6

Who's in Charge?

Key References: Exodus 16; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 26, pp. 291-302; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 139-145; Our Beliefs nos. 7, 22, 14



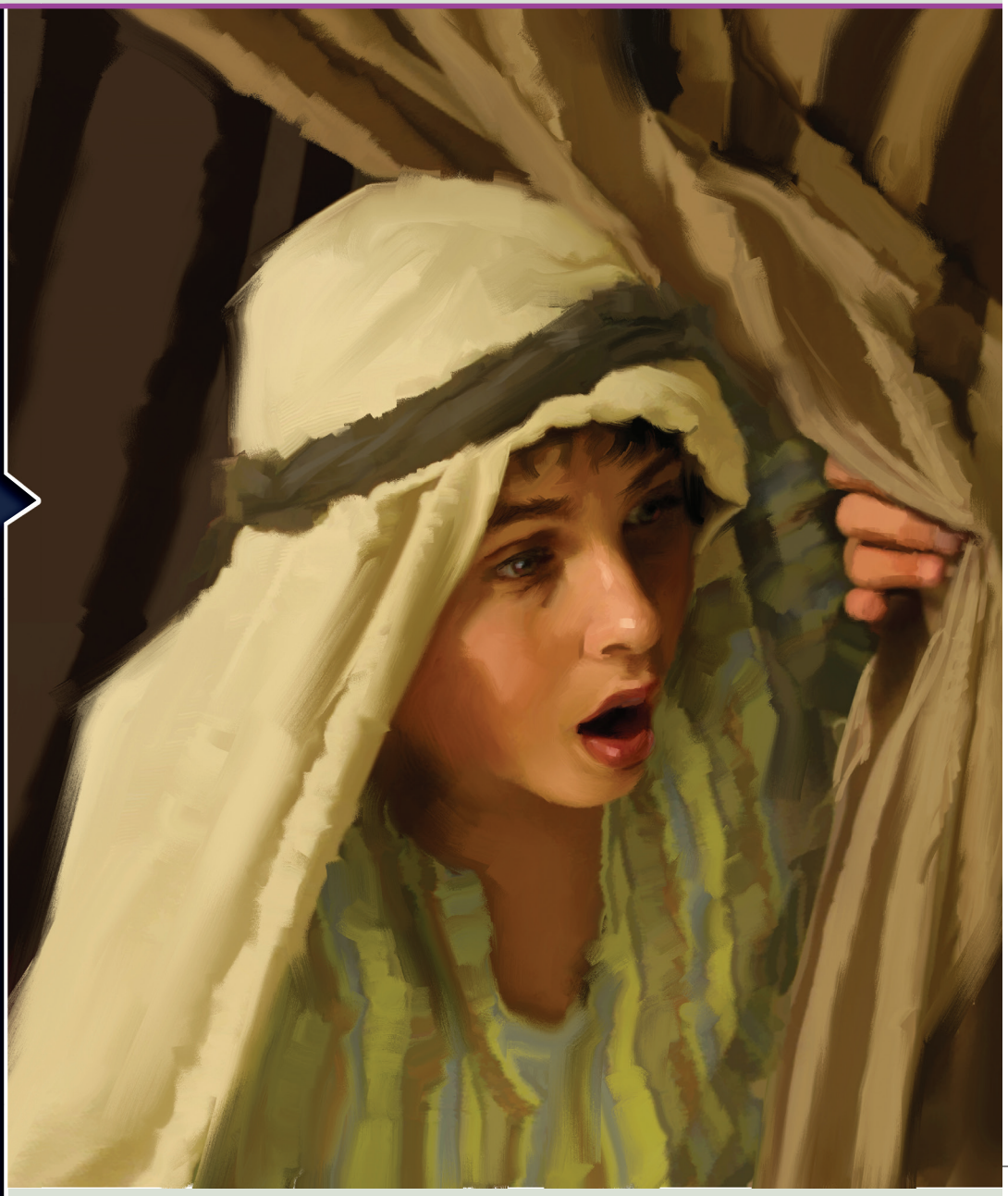












powertext

"So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?'" (Exodus 16:6, 7).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

powerpoint

We worship God by following His loving instructions for our lives.

Have you ever been on a campout or on a journey where there were no shops? How would you feel if you started running out of food and water? Would you panic, or trust God to provide for you?

