

TRUST AND OBEY

Exodus 17

All the congregation of the children of Israel traveled from the wilderness of Sin, as the Lord commanded them. They stopped at a place called Rephidim where they pitched their tents. There was no water at that place and the people began to argue with Moses, saying, "Give us water to drink."

Moses answered the people, "Why are you arguing with me? Why are you tempting the Lord?"

At Rephidim the people thirsted for water, and at that place they murmured against Moses and said, "Why have you brought us, and our children and cattle out of Egypt to kill us?"

Moses cried to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with these people? They are ready to stone me."

The Lord answered Moses, "Go before the people, take the elders with you, along with the rod that you used to strike the river. I will stand in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock with your rod and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink."

Moses did as the Lord had said, and the Lord gave the people water from the rock. He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because there the people had argued with him and tempted the Lord.

After this the people of Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. Moses told Joshua to choose men who would go with him and fight against Amalek. He said, "Tomorrow, I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."

Joshua did as Moses had said. He took his men and fought against Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.

This is how the battle went: When Moses held up his hand, Israel was winning, but when Moses put down his hand, Amalek was winning. After a while, Moses' hands became heavy from holding them up for so long, and he was not able to keep them up. Then Aaron and Hur got a rock for Moses to sit on, and they held up his hands. Each man stood on one side of Moses and held up one hand, so that Israel would win the battle. Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands all day until the sun set. They must have been very tired from standing all day holding up Moses' hands.

Joshua defeated the people of Amalek in battle that day. The Lord told Moses to write about it in a book, and tell it to Joshua. The Lord said, "I will utterly destroy the name of Amalek and not leave them a remembrance because they have fought against you this day."

At that place Moses built a monument and called it Jehovah-nissi, which means, the Lord is my banner.

It may seem like the trick to winning the battle with Amalek was keeping Moses' hands up high. Some people might get the idea that if a person does a certain action, then God will have to give us what we want. That is not the truth! The real lesson is obedience to God. Keeping Moses' hands up was a sign of obedience to doing what God said, whether it was easy or comfortable or not. The Lord did not need Moses' hands in the air to win the battle for Israel, but he wanted all the children of Israel to see, that Moses was God's obedient servant. That day all the people could look up on the hill and see Moses' hands held high in prayer and praise and obedience to the Lord. He was an example to them of how they also should obey the Lord without murmur or complaint.

Aaron and Hur were the Lord's faithful servants as well. They helped Moses to accomplish what he was not able to do by himself. Without their help, Moses' hands would have dropped and the lesson that the Lord wanted to show might have been lost.

Each of us must learn to be obedient to the Lord's command, no matter how difficult it may seem. Sometimes our obedience will be in helping someone else to do what God asks of them.

LEARN: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things he hath done for you.
I Samuel 12:24

