

God Guides His People

Key Verse: “The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame.” Isaiah 58:11

Bible Story: Pillar of Cloud & Fire – Exodus 13:20-22 & 14:19-20 & 33:9-10

GOD GUIDES HIS PEOPLE:

Ask if anyone in the group can think of a story in the Bible where we clearly see God guiding or leading His people... *(There should be plenty to choose from so hopefully someone will think of something...)*

Then have the group read this week’s memory verse (**Isaiah 58:11**) from the poster. Explain that this morning you’re going to be talking about how God guides His people and what it means that God guides His people.

Tell the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt from **Exodus 13 and 14** in your own words. Make sure to hit the following points as you go through the story:

1. God’s people had been slaves in Egypt and God sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt. After a series of plagues and finally the Passover (where the oldest child in each home not marked by the blood of the lamb was killed), the Pharaoh has finally let the people go and they are on their way out of Egypt.
2. As God led them out of Egypt He gave them something specific to lead them.... He went before them as a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire by night. This shows us that God was with His people and He was leading them each step of the way...their job was to follow.
3. The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire stayed with God’s people each step of the way.... (God guides His people by being with His people).
4. When they got to the edge of the sea, God used Moses to part the sea and the pillar of cloud moved behind the people to protect them from the Egyptians.

DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

GUIDE = ACCOMPANY, ASSIST AND GIVE DIRECTION

EXPLAIN: Talk about how we saw God **guiding** His people in this story based on the definition they just read. God accompanied them – He was with them in the pillar of cloud and fire, God assisted them – the pillar of cloud moved behind them while they went into the sea, the pillar of fire gave them light so they could travel at night, etc., God gave them direction – wherever the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire went they were to follow and when it stopped they were to stop.

MEMORY VERSE:

SAY: “This week’s memory verse is **Isaiah 58:11**. To help learn this verse and to help us understand what it means that God guides His people, you will play a game called “Follow My Lead.” To help you play the game, I’ll read the verse a couple of times and post the verse page close to you so that you can all see it.”

The way this game works is that the leader will say one of the words of the verse and the rest of the group should say the next word. The leader should randomly say words in the verse to force the group to think about what comes next. After randomly calling out words, go through the verse in order saying a few words and the group following you by saying the next few words, etc.

CROSS CONNECTION:

In our story this morning we saw God **guiding** His people out of slavery and leading them each step of the way with a pillar of cloud and fire. In this story, God was with them as He guided them and showed them the way. In **John 14**, Jesus tells His disciples that He’s going to leave them but that He will come back and take them to be with Him where He is going. Thomas (one of the disciples) gets confused and says to Jesus, ‘we don’t know where you are going so we don’t know the way.’ And Jesus responds by saying that **He is the way**. The pillars of cloud and fire may have shown the people the way in the desert, but ultimately every time we see God guiding His people it points us to the truth that **Jesus is the Way**. He is the One we are to follow and it is only by knowing Him and following Him that we can know God.

REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the word *guide* somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for *guide* or the memory verse or they could illustrate the story of God guiding His people out of Egypt. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would come to know God more and more each week through this study and that they would remember that all of us are sinners who need to be saved and that they would turn to this good God for salvation. Pray that they would follow God’s leadership in their life by following Jesus.