4

WALKING ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS

Moses Leads the Exodus

Exodus 13:20–21

BIG IDEA:
God guides us every step of the way.

TRUST
FOLLOW
OBEY

WALKING ON THE ROAD with Jesus

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

WEEK 4

MOSES AND THE EXODUS

EXODUS 13:17–22

MEMORY VERSE

"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way..."

EXODUS 13:21 (NIV)

BIG IDEA

God guides us every step of the way.

BOTTOM LINE

Sometimes God's plan is different than the one we would choose.
But we can trust that He is caring for us and leading us in the best way.

SUPPLIES

- Blue or green classroom Bibles
- Cotton batting or paper cloud
- Four station signs: Egypt, Short Road, Pillar of Cloud, Pillar of Fire
- Tape or floor markers
- Optional flashlight

TIME BREAKDOWN

Welcome & Hook	3 min
Bible Story	8 min
Main Activity	10 min
Teaching Connection	3 min
Prayer & Wrap-Up	2 min

TOTAL: 26 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY

When the Israelites left Egypt, God did not take them on the shortest road. God knew they were not ready for the battles ahead, so He led them on a different path. During the day, God guided them with a pillar of cloud, and at night He guided them with a pillar of fire. Even when the Israelites did not understand God's plan, He was caring for them and leading them in the best way.

KEY POINTS

- ✓ God rescued His people from Egypt.
- ✓ God did not choose the shortest road.
- ✓ God knew what was best for His people.
- ✓ God guided them with a cloud by day and fire by night.
- ✓ God's different path was a caring path.

WHAT THIS MEANS

God sees the whole picture, even when we don't. We can trust Him to lead us the way He knows is best.

MAIN ACTIVITY

FOLLOW THE CLOUD STATIONS

Children follow the "pillar of cloud" around the room, stopping at four stations.

1. **Egypt**
   God rescued His people and brought them out of Egypt.
2. **The Short Road**
   God could have taken the shortest road, but He knew His people needed a different path.
3. **Pillar of Cloud (Day)**
   The cloud showed that God was leading His people and watching over them.
4. **Pillar of Fire (Night)**
   The fire gave light and heat at night. It showed God's presence with His people and kept them safe.

TEACHING CONNECTION

Was the shortest road always the best road?
The Israelites may not have understood why God chose a different route. But God could see what was ahead. Sometimes God leads us differently because He loves us and is caring for us.

OPTIONAL TEACHING ILLUSTRATION

CLOUD SAYS (Like Simon Says)
Choose one leader to be the Pillar of Cloud. Play several quick rounds. Give directions with "Cloud says..." and occasionally give directions without it. Children only follow directions that begin with "Cloud says...".

PRAYER & WRAP-UP

Dear God,
Thank You for caring for us and guiding us every day. Help us trust You when plans change or when we don't understand why things happen the way they do.
Amen.

LEADER REMINDER

Please use the blue or green classroom Bibles when reading today's story.

Exodus tells a much larger journey, but today we are focusing on Exodus 13:17–22, where God guides His people with the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

Help children notice:
God's different path was not a mistake—it was a loving path.

WEEK 4 – STATION IMAGES

GOD LED HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT

EGYPT

This is where God's people lived before they started their journey.

SHORT ROAD

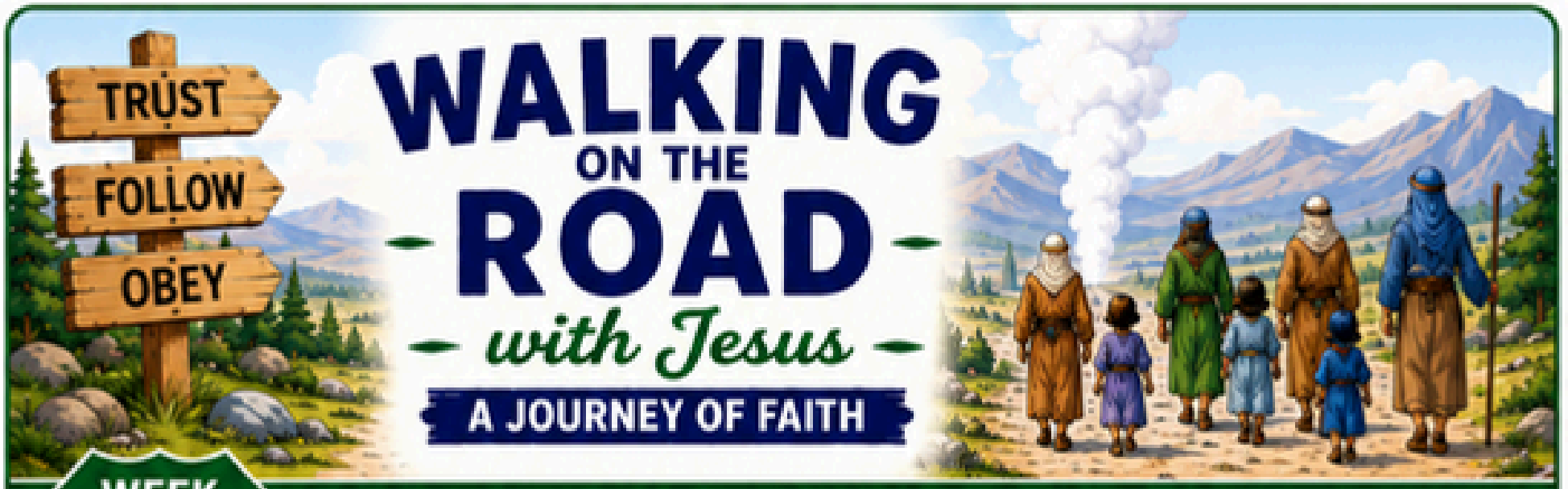
God did not take His people the short and easy way.

PILLAR OF CLOUD

During the day, God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them.

PILLAR OF FIRE

At night, God went ahead of them in a pillar of fire to give them light.



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When the Israelites left Egypt, God did not take them on the shortest road. God knew His people were not ready to face the battles ahead, so He led them on a different path. Even when the Israelites could not see it, God was caring for them and guiding them in the best way.

JOURNEY TALK

- Have you ever wanted something to happen one way, but it happened differently?
- Looking back, can you see any way God might have been caring for you?
- Why didn't God take the Israelites on the shortest road?
- How can we trust God when we don't understand His plan?

THIS WEEK'S ROAD SIGN

God knows the way, even when we don't.

JOURNEY TRUTH

Sometimes God's plan is different than the one we would choose.
But we can trust that He is caring for us and leading us in the best way.

FAMILY PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for caring for us and guiding us every day.

Help us trust You when plans change or when we don't understand why things happen the way they do.

Open our eyes to see the ways You are caring for us, even when we don't notice it right away.

Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD

This week, when plans change or something unexpected happens, pause and ask:

"Could God be caring for me in a way I don't see yet?"

Then watch for ways God provides:

- Help from a friend
- Encouragement from a family member
- A new opportunity
- A lesson learned
- An unexpected blessing

PARENTS

As a family, talk about a time when something did not go according to plan but later made sense. The Israelites could not see what God could see. He led them on a different path because He knew what was ahead.

This week, encourage your children to look for ways God may be caring for them—even when they do not understand everything that is happening.

Keep walking with Jesus—
He is with you every step of the way!