

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TOPIC: GOD CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE

WEEK: 2

TERM: FIRST

GOD GUIDED AND PROTECTED HIS PEOPLE

(Exodus 14)

When the Israelites were allowed to leave Egypt, they had to trek all the way from the borders of Egypt to the wilderness of Mount Sinai. They needed guidance and protection from all their enemies. God was there in their midst to provide guidance and protection. God led them by a **pillar of cloud** during the day. The pillar of Cloud signified the guiding and protecting presence of God among His people. God was also in their midst as a **pillar of fire** at night. God's presence in the form of fire protects them from wild animals. God guided and protected the Israelites till they reached the shores of the Red Sea, where they encamped at **Pihahiroth**. When Pharaoh learnt that the Hebrews had not return after three days, as they had promised, he organized his troops and chased them to Pihahiroth. When the Israelites saw the advancing Egyptian troops, they became frightened, and cried to God. But Moses said to them:

Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord.

God defeated the Egyptians that day by destroying them in the Red sea. In the morning, the shore of the Red sea was littered with Egyptian corpses and God receive glory over Pharaoh.

GOD PROVIDED FOR HIS PEOPLE

(Exodus 16: 1-21, 17:17)

After the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites set out on their way to the promise land. All the provisions they brought from Egypt had finished. They were experienced hunger and thirst. God, in His loving care was ready to provide them with food and water. The Israelites, led by Moses set out from **Elim** and came to the wilderness of **Sin**. All their food was finished. They stayed at sin for some days without food. As a result of this, they started murmuring against Moses and Aaron that they would have prefer to die in Egypt, then dying in the wilderness for lack of food.

The Lord told Moses that He would rain bread (Manna) from heaven for them to eat. The people were instructed to gather a day's portion every day and two portions on the day before Sabbath. This was to test them. Manna fell from Heaven as God instructed, and the children of Israel ate and were satisfied, but still complained that they were tired of bread.

In the evening, God order quills (birds) to fall in the camp which the people took for food and meat. However, because the people did not obey the instruction given by Moses, the remaining food was filled with maggots the next day.

After God had cared for the Israelites by providing food from Heaven for them, they moved from the wilderness of Sin and camped at **Rephidim**. Here, they experienced shortage of water, and went to Moses, murmuring and demanding for water to drink. Moses was not happy with their murmuring against the Lord, even when the Lord has been meeting their needs.

Moses therefore cried to the Lord and asked what he should do with the people because they were almost ready to stone him. God ordered Moses to stroke the rock, and water will come out of it, for the people to drink. And Moses did as he was instructed in the sight of the elders of Israel. And, he called the place **Massah and Meriba**, because of the faulting of the Israelite, and because they put the Lord to test.

SIGNIFICANCE/MORAL LESSONS

1. God Loving care for His people was the reason why He guided and protected them.
2. The lesson is that God is always with us at all time and under all circumstances.
3. God provided food and water for the Israelites to show that He care for the basic needs of men
4. We must not be impatient with God; we must learn to endure patiently till God provided for our needs.
5. God want us to put our faith trust in Him.

Assignment

Narrate two instances in the bible where God provided for the people (with Bible references).