



CAMEL HERDER

Israelite Camp

Week of August 3



Bible Point: God guides us, so...trust God!

Key Verse: "I will bless the Lord who guides me." (Psalm 16:7)

Bible Story: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

Historical Background

- The Israelites probably brought herds of cattle, goats, sheep, and other animals with them from Egypt. And while traversing the desert wilderness, they most likely would have run into gazelles, antelope, lizards, snakes, and scorpions.
- When one thinks of desert animals, camels come to mind almost immediately. There are two major varieties of camels—Arabian (dromedary) and Bactrian. Arabian camels have one hump, while Bactrian camels have two. The Israelites would have used Arabian camels, which are native from India to north Africa. Bactrian camels are found mainly in central Asia.
- When necessary, as in the desert, camels can survive on just about any food—including sparse grass or even thorns. During such times, they live mainly off the fat stored in their humps.
- Camels don't actually store water, but use it slowly, which enables them to go without drinking for several days. When water is found, a thirsty camel can take in up to 25 gallons at one time!
- Their ability to cross vast deserts has earned camels the nickname "ships of the desert."
- Owners of camels often put ornaments on their favorite animals. Often, crescent-shaped ornaments were sewn on red cloth and made a jingling sound as the camel walked.
- Mosaic law forbade the Israelites to eat camel meat, but it's possible that they did use the milk to drink or to make butter.
- Camel's hair was spun into strong thread, and coarse fabrics could be made from the thread. Tents were also sometimes made of camel's hair, as well as carpets, rugs, and garments.

Supplies

From your tool kit: bell, beads, length of cord

Additional supplies: Permanent markers and additional beads you might have at home

Instructions

- Decorate your bell using permanent markers
- Cut a length of cord, long enough to wear the bell as a necklace or bracelet. String the cord through the hole on top of the bell. Then tie a knot above the bell to hold it in place.
- String beads onto both ends of the cord as further decoration. Tie a small knot after the last bead on each side to hold the beads in place.
- Wear the camel bell as a necklace or bracelet, tie it to a backpack, or hang it on a wall at home.

