

Week of April 1
Following God's Guidance

■ **Text:** Numbers 9:15~18 (April 4 Passage)

■ **Point:** God's children are safest when they obey God's leading.

☰ **1. Prayer**

Thank you God, for leading us to the path of goodness every day.

☰ **2. Praise**

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☰ **3. The Word**

Read Numbers 9:15~18 together. (Read the verse 3 times)

* Repeating the text in different translations helps us to understand the material deeply.

<ESV>

¹⁵On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. ¹⁶So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. ¹⁸At the command of the Lord the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the Lord they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.

<NASB>

¹⁵Now on the day that the tabernacle was erected, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle until morning. ¹⁶That is how it was continuously; the cloud would cover it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷Whenever the cloud was lifted from over the tent, afterward the sons of Israel would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the sons of Israel would camp. ¹⁸At the command of the Lord the sons of Israel would set out, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud settled over the tabernacle, they remained camped.

Understanding the Text

The tabernacle where God dwelled was a place where we met God. When Moses completed the tabernacle, a cloud covered it as a sign that God was with him. In the wilderness, God led Israel through the cloud. When the clouds rose, they marched, and when the clouds stayed, they camped, and the people only followed God's commands.

Understanding the text for leaders

The tabernacle is a small sanctuary that God Himself gave the Israelites shape, size, and materials to make. In the tabernacle, they kept the ark of the covenant, and God promised to be there to meet the people. When the tabernacle was built according to God's command, God covered the tabernacle with a cloud as a sign that He was with them (Exodus 40:34~38). God was always with Israel. As a proof of this, a pillar of cloud stayed in the tabernacle during the day and a pillar of fire at night. God Himself led the Israelites to the land of Canaan, flowing with milk and honey. The method He used to lead the people was through clouds. When the cloud rose over the tabernacle, they marched, and when it stopped, they camped there. Even if we wanted to march, we waited for the clouds to rise again. Moses and the other people of Israel obeyed God's guidance with faith and patience. The desert journey with God was the safest way, even though it was difficult and difficult.

4. Sharing

1) On what basis did the Israelites march or stop in the wilderness? (verse 17)

Upper Grades

What did the Israelites see and move in the wilderness? (verse 17)

Lower Grades

What did the Israelites see in the wilderness that led them to God's guidance? (verse 17)

Question Guide

Without a map or navigation, it is not easy to find a way. The wilderness is a place where it is difficult to find a way. Emphasize the fact that God Himself led the Israelites in such a desert. Remind them of the delicate love of God who led the people with clouds that cover the hot sun during the day and fire that protects them from the cold at night.

Commentary for Leaders

It is very dangerous to go through the desert without navigation. God was present in the tabernacle as a cloud and personally led the Israelites. The clouds were visible to everyone. When the cloud rose from the tabernacle and went ahead, the people marched, and when the rolling stopped, the people stopped and camped. God protected the people by blocking the hot sun from the Middle East with clouds during the day, and protected His people with warm fire at night when the temperature dropped a lot due to the big change in the day. The people could see the clouds and the fire and feel God protecting them.

2) What should be the standard for distinguishing when to stop and when to move on?

■ Upper Grades

What do I need to do to live according to God's guidance in any situation or circumstance?

■ Lower Grades

Think about what you can do every day to live according to God's word. (e.g., Cutie, Reading the Word, Praise)

□ Question Guide

Tell them that living according to God's guidance today means understanding God's will through the words of the Bible and obeying God's will. God's children should choose and follow everything based on God's word. For this, please tell them the importance of praying every day. In addition to words and prayers, the advice of people around us—pastors, co-workers, family members, and those who pray for us—can also be channels through which God leads us.

□ Commentary for Leaders

God, who saved Israel from Egypt, was with them and led them until the end to give them the Promised Land. God does not leave His people orphans, but is with them and helps them. Another name for God is Immanuel Immanuel which means "God with us." God sent His only Son Jesus Christ to this earth and confirmed God as Immanuel (Matthew 1:23). Our path in life is like a desert. When we are led by God in Jesus, we can walk in the safest and most blessed way (John 14:6). God has given us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Please enlighten us and guide us to the right path.

≡ 5. Be Grateful

Thank God for being with us and guiding us on a safe and blessed path.

≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for being the perfect guide in our lives, for loving us and leading us to the safest and most blessed path.

- Conclude the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer

