

Session 6

God cares for us: Israel spends 40 years in the desert

In this session, the children pretend to move around with the Israelites. During the session they realize that God always takes care of us.

Scripture: Exodus 15:22 – 19:1

Supplies:

- “God cares for us” poster
- Stationery for drawing
- Hidden message in a foot: activity page for each
- Supplies for each station: a bowl of water, jug of water, an empty bowl, and two envelopes with letters in with today’s scripture written on it



Welcome

Play “En route”

The children follow Moses as if they are moving out of Egypt. When the leader calls out: “Here comes the pharaoh!” the children fall down as quickly as possible and creep or crawl to a place of safety like the leader shows you. Now shout: “Pharaoh and his people drowned in the Red Sea!” The children jump up and dance in circles and follow Moses again. Repeat the game twice.

After the third time the leader calls out: “Set up camp!” and the children stand in pairs with their hands together to make a roof.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Stand in a circle and hold hands:

“Because I believe in God, I can forgive those who hurt me.

Because I believe in God, I look forward to the beautiful life God is preparing for me.”



Word

Read and tell the story

Let’s use our imagination. We are going to Ganaan with the Israelites. Put your bags on your backs and follow us. I wonder how we’re going to know where to go. (*Give the children a big, folded map to read. When they unfold it, it’s just a blank piece of paper with the word: “Desert” written on it.*) No, this map won’t help us. What about a GPS? No, that won’t work either because the Israelites didn’t know what a GPS was. The only way the Israelites knew where to go, was by trusting God.

The first evening we will camp with them in the desert. From here God will travel with us. During the day there is a cloud showing the way. God is in that cloud. At night, there is fire in the cloud. It gives light so we can see where we are going. We can travel day or night.

We know we are safely out of Egypt now. The pharaoh is already defeated by God. We saw the miracle in front of our eyes when God opened the Red Sea for us. It can only get better from here! *(Walk 3 times around the room while singing "Walking in the light of God")*

We have now been traveling with Moses in the desert for three days and haven't found any water yet. Phew, we sure are thirsty!

Station 1:

Finally! Here is a place that has water. I wonder why they named this place Marah. We drank some of the water, but the water doesn't taste good at all! *(Make a funny face.)* Now we have a reason to complain to Moses. We're going to die of thirst!

Moses prayed and God showed him a piece of wood that he had to throw in the water. *(Throw a small stick into the middle container that has water in it.)* Wow! How tasty is this water! God tested us to teach us: if we are obedient to Him and do what He asks of us, then He takes care of us. After that, we arrive at Elim where there is water and 70 palm trees for shade. We are going to set up camp here. God really does care for us.

Now we have to go further into the desert. Take down your tents and pack your bags. Walk around the room twice. While they are walking, the leader says: "We have now been walking in the desert for 2 months. The Lord should have let us die in Egypt. At least we had lots of meat and other food there to eat! Now you have brought us to the desert where we will die of hunger!" *(Walk around the room once more and stop at station 2.)*

Station 2:

Moses takes the envelope on the second table and reads the following: Exodus 16:6-8: "Tonight you will know for sure that God has taken you out of Egypt. Tonight He will give you meat. Tomorrow morning He will give you enough bread." Pitch your tents! Tonight we're camping here.

The story teller calls out: "Look at this big flock of birds flying over the camp and sitting on the ground. It's so easy to catch them. Catch enough for yourselves to eat tonight!" Wow, now my stomach is really full! I think we should go to bed. It was a long day. *(The children lie on the ground and close their eyes.)*

The story teller calls out: "Wake up, everyone! Come see what happened last night! There are little crumbs on the ground. Of course! It's the bread that God promised us! Pick it up – enough to feed your families today. God has yet again taken care of us!"

Take down your tents and pack your bags. We're on the move again!

We are now going from place to place, but God tells us where to go every time. *(Walk around in the room. Stop at station 3.)*

Station 3:

People: "We have been travelling for days without any water. Moses, give us water to drink!"

Moses: "Why are you arguing with me? You're going to make God angry."

People: "Why take us out of Egypt just to let us, our children, and our animals die of thirst?"

Moses: "God, what should I do now? These people are going to throw stones at me!"

Take the envelope with the Lord's answer and read it out loud: "Take your staff and a few leaders with you. Go to Horeb. I will wait for you there. There is a big rock that you must strike with your staff, and then there will be water for the people to drink."

