

Bible Discovery

Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Arrange kids into Connect Crews with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
 - Invite everyone to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
 - Have kids give their Crew Guides fist bumps with fireworks.
 - Have kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.
- ? Let's say you get to choose your birthday meal. What food would you choose?**

Experience the Bible Story

It's time for another Bible adventure! And you all will play an important part. Are you ready?

God had chosen a man named Moses to be the Israelites' leader. With God's guidance and help, Moses had led God's people out of Egypt, and then they'd marched off toward the land God had promised them. Lead everyone to another area of your room.

But because God's people had forgotten how to trust him, they needed to learn some lessons along the way. Those lessons took about 40 years, and all during that time, God's people moved from place to place in a great wilderness. Lead everyone to another place in the room.

Nobody's sure exactly how many people were along for the hike, but even feeding all of *us* for a week would take a lot food. Yikes! How do you feed a whole group of people who are camping out in a rocky, barren wilderness?

They can't go to a grocery store. There aren't any drive-thru restaurants.

They can't pick crops because they didn't plant any. What do they do?

That's a great question, and it's exactly what that crowd of people asked. And they wanted an answer!

Everyone stand up. Pause. **Raise your right hands.** Pause.

I am officially deputizing you as part of the crowd following Moses out in the wilderness. As deputized members of God's people, your job is to imagine you are an Israelite in the wilderness and and follow me and do what I say and do without talking. Think you can do it?

If you understand, nod your head yes. No talking! As you give directions, demonstrate what you're asking kids to do.

Supplies

- Bible
- "God Sends Manna and Quail From Heaven" Bible Story poster
- index cards (1 per person)
- pens or pencils
- quart-size resealable bags (1 per Crew)

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Okay, do this: March in place. March together. **Now don't march too quickly; you'll be doing this for 40 years.** March slowly.

Marching can work up an appetite, and as you march, look around for something to eat. Look high and low and all around you as you march in place.

Some of you packed food while you were in Egypt, and you're eating sandwiches. Pretend to take a bite. **Some of you have run out of food, and you're rubbing your stomach because you're so hungry.** Rub your stomach.

Now all of you, stop. Freeze. **You're pouty-faced and mad.** Make a pouting face. **You're looking at each other and wondering why you left Egypt if you're going to just starve out here in the middle of nowhere.** Look around and shrug shoulders. **Let's read and find out what the Israelites, I mean you all, said to Moses.**



Read aloud Exodus 16:3.

God will guide and provide. Now, Israelites, keep doing what I do.

Moses says that God will rain down food from heaven for you. In the morning you'll go out and pick up this stuff that's like thin crackers; it's called manna. It tastes like honey, and it's really good. Show the Bible Story poster.

Bend over and pick it up. Demonstrate. **Keep picking it up because it has to last all day.** Pretend to pick up more manna. **Wait—don't pick up too much! Just enough for today. There will be more tomorrow morning. If you try to keep it overnight, it'll be full of worms and smell like dirty sweat socks.** Make a disgusted face and wave your hand in front of your nose.

And at night God will send a huge flock of quail for you to pluck and eat. Quail are little birds that are quite tasty when you cook them. Here they come now! Quick—pick them up and pluck them! Pretend to pull out feathers.



Okay, so you have all the food you need. Now take a bite of manna. Take a pretend bite, chew, and swallow. **Now eat a quail drumstick.** Pretend to eat a drumstick, chewing, swallowing, and wiping your mouth with the back of your hand. **Looks like you all have just what you need. Moses has a reminder for you. Listen to what he says.**



Read aloud Exodus 16:19-20.

Gross! That's what you get for not following God's instructions. But God loves you, and he's super patient with you Israelites, so he'll keep sending food and giving you what you need.

Circle up and talk about this with your Crews.

? Tell about a time you or someone you know didn't follow directions.

What happened? Invite Crew Guides to go first.

● Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Whether we're on a road trip, playing a board game, or finding food in the wilderness, directions guide and help us. And God's directions are always for our good.

Now let's fast-forward through the week. Run quickly in place, then stop. **It's the sixth day of manna and quail. God gave Moses more instructions. Let's read them together.**



Read aloud Exodus 16:23.

