

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

GOD HAS MADE A GREAT MANY PROMISES. THEY ARE ALL "YES" BECAUSE OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE. SO THROUGH CHRIST WE SAY "AMEN." WE WANT GOD TO RECEIVE GLORY. – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

PROMISE OF DIRECTION

THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GO AHEAD OF YOU. HE WILL BE WITH YOU. HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.

POINT UP

POINT IN FRONT OF YOU

POINT TO SELF

SHAKE HEAD "NO"

HE'LL NEVER DESERT YOU. SO DON'T BE AFRAID. DON'T LOSE HOPE.

HUG SELF

MAKE "X" WITH ARMS

HANDS ON HEART

STORY: THE ISRAELITES & THE PILLAR OF CLOUD/FIRE – EX. 13:17–22

DISCUSS:

READ THE BIBLE STORY FROM EXODUS 13 OR FROM YOUR FAVORITE STORY BIBLE. HAVE YOUR KIDS RETELL THE STORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS & ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

1. How did God lead the Israelites during the day and at night?
2. Why do you think it mattered that God went ahead of them?
3. Where in your life do you need God's direction right now?
4. How does knowing God goes before us help us feel safe or brave?
5. What is one way our family can follow God's guidance this week?

BIG IDEA: GOD GOES BEFORE US TO GUIDE, PROTECT, AND PROVIDE.

DID YOU KNOW...?

When the Israelites left Egypt, they were stepping into a massive unknown! They didn't have maps, street signs, or satellite directions—just wide, rugged desert stretching out in front of them. The path to the Promised Land could have been a short 11-day walk, but God led them on a longer route for their protection. The shorter path passed through enemy territory, and the Israelites weren't ready for battle yet. God knew what was ahead—danger, difficulty, and decisions they couldn't see—so He guided them a safer way.

And God didn't lead them quietly... He guided them with something unforgettable: A pillar of cloud during the day (like a giant God-made shade that moved forward and they followed) and a pillar of fire at night (bright as a torch in the darkness, lighting every step)

Imagine looking up each morning to see a cloud moving in the sky and knowing, "That's God... and He's showing us where to go today." Every sunrise and sunset reminded them that God was not behind them—He was ahead of them. Just like then, God still goes before us today—guiding us even when we can't see what comes next.

SOMETHING TO NOTE!

God didn't hand the Israelites a map—He gave them Himself. Instead of showing them the whole journey all at once, He led them one step at a time. This reminds us that God's guidance is often daily, not distant. He goes before us, not just pointing toward the right path, but walking ahead to protect, provide, and prepare the way. When we teach our children to trust God's leading, we're helping them learn that they never have to face the unknown alone. Following God isn't about knowing every detail—it's about knowing Who goes before us.

PROMISES

PRAYER PROMPT:

Before you pray, take a moment to think about places where your family needs God's direction—big decisions, new challenges, or everyday choices. Ask God to go before you just like He did for the Israelites, guiding your steps, protecting your hearts, and helping you trust Him even when the path is unknown.