

LESSON 33

God Provides Food & Water for Israel

EXODUS 16:1 – 17:7



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PROVIDES BREAD FROM HEAVEN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 33)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 33

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Manna from Heaven

SUPPLIES: a box of cereal flakes; a sheet(s) large enough for the children to lie on

Smelly Manna

SUPPLIES: two matching plastic containers with tightly sealing lids; one-half cup ammonia; green food coloring; cereal flakes; a sheet(s) large enough for the children to lie on

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will hear how God provided water to Israel even though they complained against Moses.

Draw a present wrapped with a bow on the whiteboard and tell the class that it is a picture of a present you just got for your birthday. Tell them that when you opened it up, it was not the present you were hoping for. Instead of getting what you wanted you got a pair of socks. Draw a pair of socks on the board, and then start complaining about them. (They didn't even fit right, you didn't like the color, and you didn't really want them anyway, etc.) After a couple of minutes, ask the class whether they think you are thankful for the gift or not. (They will likely say no.)

Then tell them you were just pretending; it's not even your birthday. Ask them if they've ever gotten a gift that they didn't like. Have they ever complained about a gift? What does that show? (We are not thankful.)

Tell them that sometimes when God gives his people gifts, they complain. Can you believe it? We can even complain to God about his gifts.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 33, "God Provides Food and Water for Israel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What happened in this story?
(*God provided food and water for the Israelites in the desert.*)

- What is a desert like?
(*A desert is very hot and dry with little or no water and little or no plants and animals for food.*)

- If you were in a desert, where would you get food to eat and water to drink?
(You must bring along what you need to get through the desert.)
- What would happen to you if you had to spend a lot of time in the desert and you ran out of food and water?
(You would get very hungry and thirsty, and then you would die if you did not get food and water.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Pass out crackers for a snack, but don't give the kids any water at first.
(Wait until they ask for a drink and ask them how it feels to be thirsty.)
- What happened to the Israelites' attitude when they got thirsty?
(The Israelites began to grumble and complain when they got hungry.)
- What did they say to Moses?
(“If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat by pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted.” Point out that the Israelites forgot all the hardships that God had delivered them from and now again were not trusting God to provide for them.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 33—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Where did the water come from?
(God made the water come out of the rock.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: John 6:31–40

The manna that God provided for the Israelites in the desert is a picture of Christ, the true spiritual bread from heaven. The Israelites needed to gather bread so they could have some each day. In the same way, we need to draw near to Christ each day. When we spend time each day reading the Bible and praying to God, we draw spiritual strength and spiritual health from being in his presence.

God also provided water in the desert when Moses struck a rock. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul tells us that this rock was a picture of Christ.

Though the children might try and find a natural explanation, like the water came from a spring under the rock, help them to understand that God is all-powerful and made water come out of the rock. He created all the waters of the oceans with just a command. He can create water out of nothing.

■ Why is it important to remember how powerful God is?

(When we are in difficult situations we can trust the Lord if we remember that he is able to help us and provide for our needs. Remembering all he has done in the past helps us to believe he can do great things today.)

Manna from Heaven

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ box of cereal flakes
- ✓ a sheet large enough for the children to lie on

Have the children act out the grumbling of the Israelites and read God's reply from Exodus 16:11–12: "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

Spread the sheet out on the floor and tell the children to lie down on the cloth to sleep. While the children's eyes are closed, spread the flakes around the room: on the cloth where the children are lying and on the tables and chairs and on other clean surfaces of the room. (Use only the large flakes and don't overdo the illustration by laying out more cereal than the children can eat in a short time.)

When you are done, wake the children and tell them to pretend they are the Israelites waking up to find the manna in the desert. Tell them they can eat what they pick up.

Smelly Manna

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two matching plastic containers with tight lids
- ✓ one-half cup ammonia
- ✓ green food coloring
- ✓ cereal flakes
- ✓ a sheet large enough for the children to lie on

In one container combine the following: one-half cup of ammonia, ten drops of green food coloring. Add cereal flakes to this mixture until you have a goopy smelly mess. In the other container simply add an equal amount of the flake cereal.

Tell the story of the manna, only continue to mention how some of the Israelites were lazy and disobeyed God. (Read Exodus 16:17–20.)

Pretend you are an Israelite who has gathered twice what you need. Pull out the dry cereal and tell them, "Look what I have. Tomorrow when you all go out to collect the manna, I will already be eating because I am saving mine for tomorrow!"

Move out of character and ask the children what will happen to the manna. They should answer, "It will smell." Spread the sheet on the floor and have the children lie down and close their eyes and pretend to sleep. While they are sleeping, swap containers and lay down more manna as in the activity above. Tell them to wake up and allow them to gather their manna. Laugh at them saying, "I already have mine! I hope you're having fun."

Then open your container and react to the smell. Invite them to take a quick whiff of the ammonia. (*Caution:* Don't allow them to stick their noses right in the container, just close enough that they get a quick smell.) Talk about why disobeying God's commands is not such a good idea.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 33 - GOD PROVIDES FOOD AND WATER FOR ISRAEL

