

# Teaching Plan

## Session 18: The Israelites in the Wilderness

**Biblical Truth:** God provided for the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness through His presence, commandments, and physical provisions.

### Large Group

Show “Play Session” for session 18 on the DVD. If you want to lead a discussion after each section of the video, show “The Spark,” “Fanning the Flame,” and “Combustion” separately. If desired, distribute copies of “Listening Guide 18” to the students to complete during “Combustion.”

or

Show “The Spark” and “Fanning the Flame” for session 18 on the DVD. Use “Story Outline, Session 18” to present the story in Numbers 9:15-23; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 8:1-4. If desired, use “Slides 18” as you tell the story.

### Small Groups

**Preparation:** Listen to “The Israelites in the Wilderness” by playing this CD in any CD player. Read Numbers 9:15-23; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 8:1-4 and “Background for the Bible Passages, Session 18.”

1. Show “Time Line 18” and point out where today’s story fits.
2. Lead students to read Numbers 9:15-23; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 8:1-4 in their Bibles.
3. Lead students in a discussion of the passages by asking the following questions:
  - How did the Israelites know when it was time to move and when it was time to set up camp? Is it difficult to live your life according to God’s timing rather than your own? What specific thing has God recently asked you to do? How did you know?
  - What would the Israelites’ observance of God’s commands demonstrate?
  - Why is it wise for you to follow God’s commands today?
  - Think about the beginning of the video today. What happens when you don’t have rules and boundaries for your behavior?
  - If the Israelites followed God’s commands, how would He bless them?
  - How does God bless you when you obey His commands? Does He always bless you right away? Does this mean that you don’t ever experience trials or suffering?
  - What were the children of Israel instructed to remember?
  - How does God confirm His presence in your life?
  - How has God taken care of your needs on a daily basis?
  - How does it help your relationship with God to remember all He has done for you?
4. Give examples of the kinds of laws that God gave the Israelites. (Some good examples are in Ex. 22–23.) Lead the students to discuss why those laws were beneficial to both individuals and the group as a whole. Ask: Do we have similar laws in our country? How can we apply the same principles?
5. Explain how God provided for the Israelites with food (Ex. 16) and water (Ex. 17). Point out that the manna met their exact needs—no more, no less. Discuss the temptations that a person is more likely to experience if he or she has much more than is needed.

### Options

1. Ask “If” questions that correspond with this session. Sample: If you could only eat one food for 40 years, what would you eat? If you could only wear one outfit for 40 years, what would you wear? If you had to take a trip that lasted 40 years, where would you go? If your obedience to God’s commands guaranteed His blessings, would you be obedient?
2. Prepare three small posters with these questions: How did God demonstrate His presence? Why did God give commandments? How did God provide? Enlist three volunteers to take one poster and a marker. As you examine each passage, encourage students to call out appropriate things to be recorded on each poster. At the end of the session, remind students that God also cares about every aspect of their lives. Call on volunteers to give brief testimonies that personally answer one of the questions.
3. Say: **There are different types of law in the Old Testament: civil, ceremonial, and moral. Jesus’ death on the cross did away with the need for ceremonial laws, but in the New Testament, Jesus stressed the principles behind the civil and moral laws.** Distribute copies of “Still Good to Obey.” Lead students to compare passages from the Old and New Testaments to discover continued benefits and blessings of following God’s commands.

### Continue

Hand out copies of “Exploring the Bible Daily 18.” Encourage students to read the passage for today’s story. Direct students to write questions or insights as they read. If the students are using *essential connection* or *DiscipleHelps: Spiritual Journal for Students*, make sure that all students have the resources they need.