Moses looked out over the entire Israelite community camped on the edge of the Desert of Sin. Just days ago they had been enjoying a beautiful oasis with springs, palm trees, and all the water everyone could drink. They had been thirsty; God had provided water. The water had been bitter; God had showed Moses how to make it sweet. But now they were facing the unknown again.

Moses could hear their grumbling.

"Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD," Moses said. "Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling" (Exodus 16:8, 9).

Then Moses repeated to the Israelites the words of the Lord, "At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God" (verse 12).

At twilight, just as God had told Moses, a large migrating flock of quail covered the camp, and the Israelites, once again temporarily happy, stuffed themselves and forgot their fretting and frustrations.

In the morning, one by one, heads popped out of tent openings to observe a white, seedlike frost covering the ground outside. "What is it? What is it?" each person questioned another. Soon Moses answered their questions.

"It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat" (verse 15). God would provide this bread one day at a time, and the Israelites were to show their gratitude by carefully following God's simple instructions: "Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer [about two quarts (or two liters)] for each person you have in your tent" (verse 16). The people obeyed the first part of the instructions.

Then Moses proclaimed the next step of the instructions, "No one is to keep any of it until morning" (verse 19). God wanted to give them

6

Sunday

READ Read Exodus 16:14-16 and "Who's in Charge?"

WRITE Think of a time you doubted God's ability to provide for your needs. Write about it in your Bible study journal. Write about God's solution.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for supplying your needs.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 16:17-21.

THINK What happened to the Israelites when they did not follow God's instructions? What did they learn about God?

SHARE Share with someone an experience during which God miraculously helped you in a crisis situation.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for giving simple instructions for a good life.

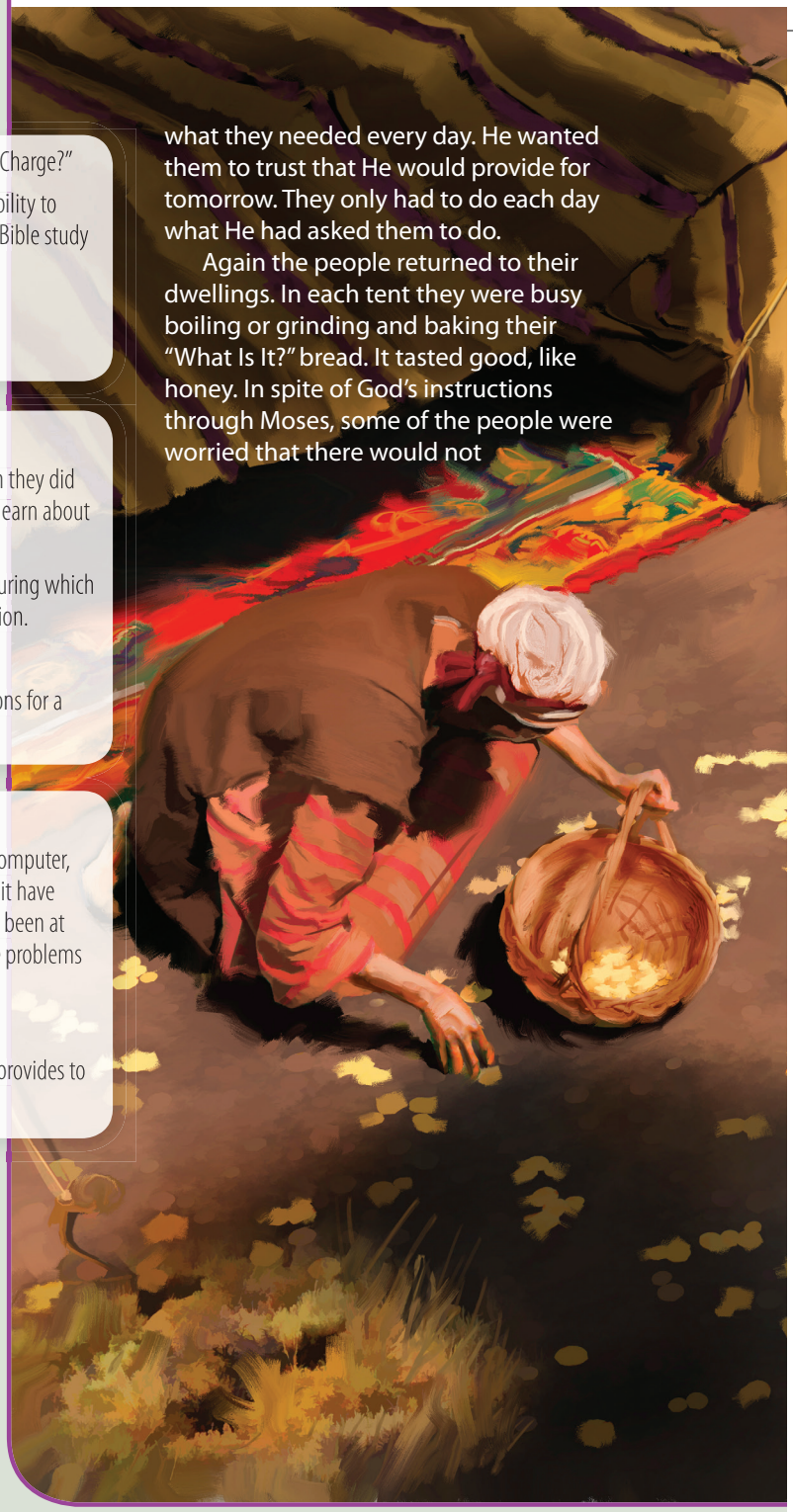
Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 16:1-3.

