

LESSON 33

God Provides Food & Water for Israel

EXODUS 16:1 – 17:7



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PROVIDES BREAD FROM HEAVEN

LESSON SHAPSNOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Exodus 16:1–15 from the Scriptures or read story 33, “God Provides Food and Water for Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **15 MIN**
A Building Thirst
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ pretzels and salty crackers
 - ✓ pitcher of cold water
 - ✓ cups
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Smite the Rock
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ Moses costume (An earth-toned cloth with a hole cut in the middle and a rope belt would work fine.)
 - ✓ large rock with a red cross painted on the bottom
 - ✓ large wooden stick or staff
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 33—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
It’s Easy to Complain
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large clean cotton tablecloth
 - ✓ box of bland, nonsugared cereal
 - ✓ box of brightly colored, sugary cereal
 - ✓ grocery bag to hide the boxes

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Israel grumbles against Moses—God has done so many miracles and wonders to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt. Yet in this passage we see that they quickly lose faith. Their complaining demonstrates faithlessness and rebellion against God.

When you read this story, you may at first put yourself in the place of Moses, who had to put up with the grumbling of others. But God has preserved this story of complaining for a different reason. We are all tempted to the same kind of sinful complaining and rebellion. We are all much more like the rebellious complainers than we are like Moses! As we remember this, it will help keep us from thinking too much of ourselves and from judging others for complaining.

God provides bread from heaven—In response to the complaining of the people, God sends manna—bread from heaven. Six days a week, it appears in the morning as small wafers on the ground. As we will see, Jesus called himself the Bread of Life who came from heaven. He said that anyone who eats that bread would live forever.

God knew that Jesus would come and die for sins. So he overlooked the sins of Israel and gave them life-giving manna. God provided manna for 40 years until they reached the border of Canaan, the Promised Land.

God shows mercy to the Israelites—Now the Israelites are doing much more than grumbling. They actually want to kill Moses. They think they are going to die of thirst, and they blame Moses for it. In reality, they are not rebelling against Moses but against God. So God calls Moses to go on ahead of the people and to bring the staff that he used to work wonders before Pharaoh.

God has every right to strike the people for complaining just as the people want to strike Moses. Instead, God has Moses use his staff to strike a rock on which God is standing. It is as if God is taking the punishment for the sins of the people; what flows from that punishment is a miracle of mercy—water in the desert.

In this event, God gives us a marvelous picture of Jesus. It is Jesus who has taken the punishment for our sins, and from him flows mercy everlasting.

WHERE IS JESUS?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Exodus 16:1–15 from the Scriptures or read story 33, "God Provides Food and Water for Israel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

A Building Thirst

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pretzels and salty crackers
- ✓ pitcher of cold water
- ✓ cups

The object is to award crackers and pretzels for children who can answer simple review questions from the past few lessons and then create a thirst in them to be able to identify with the Israelites.

Divide the class in half. Choose one child from each team for each question. The first child of the pair to raise their hand and answer correctly gets their choice of crackers or pretzels for all their team. Do this for all the questions to make sure they have all had plenty to eat.

Trivia questions:

1. What is the name of the bread from heaven? (*manna*)
2. What did God provide with the manna for meat? (*quail*)
3. What is one of the names given to the place where Moses struck the rock? (*Massah or Meribah*)
4. What were the people supposed to do differently with the manna on the day before the Sabbath? (*They were to collect a double portion and save one portion for use on the Sabbath.*)
5. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed? (*the Red Sea*)
6. From what country were the Israelites fleeing? (*Egypt*)
7. How many plagues were there before Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to go? (*ten*)
8. What did the people give the Israelites as they left? (*gold and silver jewelry and clothing*)
9. Who was Moses' helper? (*Aaron*)
10. What river did Moses float down as a child in a basket? (*the Nile River*)

After finishing the questions, offer a cool glass of water only to certain children. Interview those who did not get water to ask them just how thirsty they are.

Continue with the following questions:

- How did you feel when you didn't get any water?
(*After the questions, give them all water.*)
- When we read this story, who should we identify with?
(*The children may give you various answers. Help them to see that it serves us best to identify with Israel. We can get angry when we don't get what we want. Though that anger may be directed toward a person as in the case of this story against Moses, it is ultimately directed toward God who is in control of all things.*)
- Ask the children to share stories of times when they didn't get something they wanted and became angry.
(*Help the children identify with Israel who needed a savior because of their sin.*)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Smite the Rock

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Moses costume (An earth-toned cloth with a hole cut in the middle and a rope belt would work fine.)
- ✓ large rock with a red cross painted on the bottom
- ✓ large wooden stick or staff

When the children are settled tell them the story of Israel’s complaining. Explain to the class that when the Israelites got thirsty they did more than just grumble; they charged Moses with a crime. Act out the role of Moses dialoging with God and then have him strike the rock. Read 1 Corinthians 10:4, which identifies the rock as Christ. Then, still in character as Moses, tell the class what the meaning of the rock is. (See “Where Is Jesus?” section for more detail.)

Lift the rock and show the class the red cross painted on it. Then ask the class the following questions:

- **When God saw the rock, what else did he see?**
(God could see into the future to a day when the grumbling and all of Israel’s sins would be paid for by the death of Christ.)

- **How is the rock like Jesus?**
(In 1 Corinthians 10:4, we are told that the rock is Christ. The rock bore the brunt of the blow by the hand of Moses for the sins of Israel. Christ on the cross bore the brunt of the blow of our sins when God poured out his wrath on Jesus. The rock brought forth the blessing of water and life. The cross brought forth the water of the Spirit poured forth onto sinners for eternal life.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

It’s Easy to Complain

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large clean cotton tablecloth
- ✓ box of bland, nonsugared cereal
- ✓ box of brightly colored, sugary cereal
- ✓ grocery bag to hide the boxes

Before class, place the opened boxes of cereal in the bag. After reading the Bible story to the class, tell them you are going to demonstrate God providing manna. Have most of the class sit around the tablecloth on the floor to represent God’s people in the wilderness, but have three or four others represent Egypt and sit around a desk. Ask “God’s people” if they are hungry. (Kids will almost always say yes.)

■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 33

Tell them you are going to provide some manna from your bag and toss some of the nonsugared cereal on the tablecloth. Do this a few times. Then pull out a handful of the sugary cereal and say, “Don’t you remember the days when you had delicious sugared cereal. It tasted so good.”

Then give your “Egyptians” the sugary cereal, and have them describe how good it is. Listen for complaints from the larger group. You might ask the children who had the nonsugared cereal how they feel.

Toss the larger group more of the bland, nonsugary cereal to see if their enthusiasm for it wanes. Give more of the sugary cereal to the “Egyptians.”

Use this exercise to talk about how easy it is to complain about what we don’t have instead of being thankful for what we do have. Connect the object lesson to today’s Bible story.

LESSON 33 - GOD PROVIDES FOOD AND WATER FOR ISRAEL

