

Story Time: Read the story to the children:

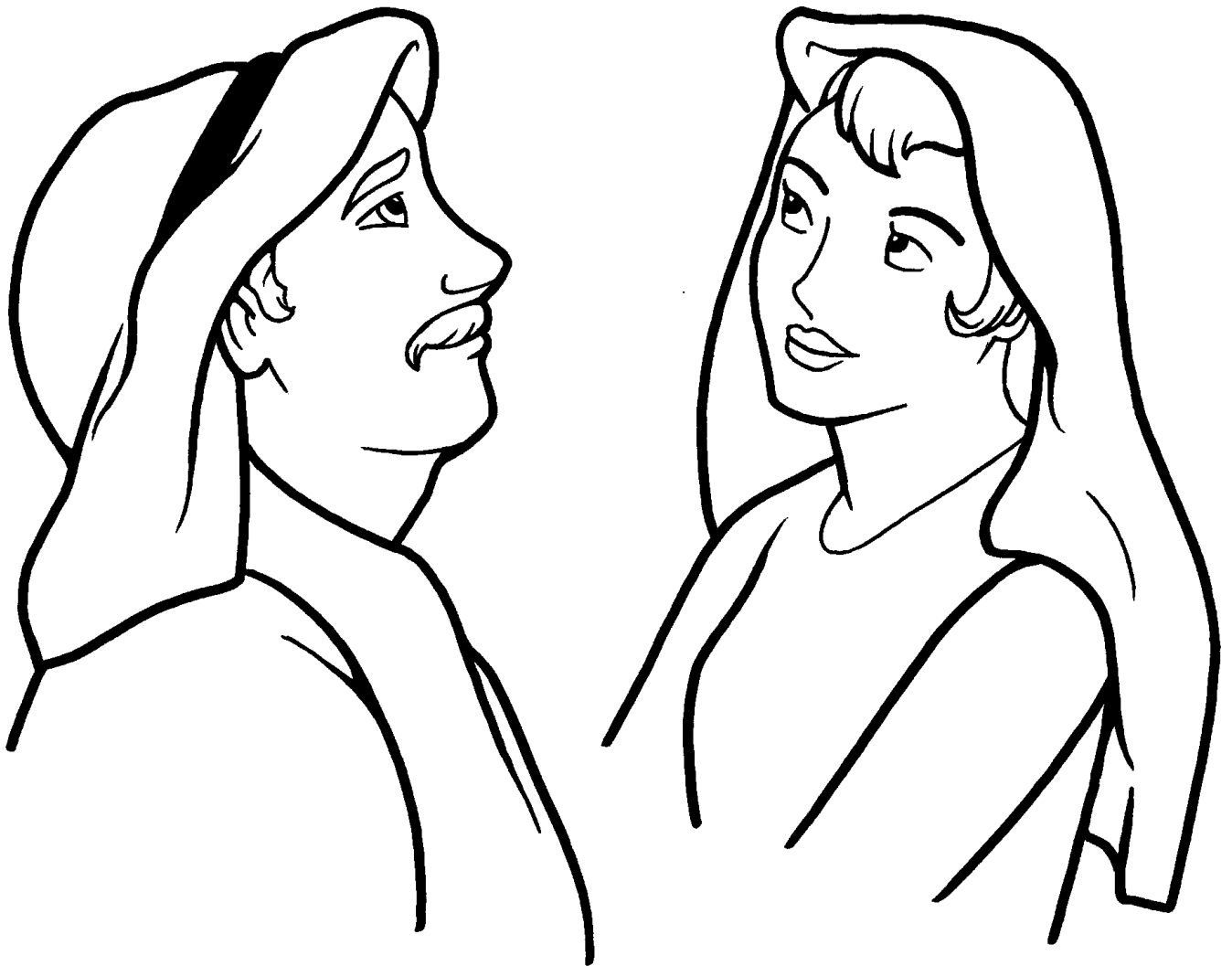
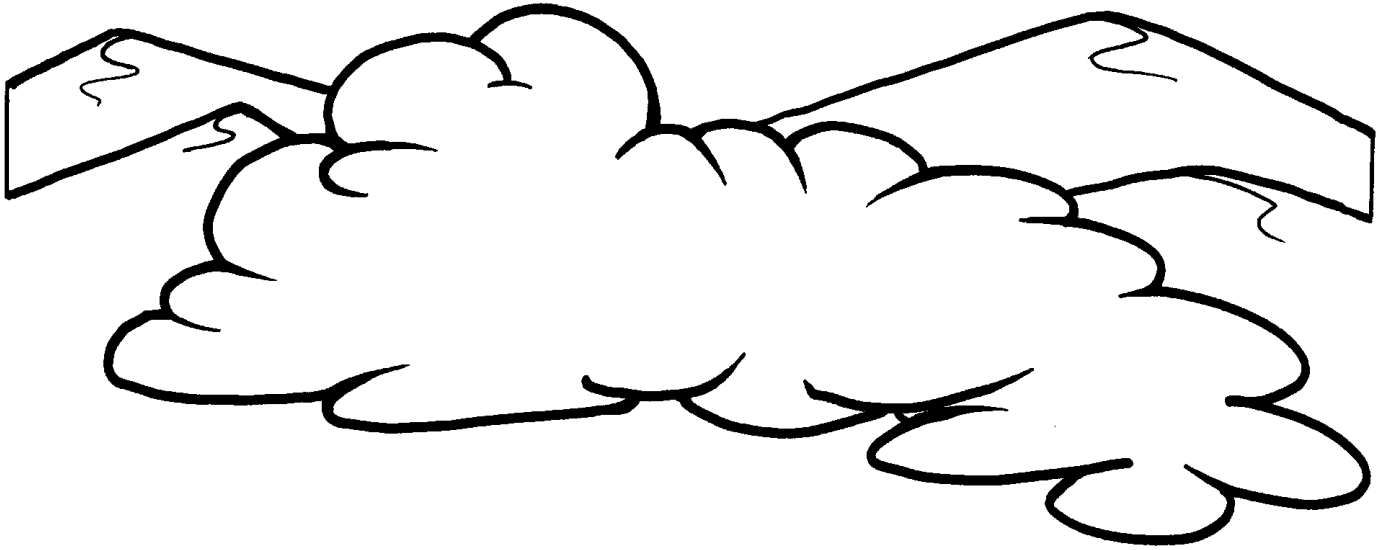
Lesson 47: THE CLOUD AND THE FIRE