RESEARCH In your school library or on the computer, find out what a desert is like. How hot might it have been during the day? How cold might it have been at night? What did God provide to help with the problems of extreme temperature?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for something specific He provides to take care of you.



what they needed every day. He wanted them to trust that He would provide for tomorrow. They only had to do each day what He had asked them to do.

Again the people returned to their dwellings. In each tent they were busy boiling or grinding and baking their "What Is It?" bread. It tasted good, like honey. In spite of God's instructions through Moses, some of the people were worried that there would not



be any tomorrow, and they put some aside.

In the morning the "What Is It?" bread that had been saved from the night before stank and was full of bugs, just as Moses had said. And just as God had promised, there was plenty more on the ground for that day's needs. The people had to get out of bed and gather it before the sun got too hot and melted it.

This splendid arrangement went on day after day until it was the morning of the sixth day. Moses called the people together again. God had another step in His instructions. The Israelites were to gather twice as much "What Is It?" bread

6

Wednesday

READ Read Exodus 16:10.

THINK What are things that you complain about to God? Write about them in your Bible study journal.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you obey His instructions for your life as an act of worshipping Him.

Thursday

READ Read Exodus 16:27.

THINK Do you think the Israelites would have been happier if they had obeyed God? In what ways?

SHARE Talk with someone about how God meets your needs.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to impress you about other ways you can share Him with others.

Friday

READ Read Exodus 16 again.

IMAGINE Imagine that you are Moses. You have to organize thousands of people for a 300-mile journey through the desert. What are the first five things you would do?

REFLECT How important was it for Moses and the Israelites to trust God? God heard their prayers and answered their cries because He loved them.

FINISH Finish this statement: Because God loves me and wants me to trust Him, I plan to _____

