of Egypt.

**God knew that the Egyptians might try to get the Israelites to turn around. He knew there might be a battle. He knew the Israelites might be discouraged and turn around. He told them to go a way that would be hard to turn around from so they would have to follow his directions.**

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph along with him. Joseph had made the Israelites give their word to do this. He had said, "God will surely come to help you. When he does, you must carry my bones up from this place with you."

**Joseph had promised the Israelites that they would someday leave Egypt. He said that they would leave when God led them. That's why he said "God will surely come to help you."**

20 The people left Sukkoth. They camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. It guided them on their way. At night he led them with a pillar of fire. It gave them light. So they could travel by day or at night. 22 The pillar of cloud didn't leave its place in front of the people during the day. And the pillar of fire didn't leave its place at night.

**Who could see the cloud? Who could see the fire? Everyone! The leaders, the moms and dads, and the children could all see God leading. Even the enemies of the Israelites could see that the Lord was with them as they travelled.**

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what the Israelites felt when they were packing up their homes and belongings to start their journey.

I wonder what the Egyptians thought of the Israelites escape from Egypt.

I wonder how it felt to see the Lord's guidance with the cloud during the day.

I wonder what it looked like to see the Lord's guidance with the fire at the night time.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**