LET'S GO CAMPING

Do you like to camp? When Moses led the people out of Egypt, they probably expected a short journey. Instead, there was a detour…that lasted 40 years. That's a long camping trip. Along the way, people complained, questioned, and wondered if God was present. But even in the wilderness, God never left. God stayed close, guiding, providing, and forming them into something new. The wilderness shaped them into faithful people of God. We're not so different. When life feels uncertain, overwhelming, or just plain hard, God stays close.

TITLE	OBJECT	CAMPFIRE TRUTH	SCRIPTURE	JOURNAL (DRAW IT. WRITE IT. PRAY ABOUT IT.)
Are we lost?	Compass	God is our guide.	"…the Lord went ahead of them…" – Exodus 13:21	How does God help guide you?
Thirsty	Rock	God will provide	"…I am making a way…" – Isaiah 43:19	How can you ask God for help?
Snack Break	Bread	God invites rest	"So the people rested on the seventh day." – Exodus 16:30	How can rest help you connect to God?
Shortcuts	Bible	Choose wisely, and let God's word be your guide.	"…Worship the Lord your God…" – Matthew 4:10	How can God help you choose what is right?

ARE WE LOST?

Exodus 13:17-22

Have you ever felt lost? Not just turned around, but unsure of what comes next or what to do? The wilderness can feel like that. In the story of Exodus, we discover something powerful: God's people were never alone. The journey through the wilderness took longer than they thought, and was more difficult than they thought, but God led them through.

Day 1: Read Exodus 13:17–18.
God does not lead the people by the shortest road.
Why do you think God's way is not always the quickest or easiest?

Day 2: Read Exodus 13:19.
Moses carries Joseph's bones to fulfill a promise to remember God's provision.
What helps you remember what God has done?

Day 3: Read Exodus 13:20–21.
God leads the people with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
What are some ways God leads people today?

Day 4: Read Exodus 13:22.
The cloud and fire stay with the people.
What are some ways God helps you know you are not alone?

Day 5: Read Psalm 32:8.
God says, "I will teach you the way you should go."
Where do you need wisdom or direction right now?

Day 6: Read Exodus 13:17–22 again.
The people may not know the whole route, but God gives them enough direction to keep going.
When has God helped you find a way to keep going?

When life feels uncertain and the path isn't clear, we can trust this: God continues to guide.
God is our guide.

THIRSTY

Exodus 17:1-7

What do you do when your tank is empty; when you're out of energy, patience, hope, or what you need to get through the day? In the wilderness, God's people found themselves thirsty, frustrated, and wondering if they had been forgotten. God met them right there, bringing water from a place they never expected.

Day 1: Read Exodus 17:1–2.
After a long and difficult journey, the people set up camp, only to discover there is no water.
What feels lacking in your life right now?

Day 2: Read Exodus 17:3.
The people are thirsty, scared, and angry. Instead of trusting God, they complain to Moses.
When is it easier for you to complain than to trust God?

Day 3: Read Exodus 17:4.
Moses brings the problem to God.
What challenges and struggles do you need to bring to God in prayer?

Day 4: Read Exodus 17:5–6.
God brings water from a rock, a place no one would expect.
When have you seen God's help come in an unexpected way?

Day 5: Read Exodus 17:7.
The people ask a question many people ask in crisis, "Is the Lord among us or not?"
What makes it hard to trust that God is with you?

Day 6: Read Isaiah 43:19.
God says, "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
What does this verse teach us about God when life feels dry or difficult?

Even when resources feel scarce and the situation feels impossible, God isn't finished.
When life runs dry, God is still at work.
God will provide.

SNACK BREAK

Exodus 16:1-30

It is easy to feel like there's always more to do, more to worry about, more to keep up with. In the wilderness, God provided daily bread for the people, but also gave them a command that didn't make sense: stop. Don't gather all of it. Rest. Trust there will be enough.

Day 1: Read Exodus 16:1-8.

When things get difficult, the people grumble. They forget their suffering in Egypt and what life was like with no freedom and no rest.

What makes a busy life seem appealing, even when it comes without any freedom?

Day 2: Read Exodus 16: 9-18.

God gives the people what they need to eat for each day.

What do you need from God to live day by day?

Day 3: Read Exodus 16:19-21.

Some people ignore Moses' instructions. They try to keep extra food, but it rots.

Where in life do you hang on too tightly instead of trusting God?

Day 4: Read Exodus 16:22–24.

On the sixth day, God tells the people to gather enough so they can stop and rest on the Sabbath.

Why do you think a day of rest is so important to God?

Day 5: Read Exodus 16:25–26.

Moses tells the people there are days for gathering and a day for resting.

What does a healthy rhythm of work and rest look like for you?

Day 6: Read Exodus 16:27–30.

Some people still go out looking for more, but God has already provided.

What makes it hard to rest and trust in God's enough?

In a world that pushes us to keep going, God teaches God's people to rest, not because there isn't more to do, but because God can be trusted to provide.

God invites rest.

SHORTCUTS

Matthew 4:1-11

Being in the wilderness can be hard. After His baptism, Jesus is led into the wilderness where He is invited to take shortcuts, to rely on Himself, and to choose what is easy instead of what is right. But sometimes the easiest choice is not the best choice.

Day 1: Read Matthew 4:1–2.
Jesus is in the wilderness. He is hungry, likely tired, and alone.
When does your life feel difficult or lonely?
Where are you most vulnerable to making unwise decisions?

Day 2: Read Matthew 4:3–4.
Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread, to care for His own needs without relying on God. He responds with Scripture, and chooses to trust God.
When you want a quick fix, what helps you trust God and choose your next step wisely?

Day 3: Read Matthew 4:5–7.
Jesus is tempted to *prove* God's faithfulness and presence. Even though Scirpture is quoted, Jesus refuses to test God.
When you need assurance that God is with you, what can you do?

Day 4: Read Matthew 4:8–11.
Jesus is tempted to take power the easy way. Instead, Jesus chooses to worship God and surrender to God's will.
What is the difference between the easy choice and the wise choice?

Day 5: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5.
The temptations Jesus faces challenge the way of the Shema, loving the Lord with all one's heart, soul, and strength.
What temptations in the world today keep people from loving God with all their heart, soul, and strength?

Day 6: Read Psalm 119:105-112.
God's word is described as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.
How can knowing God's word and letting God's story guide you help you make wise choices, particularly in times when you are tired, stressed, and tempted?

Jesus does not just know the right verses. He trusts God's story and walks the path.
He chooses to trust God, and God's word is His guide.
Choose wisely, and let God's word be your guide.