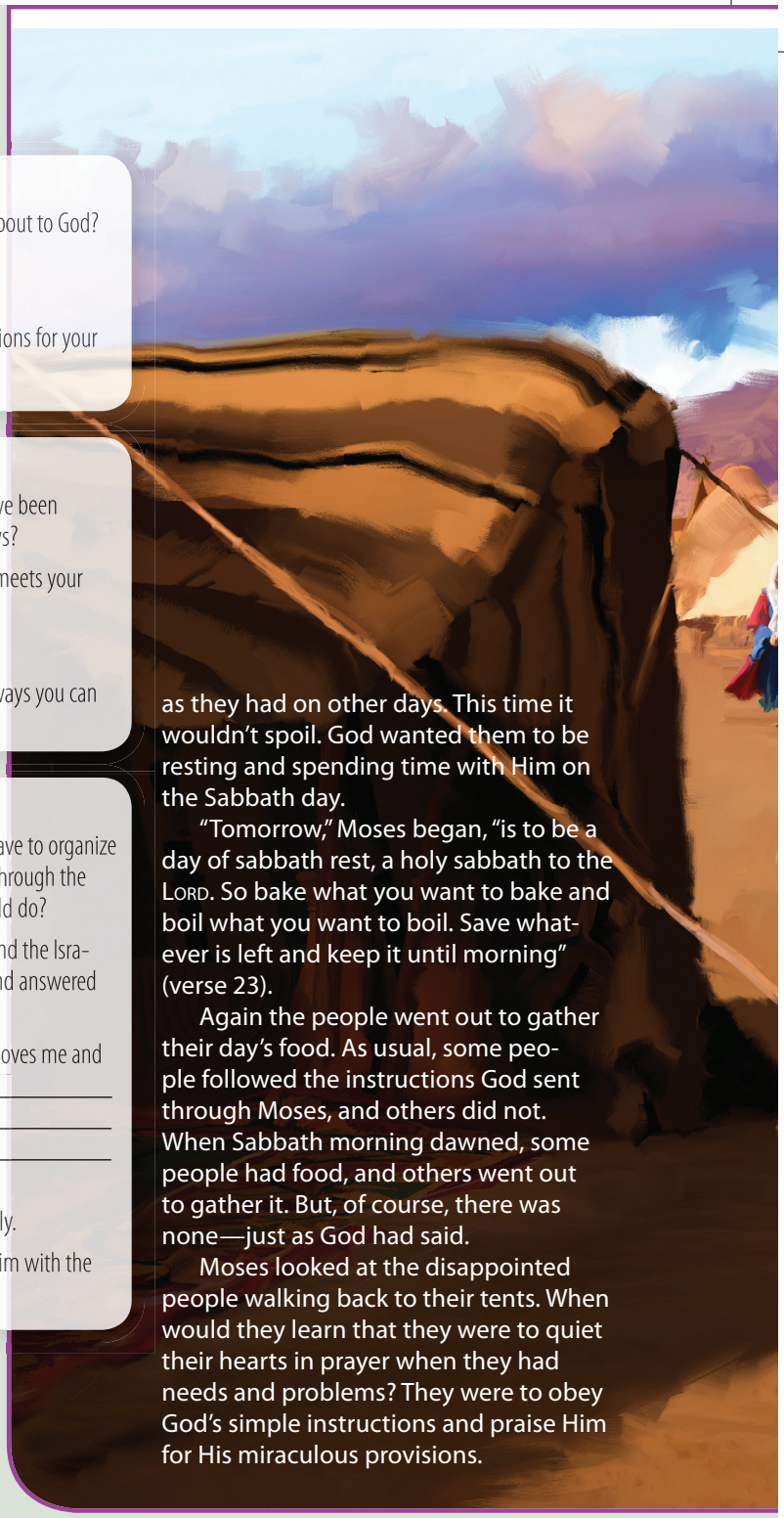
_____

_____

_____

SHARE Share the power text with your family.

PRAY Ask God to help you to always trust Him with the daily cares of your life.