Let's pick up double the manna so we can rest tomorrow. Pretend to pick up manna, take a break, then pick up more. **Okay, now don't be greedy and gather too much. Follow God's instructions, and get enough just for today and tomorrow.**

Now eat up! Pretend to eat manna and quail again, then yawn. **Time for bed. Put the rest of your manna and quail aside, and head to bed.** Sit down and rest your head on your hands as if you're sleeping.

Good morning, Israelites! I saw some of your neighbors got up to get manna this morning even though God told them not to. Shake your head and sigh. **How long will God's people refuse to obey his instructions? He's guided and helped you before. You can trust him to provide for you now. Go ahead, eat up the food you stored yesterday. But first, take a whiff to make sure this didn't spoil, too.** Smell imaginary manna. **Smells good to me! Thanks, God! Everyone, eat up!**

Moses has more instructions for you, Israelites. Fill a container with two quarts of manna, and keep it in a special place so you can remember how God took care of you.

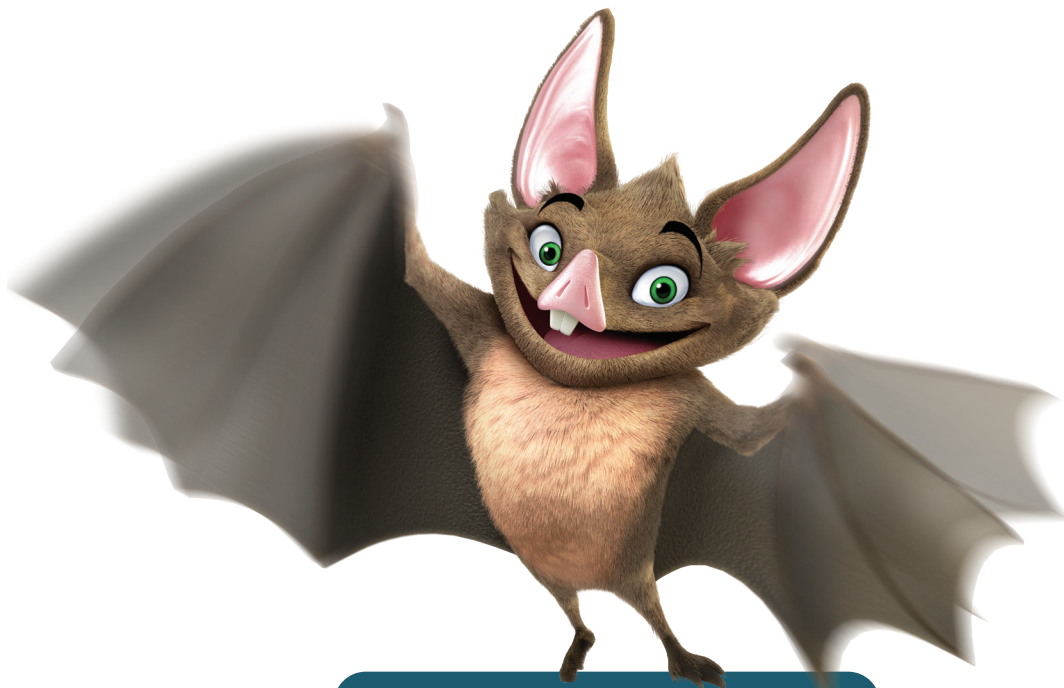
The Heart of the Matter

Now we don't have actual manna here, but I do have these index cards. And they can help us remember that **God guides us**. (*Follow God!*)

- Give each person an index card and a pen or pencil.
- **Draw or write about a time God faithfully guided and provided for you or your family.**
- Form Connect Crew circles, and have everyone share what's on their cards.
- Have Crews pray and thank God for his guidance.
- Have each Crew place the index cards in a quart-size resealable bag.
- With the whole group, decide where in your room you'll place the bags as a reminder of God's guidance. Choose a special place, and keep the bags there for several weeks, referring to them often.

God guides us. (*Follow God!*) **God took good care of his people, even when they didn't fully trust that God would guide them. That was true in Bible times, and it's true now, too. Our faith can grow while we're waiting for God because we're trusting that he will come through.**

And now, everyone give God a huge round of applause for being so patient and guiding his people—then *and now!* Lead a round of applause.



Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today's Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.