

# GOD PROVIDED FOOD AND WATER FOR ISRAEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 16:1-17:7



PRESCHOOL

## The STORY

Read "Food in the Desert" and "Water in the Desert" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 72-73).

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 what you need to get through the desert with you.)
- 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 first get very hungry and very thirsty and then you would die if you did not get food and water.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Moses striking a rock and water gushing out of the rock. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 from under the rock in a spring, help them to understand 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 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.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**Supplies: saltine crackers**

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

- Pass out saltine crackers for a snack but don't give the kids any water at first. (Wait until they ask for a drink and draw them out on how it feels to be thirsty.)
- What happened to the Israelites attitudes 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 on pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted." Point out to the class that the Israelites forgot all the hardships God delivered them out of and again were not trusting God to provide for them now.)

### 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.*

God provided food for the Israelites in the desert. This food is a picture of Christ, who is the true spiritual bread, come down from heaven. Just as the Israelites needed to gather bread each day, so each day we need to draw near to Christ for the sustenance which comes from being in His presence.

Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe." (John 6:31-36)

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*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.*