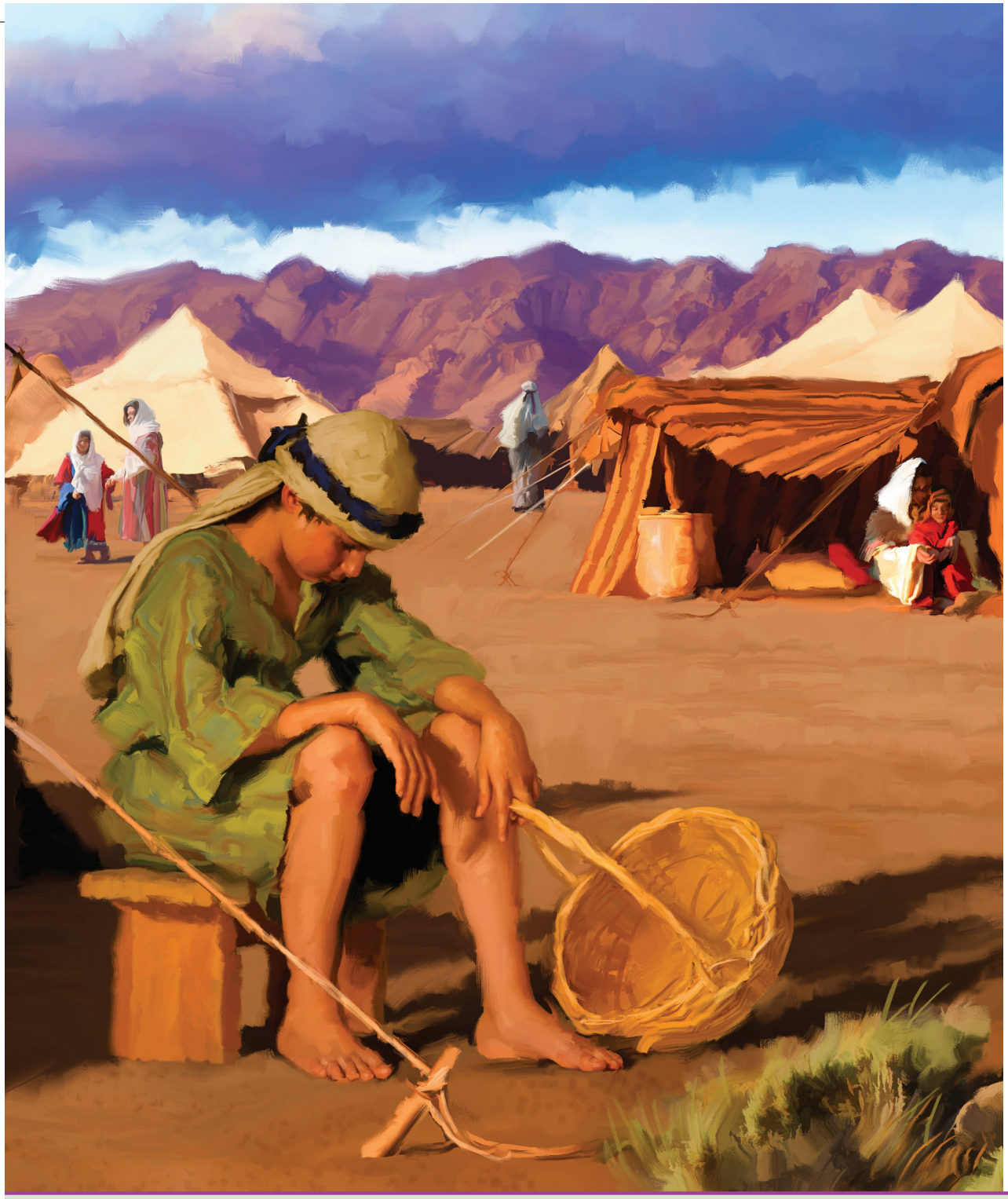


as they had on other days. This time it wouldn't spoil. God wanted them to be resting and spending time with Him on the Sabbath day.

"Tomorrow," Moses began, "is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning" (verse 23).

Again the people went out to gather their day's food. As usual, some people followed the instructions God sent through Moses, and others did not. When Sabbath morning dawned, some people had food, and others went out to gather it. But, of course, there was none—just as God had said.

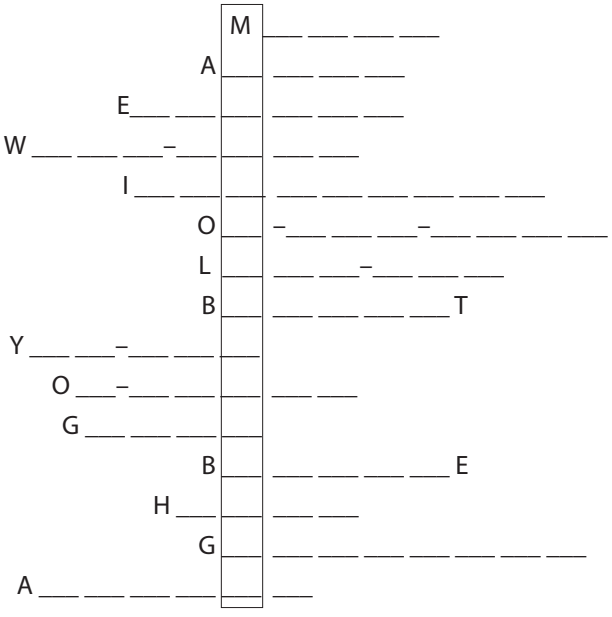
Moses looked at the disappointed people walking back to their tents. When would they learn that they were to quiet their hearts in prayer when they had needs and problems? They were to obey God's simple instructions and praise Him for His miraculous provisions.



PUZZLE 6

LOVE FOR A STUBBORN PEOPLE

Instructions: The first letter of the words hidden in the grid is given. Find and circle the complete word in the puzzle grid. It can read up, down, or diagonally. Words with a hyphen are found as a single word. All of the words are from Exodus 16:6, 7 (NIV). Letters in the vertical column spell out the first part of the hidden verse and the rest of the verse is made of the uncircled letters in the puzzle grid.



U B R O U G H T N T
E E I L H Y R O L G
S V T H E W T Y R W
U E R E A S D U C O
A N T M N N M R F N
C I H I O B E T O K
E N A R L S H F D L
B G A I T E E H E L
A A N B L G A S O I
R G D O Y E R R R W
O F R P C A D N S A
A D T U O U O Y N I

Hidden Verse: "The Israelites ate

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___, . . .

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___."