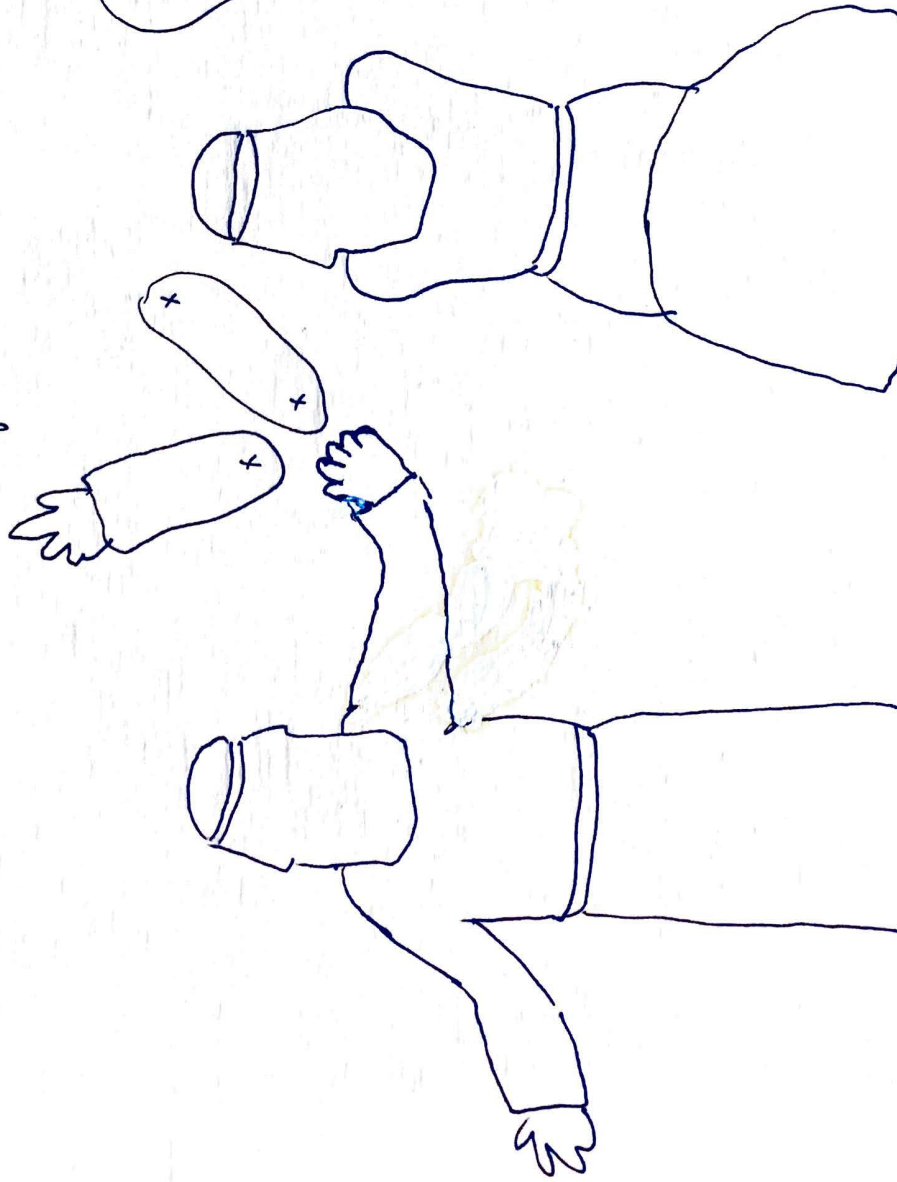
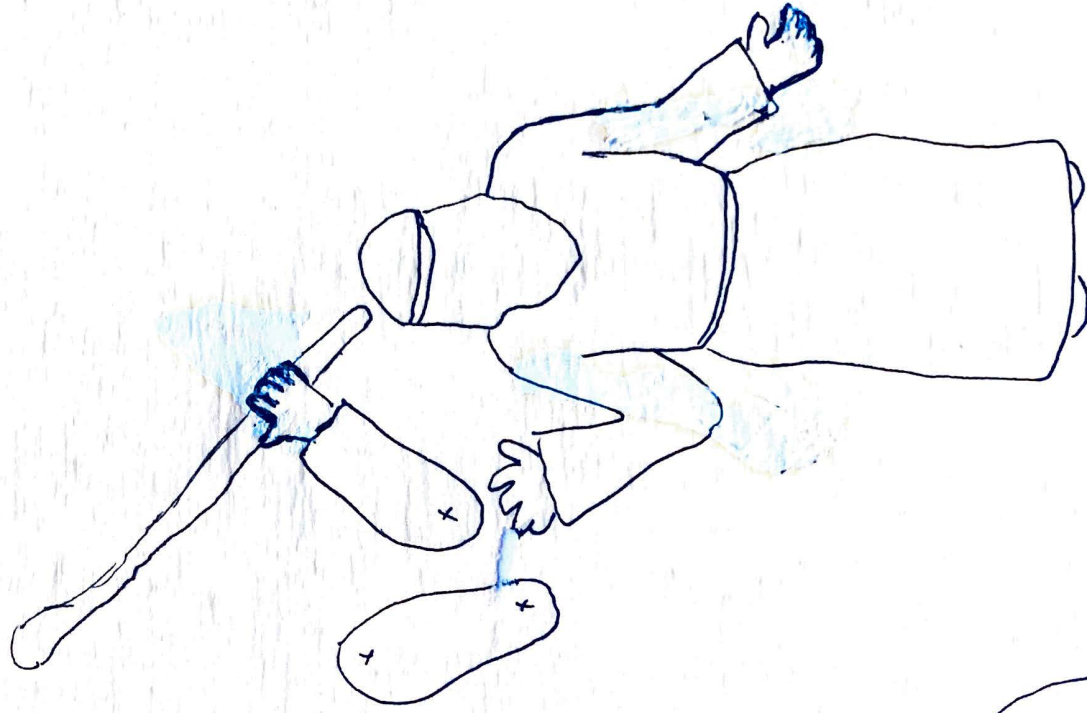
1. Color the background.

2. Color Moses, Aaron, Hur, Moses arms. -
Cut them out.

3. Paste Moses, Aaron, Hur on the background.

4. Attach Moses arm pieces with paper fasteners.

5. Move Moses' arms to tell story





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Obey the Lord God, and serve him
with all your heart; for consider what
great things he hath done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24





