

A script from



“Camp Sunrise: The Wandering Israelites”

by
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What The kids at Camp Sunrise have been wandering around the woods for what seems like days, even though it's only been a short time, making it a great time to hear a story about Israelites wandering in the desert and a lesson on being grateful during the tough times.

Themes: Protection, Provision, God Provides, Guidance, Gratefulness

Who

Counselor Henry/Harriet	Reed
Marigold	Israelite 1
Ivy	Israelite 2
Dusty	Israelite 3

When Present and Bible Times

Wear (Props) Setting is a campsite (i.e. tents, campfire, etc.)
Campers should wear camping clothes
Israelites wear biblical robes

Why Numbers 32:13

How Working with kids can be challenging. Make sure that they know to be still and quiet and listen to the person speaking when it's not their turn so that they do not distract from the story.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Counselor: *(Offstage)* Left! Left! Left Right Left! Left! Left! Left Right Left!
Entering marching followed by Marigold, Ivy, Dusty and Reed marching behind.

Counselor: Left! Left! Left Right Left! Left! Left! Left Right Left! STOOOOP!!!

They all stop bumping into one another as they do.

Counselor: I think this is the spot.

Marigold: *(Looking around confused)* This?

Ivy: But there's nothing here.

Dusty: Nothin' but trees.

Counselor: Yep. *This* is it. Come on over and have a seat.

They all pull up a stump around a fire pit nearby.

Ivy: I feel like we've been wandering for hours.

Dusty: I feel like we've been wandering for days! I'm so tired.

Reed: It's so dark out.

Marigold: And kinda scary.

Ivy: *(Jumping like she hears a noise)* Ahh! What was that?!

Dusty: It was just the wind. *(Then he suddenly jumps at a noise and hugs Reed)*
Ahh! What was that?!

Counselor: It's just nature. Birds, wind, trees, animals. It's all around us.

Marigold: But it's all so strange.

Counselor: You're right, it *does* seem strange in the dark. But it's the same stuff that's there during the day.

Dusty: I think being in the dark just makes things scarier.

Counselor: I think you're right. That reminds me of a story. Would you like to hear it?

They all ad lib that they do.

Counselor: Ok. Well, we were all wandering together in the woods...trying to find this campsite and it felt like a long time that we were wandering, didn't it?

They all ad lib in agreement.

Enter **Israelites** tired and wandering looking around confused and distraught.

Counselor: Well, there was once a whole big group of people, they were called the Israelites, and they were wandering in a hot and sweltering desert for more than forty years!

Campers: Forty years?!

Counselor: Yes. Forty years. They spent a lot of nights wandering in the dark, not knowing which way to go or what some of the strange sights and sounds around them were.

Israelite 1: *(Jumping at a noise)* Ahh!! What was that?!

Israelite 2: It was just the wind. Don't be so- *(hearing a noise and jumping into the arms of Israelite 1)* Ahh!! What was that?!

Israelite 3: It's the same thing it always is. We've been wandering in this desert so long how can you possibly still be afraid?

Israelite 2: *(With a bit of a whine sitting down and putting face in hands)* I'm just so tired of wandering.

Israelite 1: *(Whining and sitting)* Me too.

Israelite 3: *(Whining and sitting)* Me three.

Israelite 1: Why doesn't God just show us the way home?

Israelite 2: *(Standing and pointing stage right)* I say we just go back to Egypt. There we had food. Shelter.

Israelite 3: Here we have nothin'. Just desert...desert...and more desert.

Marigold: Wait, they used to live in Egypt?

Dusty: With food and houses and stuff?

Ivy: Well then, they should definitely go back to Egypt and stop wandering all around in the desert.

Counselor: Now wait a second. Life wasn't great for them back in Egypt.

Israelite 1: *(Standing)* We can't go back to Egypt. Have you forgotten? We were slaves back in Egypt. Pharaoh wasn't a nice guy. We had to work hard building all those pyramids for him!

Israelite 2: It gave me terrible blisters.

Ivy: They were *slaves*?

Counselor: Yup.

Dusty: And now they were wandering around in the desert for forty years?

Counselor: Yup.

Marigold: Tough gig.

Israelite 1: You're telling me!

Reed: Why were they wandering for so long?

Counselor: Well, the Israelites were kind of pretty big whiners.

Israelite 2: *(Whining)* It is soooooo hot in the desert! I'm baking out here!
(Speaking to Heaven) Ever heard of a community pool?

Counselor: And they were pretty ungrateful too.

Israelite 3: What's for dinner? And if you say quail or manna I'm going to scream.

Israel1&2: *(Very matter of fact)* Quail and manna.

Israelite 3: Ahhhhhhhh!!!!

Counselor: And they weren't very good listeners either.

Israelite 2: *(To Counselor holding hand up to ear)* What's that you say?

Marigold: Oh yeah...I remember this! God had saved the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt. He even parted the Red Sea to help them escape!

Counselor: And even after *everything* God had done for the Israelites they continued to whine and complain and they even forgot about God and decided to worship idols.

Dusty: Wandering around in the desert doesn't sound like any fun.

Ivy: Sort of like how we were wandering around the woods for so long. We were tired. Hungry. And confused by all the new sights and sounds around us.

Counselor: But eventually we stopped wandering, didn't we?

All the **Campers** ad lib that they did.

Counselor: And the Israelites eventually stopped wandering too and turned back to God and were thankful that he was always with them.

Israelite 1: *(Pointing offstage)* Look over there! Do you see what I see?!

Israelite 2: Could it be?!

Israelite 3: Yes! It is! It's....it's....

Israelites: The Promised Land!

The **Israelites** run offstage in a delighted frenzy ad libbing as they go: "I'm so excited! Milk and honey! No more manna! Etc.

Counselor: When you're wandering around and don't know where you are, it can be confusing and even a little scary. It can be lonely and hard to see the good things all around you and even harder to be thankful for the good things. The Israelites often chose to whine and complain about all the bad parts of wandering, but even while they were feeling so lost God was with them. He took care of them. *(Pause)* Just as he has taken care of us here in the woods. But, it's late. Time to sleep campers!

They all stand and make sleepy yawny stretchy motions and ad lib. that they are ready for bed and general "goodnights" to all as they disappear into their tents. Boys to one tent, girls to the other. The **Counselor** stands in the middle near the fire wishing them goodnight.

Counselor: *(Speaking to God)* Thanks...for helping us out while we *(using air quotes)* "wandered" in the woods. Help us to always look to you for help, knowing you are there every step of the way and be thankful for that. Goodnight.

The **Counselor** disappears into their tent.

End.