

God Feeds His People Manna in the Sinai Desert  
About 5 minutes, from Exodus 16 - 17 and Numbers 20

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Aaron

Moses

Grumbler

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

- Moses I am Moses, Israel's Law-giver.  
After escaping from slavery in Egypt, God's people camp  
in the desert near Mt. Sinai, and some of them grumble.
- Grumbler Moses and Aaron, why'd you bring us into this arid wilderness?  
We will starve!
- Prompter & Echoes We are hungry!
- Grumbler We'd have been better off dying back in Egypt;  
at least we'd have had our fill of meat and bread.  
You led us out into this desert to dry up and die.  
There's no water.
- Prompter & Echoes Moses, we are thirsty!
- Moses I hear a voice from heaven and look up.
- Voice Moses, I have heard my people grumbling.  
I will test them to see if they will walk in my ways.  
Tell them that I will rain bread from heaven for them.  
Everyone must gather a day's portion every morning.
- Moses Sons of Israel, in the morning you'll see the Lord's glory.  
He heard your complaints. You grumble not against  
Aaron and me, but against God himself.
- Voice Moses, at twilight the people shall eat meat,  
and in the morning they shall be filled with bread.  
They shall know that I am the Lord their God.
- Aaron I am Aaron, Moses' brother. It happens as God told Moses.  
In the evening quails come up and cover the camp.  
Next morning fine flakes of food are lying on the ground.
- Prompter & Echoes What is this stuff?
- Grumbler Hey! It's tasty!  
It looks like coriander and tastes like honey.
- Moses The Lord has given you bread.
- Prompter & Echoes Manna from heaven!

Voice Moses, have every man gather as much as he'll eat,  
but only for one day. On the sixth day, bring in twice as much,  
so as not to gather it on the Sabbath.

Aaron Look, Moses. Those who try to gather much have no excess;  
and those who gathered little have no lack!

Moses Oh, oh! Some people disobeyed! This is serious.  
They stored up manna for the next day. Now hear them.

Prompter & Echoes Grumble, grumble!

Grumbler What a fiasco!  
The manna I kept over for another day has bred worms.  
It stinks! Why, Aaron?

Aaron God did it. However, the extra portion of manna that you kept  
for the Sabbath has not spoiled and has had no worms.

Grumbler Hey, Aaron, what are you and Moses doing to us?  
I went out to get manna this morning, but found none!

Aaron It is the Sabbath.  
God told you yesterday to gather enough for today.

Prompter & Echoes Hear God speak!

Voice How long will my people refuse to keep my commands?

Aaron The people keep quarreling with Moses and me.

Grumbler The water is gone. Give us water, or we will die.

Prompter & Echoes Water! Water!

Moses Why do you argue with me? Why do you test the Lord?

Grumbler Why did you and Aaron bring us out of Egypt?  
Was it to slay us and our livestock with thirst?

Moses Lord in heaven, they are about to stone Aaron and me to death!  
What shall I do with this people?

Voice Moses, Take up your staff with which you parted the sea.  
You shall strike the rock at Horeb,  
and water will flow out for the people to drink.

Aaron Moses does so, and cool water gushes forth.  
God has spared our lives!

Prompter & Echoes God saves his people!