

WILDERNESS TO LAND

Bible Text: Exodus 16:1-15; Joshua 24:14-18; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Lesson Focus: We should focus our lives on God.

Big Question: I have so many important things in my life; why should I focus on God?

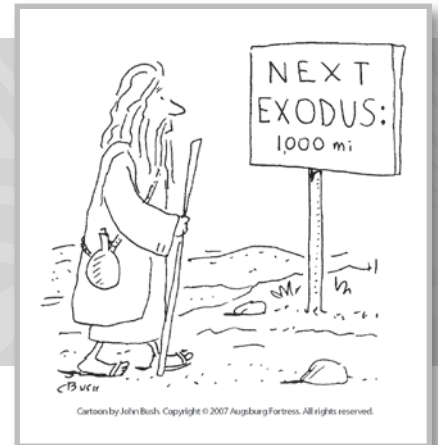
Key Words: PROVIDE, OBEDIENCE, FAITHFULNESS, PROMISE

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] Once out of Egypt, the people began to grumble; God provided them with food anyway.
-] While Moses went up on the mountain to talk to God, the people worshipped a golden calf.
-] God did not destroy the people, but they did have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time the Lord provided for them.
-] The 40 years of wandering meant most of the generation that worshipped the golden calf passed away.
-] Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land, and Joshua became the new leader of the people.
-] The faithfulness of God and the erratic behavior of God's people are prominent themes in these stories.
-] The people of Israel worshipped a golden calf. The people of God today worship money, power, sex, status, fame, etc.
-] Deuteronomy 6:4-9, especially verses 4-5 (called the Shema), is foundational for Jews in a very profound way to this day. All obedience, it claims, flows out of a sense of love toward God and dependence on God.

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] What are the things that you are tempted to put ahead of God in your life?
-] Why do you think people have such a hard time putting God first in their lives?
-] Where can you find help to keep your priorities straight?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 56: The Top 10 Bible Miracles and What They Mean

-] What do you think makes something a “miracle”?
-] What are some things today that people may once have considered miraculous but we now take for granted?
-] The people of Israel were not very grateful to God, but still God provided for their needs. Why? What does this say about the nature of God's grace?

Here We Stand Student Book page 45: Five Facts about Life in Old Testament Times

-] Which thing would you find most difficult to deal with that was a fact of life in Old Testament times?
-] Do you think it was easier for people in the old days to focus on God and what God had done for them than it is for us today?

LIFE CONNECTION

Make a list of 10 things you do every day. Be sure to include “Keep God as the focus of my life” on your list. Then cut those 10 things apart and put them in a hat. Draw them out one at a time and do those things in that order every day this week. How is this different from doing them in a specific, prioritized order? Did it mess with your routine? When did you “keep God as the focus of your life”? When *should* you do this?

