In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 17
God's Covenant with Israel

Themes:
- God is faithful and good—He provides for all the needs of His people.
- God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.
- God desires to have a special relationship with His people.
- God established His covenant with Israel: a binding agreement in which He outlined the conditions of His relationship with His treasured possession.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 15-19

Memory Verse:
Isaiah 53:12a (and review verses 3-11)

Today's Clues:
BREAD FROM HEAVEN, GOD'S HOLY LAW

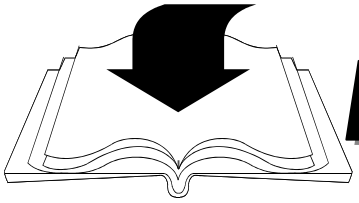
Home and Heart:
Read Exodus 15:22-25. Why were the people grumbling? Why is this so amazing? What had they seen God do just three days before? What does this show us about their heart attitude? Had God saved them from Egypt *because they* were good, faithful, and wonderful? What does this tell us about God and how He saves and cares for His people? Is it earned? Are you like Israel? Do you grumble and quarrel with God? (Or the ones He puts in authority over you—e.g., your parents?) What does this show you about your own heart? Read and discuss Psalm 103:1-14.

Read Exodus 16:16-21. Why would God have the Israelites collect only enough manna for one day? Why not store the extra so they would be sure to have enough for the next day? What did God want Israel to learn by this? Read and discuss Lamentations 3:22-23.

Suppose you make a bargain with your child. You will take your child to the zoo on Friday if your child makes his bed and cleans his room every day. If your child doesn't do his part, you won't need to follow through with your part. Would it have worked if your child had come to you and said, "I have a deal for you. I will make my bed every day and clean my room. If I do this, then you must take me to the zoo"? What is the difference between the two "deals"? Could the first one actually happen? What about the second one? Why not? Who can decide whether or not there will be a "deal" and what the conditions will be? Review the introduction to the covenant from Exodus 19:3-6. Who is establishing this covenant and determining the terms? What does God agree to do? What does God say Israel must do? Read verses 7-8 for Israel's response. Do you think Israel will do this? Explain your answer.

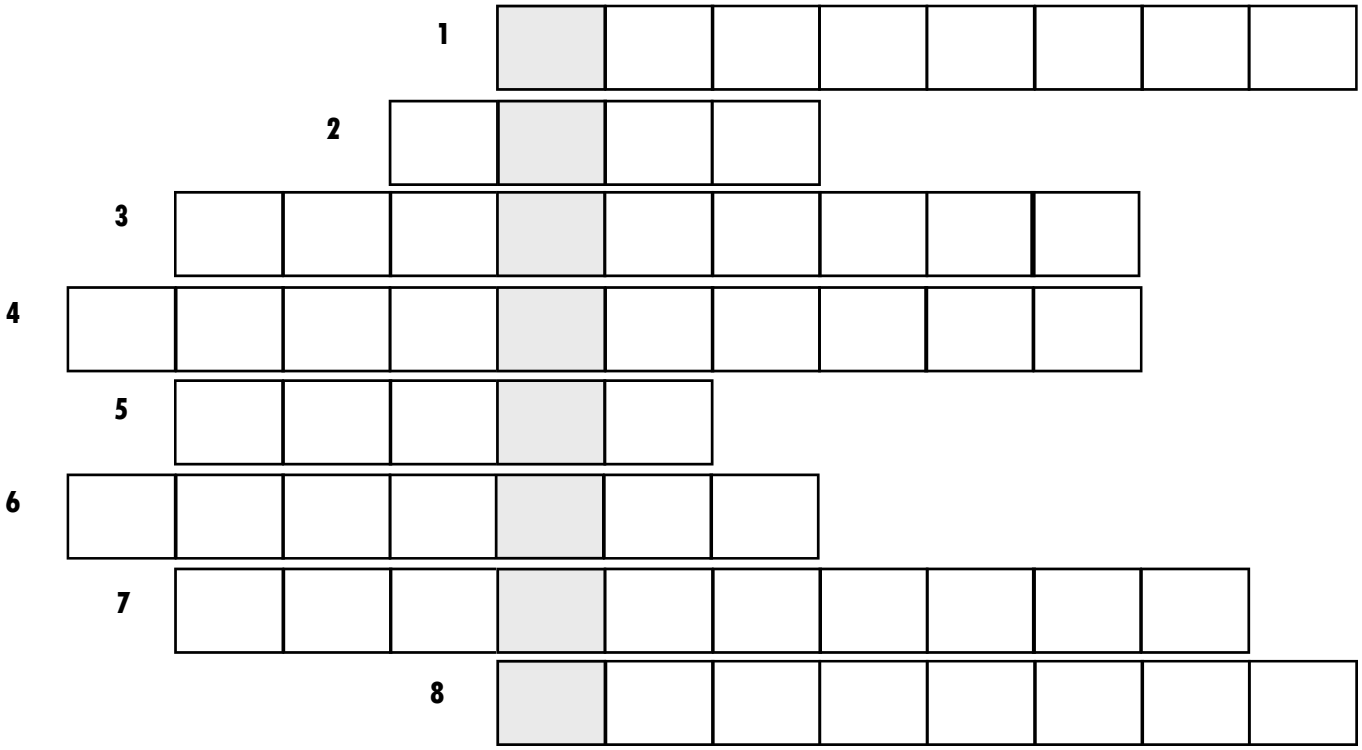


DISCOVER MORE



EXODUS

This week do the word puzzle pictured below. The missing words, which are all written across, can be found by reading Exodus 15-19. When you have completed the puzzle correctly, you will find a special word spelled out in the shaded boxes.



1. Pharaoh thought he could win with these.

2. God caused water to come from this.

3. This word means "to save."

4. God says Israel shall be His treasured _____.

5. Bread from heaven.

6. A day of holy rest.

7. A place in the wilderness where God spoke to Moses and the people of Israel (two words).

8. What the mountain did when God descended upon it.

The special word is: _____