(Moses hits the table with a stick. The leader then takes the jug of water from under the table and pours it in the bowl on the table.)

God has taken care of us again!

Now that we have had enough to drink, we must move on again. Pick up your bags! Walk around the room three times.

Wow! After three months we finally reached Mount Sinai. Here we can pitch our tents. We're going to camp here for a while, because Moses needs to go up the mountain to hear what God wants to tell him.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how it feels to not know where you're going.
2. I wonder how long the Israelites are still going to be in the desert.
3. I wonder in which ways God takes care of you.

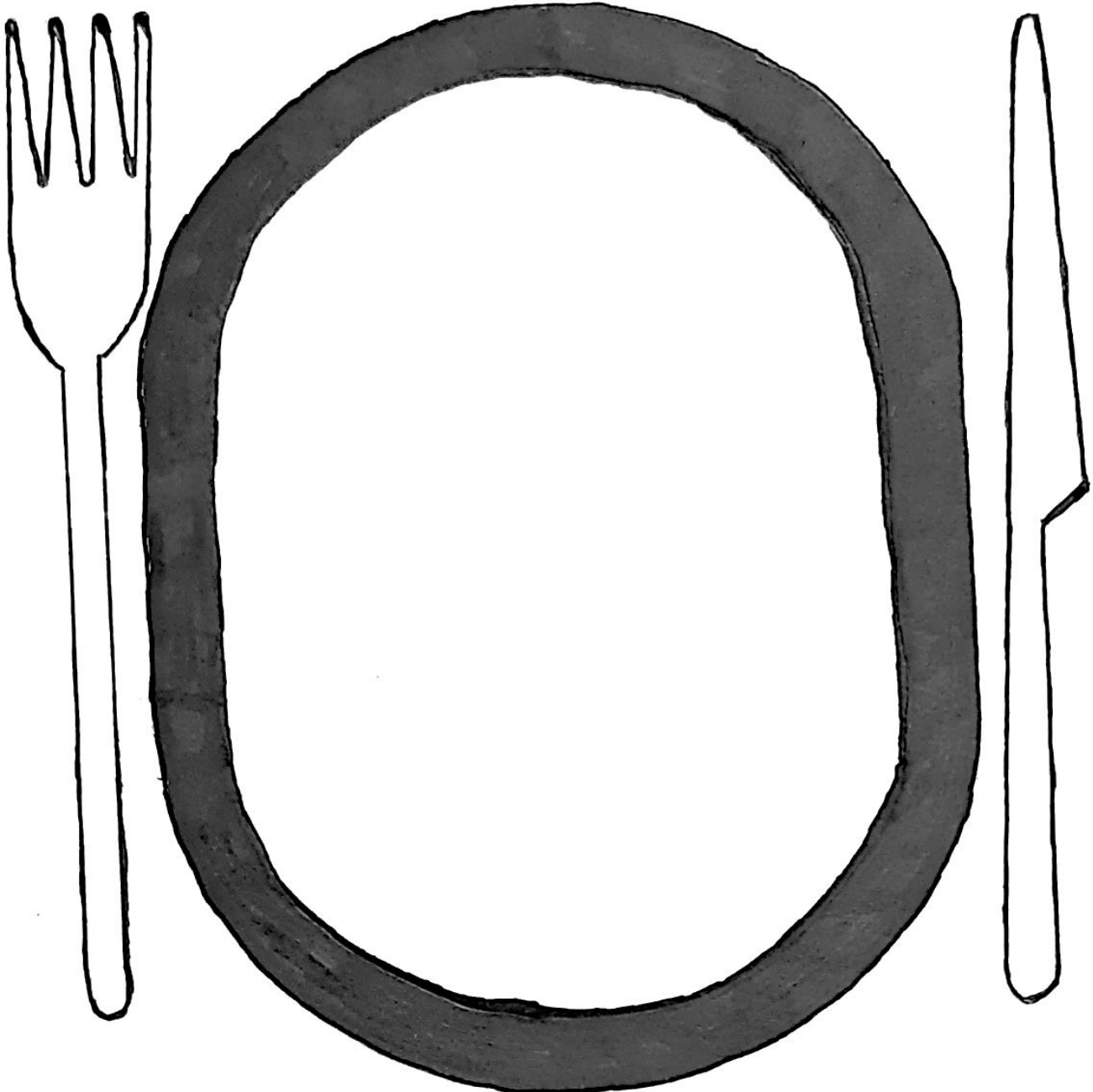


Working and Playing

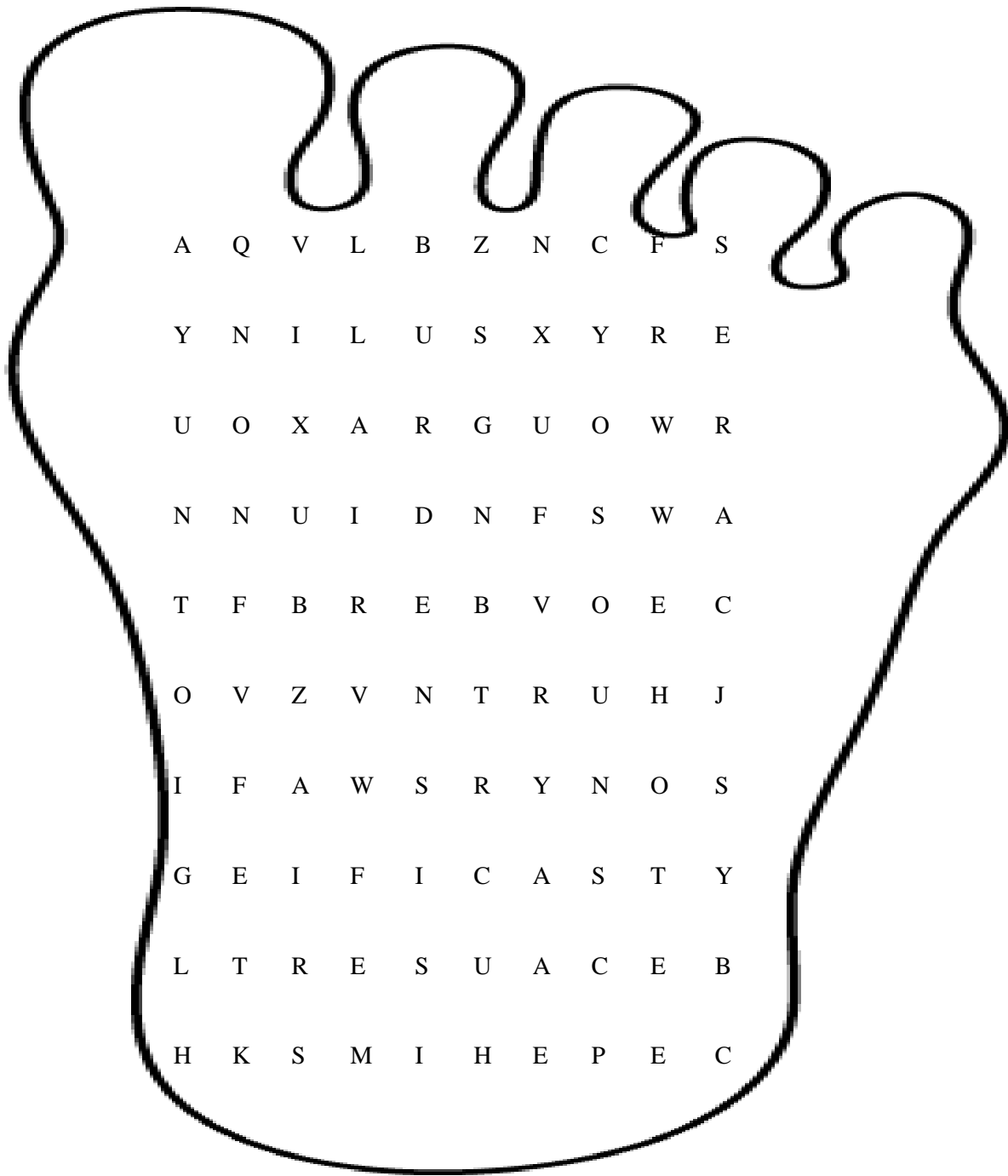
- Use the picture that says: "God cares for us!" Draw food in the plate and colour it.
- Word search: use different translations of 1 Pet 5:7 as clues to build the verse.

Closing prayer to end the session

God cares for us!



God cares for us! 1 Pet 5:7



ALL

ANXIETY

BECAUSE

BURDENS

CARES

CAST

FOR

HIM

JESUS

LEAVE

UNTO

WITH

WORRIES

YOU

YOUR