

Day 1: God's Leading is Founded on His Word and is Trustworthy

Song: Follow, Follow

*Follow, follow, following the pillar,
Cloud by day, fire by night—God is leading us!
Follow, follow, following the pillar,
Day and night so happily we follow thus!*

*Follow, follow, following the pillar,
This a way, that a way, —Round and round about!
Follow, follow, following the pillar,
Since our God is leading, There's no need to doubt.*

Scripture Reading: Exodus 13:21-22

And they journeyed from Succoth and encamped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness. And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them on the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might go by day and by night.

Points to Consider:

- **One of the main ways God leads us is by His Word.** His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105.)
- Sometimes our situation seems bright and we feel like we can understand what is going on. Other times, we may feel like we are in the night, not able to understand what is happening to us. In either case, **God is with us**, leading us faithfully as the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.
- Even though the children of Israel wandered about quite a bit and did not take a straightforward path to the good land, God was with them. **Whether God's leading makes sense to us or not, we are learning to follow regardless.**

Story: Hudson Taylor's Last Coin

Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China in the 1800's, began to learn the lesson of following the Lord and His Word when he was a young man. Late one night, while training as a medical student in England before going to China, Taylor suddenly heard a loud knock on his door. A very poor man stood there, begging Taylor to come pray with the man's wife, as she was close to dying. Taylor went with the man through dark, grimy alleyways, unsure if what the man had said was true or whether the man would suddenly turn and rob him. In his pocket, Taylor's hand held tightly to his very last coin.

Upon reaching the man's home, Taylor found a dying mother with six children and a newborn baby, all living in one room with no furniture and only straw for a bed. The man explained that they had no money to pay Taylor for coming to visit them and that they had not eaten in days. Taylor thought that if only he had more money, he would gladly give some of it to help these people.

"But if I hand over my last coin, the only money I have, then I will starve tomorrow. No one could expect that of me," he thought to himself.

As Taylor started to tell this family about the Lord Jesus and how they could trust in Him, he remembered the Lord's Word: "Give to those who ask of you" (Matt. 5:42). He realized that he himself was not following God's Word. His conscience bothered him, and he realized that even though it did not make sense to give away his last coin, he needed to follow God's Word. He gave his last coin to the family and felt so free inside and able to tell them more about the Lord Jesus. When he arrived home hours later, he was penniless and had only enough food for one meal, but he was filled with joy. He had done something that others might consider foolish, but the Lord was speaking to him and Taylor had followed.

The next morning as he ate the last of his food, a package arrived for him in the mail containing a new pair of gloves and a gold coin worth four times as much as what he had given the previous night. This lesson of following God's Word and trusting Him helped Taylor greatly in his years as a missionary. He later said: **"God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supplies."**

FAMILY CHAT

- God led his people with a pillar of _____ by day and _____ by night.
- In this story, when Hudson Taylor remembered a verse about giving to others, he sensed God leading him to give away his last coin. How can you know God's leading in your life?
- Parents: Can you share an experience you've had of God leading you?

MEMORY VERSE

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:105

☐ **Our family completed this day!**