

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We are delivered to discover the only true God in Whom we can trust.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

God's love for the Israelites leads us to understand our need for the fullness of love found in Jesus.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

The stories from Exodus and the Old Testament show us truth regarding the character of God. God reveals his love for the Israelites by providing bread to eat, by healing them with a bronze snake, and by comforting them through his presence in the pillar of smoke and fire. These expressions of God's love foreshadow the fullness of God's love through Jesus. Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus heals through his death on the cross. Jesus comforts through giving His Holy Spirit. While God continues to provide, heal, and comfort people in miraculous and ordinary ways, God provides permanent provision, healing, and comfort through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

TALK IT OVER (DISCUSS ONE OR MORE):

Share stories from your life of when you were hungry, of when you needed healing, or of when you needed comfort. Share how those situations were resolved.

The Israelites grumbled when they felt like things were falling apart or not going their way. Explain how grumbling about a situation contributes (or doesn't) to finding a solution.

Read Isaiah 53:3-7. How do prophecies work? Are there still prophecies? How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy by Isaiah? How is what is shared by Isaiah a demonstration of God's love?

How does God provide, heal, and comfort people who are even far from Him? How does He do that with those who are following Jesus? What are the differences, if any?

What are ways that show you are trusting that Jesus provides for you? What are ways that you can embrace the healing of Jesus when healing of illness or injury doesn't happen in the way you really wanted?

Share how the Holy Spirit has provided comfort to you.

OTHER SCRIPTURES TO READ:

Romans 5:8

Galatians 2:20

1 John 4:7-8

Deuteronomy 7:9