Numbers 9:15-23

On the day the tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony, was set up, a cloud covered it. At night the cloud over the tabernacle looked like fire. The cloud stayed over the tabernacle all the time. And at night the cloud looked like fire. When the cloud moved from its place over the Tabernacle, the Israelites followed it. When the cloud stopped, that is the place where the Israelites camped. This was the way the LORD showed the Israelites when to move and when to stop and set up camp. While the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle, the people continued to camp in that same place. Sometimes the cloud would stay over the Tabernacle for a long time. The Israelites obeyed the LORD and did not move. Sometimes the cloud was over the Tabernacle for only a few days. So the people obeyed the LORD'S command--they followed the cloud when it moved. Sometimes the cloud stayed only during the night--the next morning the cloud moved. So the people gathered their things and followed it. If the cloud moved, during the day or during the night, they followed it. If the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle for two days, a month, or a year, the people stayed at that place. They did not leave until the cloud moved. When the cloud rose from its place and moved, they also moved. So the people obeyed the LORD'S commands. They camped when the LORD told them to, and they moved when He told them to. They watched carefully and obeyed the LORD'S commands to Moses.

47. THE CLOUD AND THE FIRE

(NUMBERS 9:15-23)



“And on the day that the tabernacle was built the cloud covered the tabernacle: and at night it looked like there was fire covering the tabernacle until the morning.”

NUMBERS 9:15

47. THE CLOUD AND THE FIRE

(NUMBERS 9:15-23)

MEMORY VERSE:

“At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed...” NUMBERS 9:23

TRUE OR FALSE

1. On the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, and at night the cloud looked like fire.
TRUE or FALSE
2. The fire covered it by day, and a dark cloud covered it at night.
TRUE or FALSE
3. When the cloud moved from its place over the tabernacle, the children of Israel would stay in their tents.
TRUE or FALSE
4. When the cloud would settle over the tabernacle, the children of Israel would stay and camp in that place.
TRUE or FALSE
5. It didn't matter if it was two days, a month, or even a year that the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, the children of Israel would stay in that place.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What was over the tabernacle during the day time?
2. What did the cloud look like at night?
3. What did the people do if the cloud lifted up from over the tabernacle?
4. What would the people do if the cloud stayed in place over the tabernacle?
5. How long did the people stay in the same place when the cloud would be over the tabernacle?
6. Did the people obey the LORD's command to Moses?

Lesson 47 Activity

Match Game

Help the children trace their feet two or three times on different colors of construction paper. Then cut them out. Put all of them in a basket and mix them up. Then help the children take turns to match up the pairs of feet and colors. Explain to the children that God directs our steps.

Follow the Cloud

For a fun game, take an umbrella with cotton balls taped to it (to look like a 'cloud') and hold it up in the air above the children's heads (or use a paper with a picture of a cloud on it if you don't have an umbrella) and another picture of a fiery cloud, or tape a picture of red orange and yellow fire on the umbrella on the other side (one side is cotton balls or a cloud, the other side is fire). Have the children group together under the 'cloud', and move around the room to different places, each time telling the children to be the Israelites and follow the cloud where the Lord wants them to go. You can have the children pretend to unpack, set up their tents, cook food over a fire and serve to their 'family', and then when it's time to move again say, "Uh-oh – the Lord wants the Israelites to move on!". Then have the children pretend to pack up their belongings and follow the 'cloud' to another place in the room. You can turn the umbrella to the fiery cloud side when you pretend it's night time.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to follow the Lord's leading in our lives as He directs our steps. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.