BIG IDEA: God is always with me.

Week 6

Cloud *and* Fire



This lesson is based on Exodus 19 and 20 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 303-314.

God's people kept marching through the hot, dusty desert. The sun shone brightly in the clear blue sky. But the people didn't feel the sun burning their skin. God covered them with His special cloud. God's cloud kept them cool in the hot desert. It gave them shade from the sun. Thank You, God!





When the big cloud moved slowly across the desert, God's people followed along behind it. Follow, follow, follow *(walk fingers on page)*. **God was using the cloud to lead them! When the cloud stopped moving, God's people stopped too. Quickly they set up their tents. When the cloud started to move again, they packed up everything and started walking.** ***Follow, follow, follow*** *(walk fingers on page)*. **It was so special to see God leading them!**



At night, God's cloud changed into a tower of fire. It glowed orange and red against the dark night sky. *Flicker, flicker.* It kept God's people warm on the cold desert nights *(cuddle up close)***. The fire was like a beautiful night-light. It helped them to feel safe and loved. God was with them in the cool cloud during the day. He was with them in the warm fire at night.**



God promised to be with His people always! He called Moses to come and meet Him on a mountain. ***Up, up, up*** the mountain climbed Moses, to meet with God. God talked with Moses. He gave him a very special gift for the people. It was a list of good things to do to love God and love others. It's called the Ten Commandments. It's in our Bible today. Moses was so happy! He knew God loved him, and God loved all the people.



God loves you too! We can read God's words to us in the Bible. We can learn how to love Him and others with all of our hearts. The Bible tells us that God is with us always. He is with you when you wake. He is with you when you play. He is with you all through the day! He's with you when you lay down your sleepy head. He is with you all through the night!

Thank You, God, for being with Your people in the cloud and fire. *(Say together)* Thank You for being with me, always.

play throughout the day

Create

Make a tower (tube) of fire. Have your child do a big scribble of fire on a blank piece of paper, using orange and red crayons or markers. Fill the page with color! Cut out the flames and glue them onto another piece of paper. Wrap the flames around a tube or broomstick. When the people saw the fire, they remembered that God was with them. God is with us too.

Connect

Plan a special Friday night this week to celebrate that God is always with us. Make special dinner and let your child help you set the table nicely. Pick flowers or leaves outside to decorate the table and light candles, if you have them. Enjoy bringing in the Sabbath with singing songs and worshipping together.

Play

Pretend to be an Israelite following God's cloud. Talk about how the Israelites followed God, their leader, going behind the cloud and fire. Make a little tent together with a towel hung between two chairs. You may like to include the tower of fire you created. Pretend morning comes and God's cloud moves. Say, "God's cloud is moving; let's follow Him" and quickly pack up the tent. Then have your child follow you as you pretend to follow the cloud. When the cloud stops, quickly set up the tent again.

Pray

God shows us His love for us in the Bible. Read the memory verse from your Bible. Try to say it together. Thank God that He is always with us.



Extension weekly memory verse: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

God's fire and cloud illuminate the loving protectiveness of our God. But God wanted more. He wanted to be even closer to His people. He desired an intimate relationship with them. He wants to have this with you too. When the people arrived at Mount Sinai, they were to prepare to meet Him. Here was a chance to learn more about the God who had freed and saved them.

For days the Israelites prepared to meet with God. They cleaned their tents, their clothes, and their hearts. With a sense of excitement and awe they bowed before the Lord at the edge of the mountain.

He came with an amazing display of splendor and power. When the Israelites saw the mighty signs of His presence, "they trembled and stood afar off" (Exodus 20:18). Their view of God had been shaped by their harsh experience as slaves. His power terrified them! Rather than come closer to see the amazing God who saved them, they shrank back in fear and missed their chance to directly receive God's 10 laws of love close-up and personal.

God is always taking a step closer toward you. Still, God wants more. His aim is to dwell within you. When we accept Him as our Savior, He takes up the closest position possible. "Do you not know yourselves, that Christ is in you?" (2 Corinthians 13:5). The guidance, protection, warmth, safety, and care He shows His children in the desert is just a foretaste of what Jesus offers you when He is the leader of your heart.

Come closer to Him in prayer and Bible study today. He can't wait to come close to you! "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).