

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** **10 MIN**
 Grumbling against the Lord
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ whiteboard
 ✓ dry-erase markers
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
 A Building Thirst
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ pretzels and salty crackers
 ✓ pitcher of cold water
 ✓ cups
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **20 MIN**
 Covering over Our Sin
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ three-inch light-colored river rocks (one for each student; can be purchased at a garden supply store or mulch supplier)
 ✓ red acrylic paint
 ✓ paintbrushes
 ✓ cross templates cut out of thick cardboard and sized to fit the rocks
 ✓ pencils
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **20 MIN**
 Jesus Is the Rock
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ a bag of smooth “river rocks” enough for each child
 ✓ red and black acrylic paint or red and black permanent markers
 ✓ paintbrushes and painting supplies

TOTAL 100 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Rock

A rock or stone is used in many different passages to illustrate the character of God. In our passage today, Jesus is the rock that is struck in judgment. In the song of Moses, Deuteronomy 32:4, God is called the Rock.

A rock is a symbol of strength; it can be heavy and unmovable. Jesus is called the cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6; Ephesians 2:20) and the stumbling stone (Romans 9:32). Jesus causes men to stumble because of their disobedience to the Word of God and his work of grace. Men rejected his salvation and therefore stumbled over the rock that was meant as a sure foundation on which to build their lives (Matthew 7:24).

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 **10 MIN**

Grumbling against the Lord

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard
- ✓ dry-erase markers

Read Exodus 16:8. This object lesson will help the children to see how their sins against one another are really sins against God.

Discuss the following situations:

Mary just got a pack of bubble gum for her birthday. When Mary went outside, her brother Mark sneaked into her room and helped himself to a piece of her gum.

Who did Mark sin against? (Mark sinned against his sister Mary because he stole her gum. Mark sinned against God who said in the Ten Commandments, “You shall not steal.” Mark also sinned against God in taking the gum because he was showing his unhappiness with what the Lord had given him. Rather than wait for the Lord to provide, he took control by stealing the gum from his sister.)

Anthony’s mom told him that it was time for bed. Anthony’s brother, three years older, was allowed to stay up longer. Anthony was jealous of his brother and grew angry. He questioned his mother’s fairness in asking only him to go to bed.

Who did Anthony sin against? (Anthony sinned against his mother for not respecting her decision. He also sinned against God who said to do everything without arguing or complaining. Anthony wanted to stay up just like his brother, which is not a bad thing, but when he did not get what he wanted, he objected. He was really objecting to God’s sovereign plan. Anthony didn’t want God to be in control if it meant that he had to go to bed before his brother.)

Margie was playing with a doll when her younger sister grabbed it from her. In response, Margie slapped her sister, shouting “No!” and her sister began to cry.

Who did Margie sin against? (Margie sinned against her sister for slapping her, but she also sinned against God. God told Margie that she should not repay evil with evil. God tells us that he is the judge. When Margie slapped her sister she was objecting to God’s role as judge and placing herself as judge over her sister. She could have appealed to her mother and informed her about her sister’s behavior. Instead, in her anger, she lashed out against her sister.)

In all of our sins there is an aspect that is against God. Our most serious offense is against God. That is what Israel did not see, and what we often do not see. When we commit a sin we need to confess to the person we have offended, but we also need to confess to God. Isn't it good to know that God sent his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so that we could be forgiven and live in heaven with him forever?

Then ask the class the following questions:

- When you sin against your brothers and sisters or parents, do you realize you also sin against God?
(Accept their answers and direct them with the instruction from above.)
- What did you learn about sin from this lesson?
(All sin is against God.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 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.)

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 20 MIN

Covering over Our Sin

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three-inch light-colored river rocks (one for each student; can be purchased at a garden supply store or mulch supplier)
- ✓ red acrylic paint
- ✓ paintbrushes
- ✓ cross templates cut out of thick cardboard and sized to fit the rocks
- ✓ pencils

Pass out the rocks. Review the story and the “Where Is Jesus?” section and then have the children draw a cross with pencil using the templates. Tell the children to think of patterns of sins they commit in their lives. Have them write at least one of them on the inside of the cross on their rock. Then pass out the brushes and paint. Have the children paint red inside the outline of their crosses, covering over their written sin. The object is to demonstrate that Christ’s death on the cross is sufficient to cover over our sin. The children can take the rocks home and use them as a reminder of Moses striking the rock.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Jesus Is the Rock

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of smooth “river rocks” enough for each child
- ✓ red and black acrylic paint or red and black permanent markers
- ✓ paintbrushes and painting supplies

Use this activity in concert with the “Where Is Jesus?” section of this lesson.

Talk about how the rock in today’s story represents Jesus. Pass out the rocks and have the children draw or paint a black *S* on the top. Ask the class what they think the *S* represents. (The *S* stands for sin.)

While the rocks are drying, explain how God could have judged and destroyed Israel for their sinful complaining, but instead, he had Moses hit the rock with his staff, the staff of judgment.

The rock provided water, but it also represented God's judgment falling upon something other than his people. In the New Testament we learn that the rock represented Christ.

Once the rocks are dry, have the children turn them over and draw or paint a red letter *J*. Ask them if they know what the *J* represents. (The *J* represents Jesus.) Then ask them why the letter is red. (The color red represents the blood Jesus shed on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven.)

Finally, once the rocks are dry, have the children hold onto them. If ever they sense their sin erupting (the black *S*), they should go to their rock and remember the other side—Jesus dying on the cross for them so they could be forgiven.