

## **E5. Cloud and Fire**

*Numbers 9:15-23*

### **Memory Verse**

***“Follow what you heard from me...” --2 Timothy 1:13 (NIRV)***

### **Bible Lesson**

**Message:**

***Follow the footsteps of Jesus.***

On the day the holy tent (or tabernacle, in NKJV) was set up, the cloud covered it. (It was the tent where the tablets of the covenant were kept). From evening until morning the cloud that was above the tent looked like fire. That's what continued to happen. The cloud covered the tent. Even at night the cloud looked like fire.

When the cloud lifted from its place above the tent, the people of Israel moved. Wherever the cloud stopped, the people of Israel camped. When the Lord gave the command, the people of Israel moved. And when He gave the command, they camped. As long as the cloud stayed above the holy tent, they remained at their camp.

Sometimes the cloud remained above the tent for a long time. Then the people of Israel obeyed the Lord's order. They did not move. Sometimes the cloud was above the tent for only a few days. When the Lord would give the command, they would camp. Then when He would give the command, they would move.

Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening until morning. When it lifted in the morning, they would move. It didn't matter whether it was day or night. When the cloud lifted, the people would move. It didn't matter whether the cloud stayed above the holy tent for two days or a month or a year. The people of Israel would remain at their camp. They would not move. But when the cloud lifted, they would start out.

When the Lord gave the command, they camped. And when He gave the command, they started out. They obeyed the Lord's order. They obeyed Him, just as He had commanded them through Moses.

### **Talk About It**

*In today's story, God led the Israelites in a very unique way. There was no doubt what they should do each day. God used His great power to lead His people to freedom from the Egyptians. The people had to learn to trust God to lead them to this freedom and so the people had to follow God and His special signs.*

*Ask your child if they ever got lost or could not find their way home. Maybe this happened to you when you were a child. Share your experiences with each other. Were you afraid? How were you able to find your way?*

*Talk with your child about today's memory verse. It says: "Follow what you heard from me." Explain to your child that we all must learn to follow what God tells us and obey Him unconditionally. Our Heavenly Father wants to help us find our way too, just like He helped the Israelites. God is able to teach us through His words in the Bible, as well as through the message that we hear in the divine services. Remind your child that we can pray to God and ask Him to help prepare our hearts for hearing His word. When our hearts are open to God's word, we will be able to follow it and the example of the Lord Jesus. This will all help us to find our way to our Heavenly Father on the day the Lord returns again. Talk about it.*