

MOSES DISOBEYS GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NUMBERS 20



The STORY

Read "Moses Loses His Temper" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 87).

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.

- How did Moses disobey God? (Moses disobeyed God by striking the rock twice with the staff instead of speaking to it.)
- What was the consequence for Moses' disobedience? (God would not allow Moses to go into the Promised Land.)
- How did God show His mercy? (God miraculously provided water from a rock. God did not allow Moses' disobedience to stand in the way of God giving the needed water to Israel.)

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:

- How did God make water come out of a rock? (We don't know how God did it. It was a miracle.)
- Can you think of some of God's other amazing miracles? (Accept any legitimate answer: Moses parting the Red Sea, Joshua parting the Jordan, making Balaam's donkey talk, Jesus or Peter walking on water, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, etc.)
- Why did Moses disobey God's command? (He became angry when the people did not obey. Moses then took things into his own hands.)

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

- What are you tempted to complain about today? (Accept answers such as: the weather, wearing certain clothes to church, being hungry, having to work when tired, etc.)
- What do you sound like when you ask for food or drink with a complaining, whining heart? (Allow someone to demonstrate.)
- How could the Israelites have asked for a drink without complaining?
Allow someone to demonstrate.
- What words do we use and in what tone of voice do we speak when we ask without complaining? (We use please and thank you and speak in an even tone of voice.)

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.

Instead of speaking to the rock to draw forth the water, Moses strikes the rock in his anger. Here we see the fallibility of Israel's redeemer. Up until this point Moses did what God told him to do. But Moses was a fallen mediator, unable to stand in the gap for the people without sin. Jesus is the perfect mediator.

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19)

Unlike Moses, the imperfect mediator, Jesus, though He was tempted like us, did not sin. He intercedes for us yet today. His blood covers all our sins and He continually stands before God the father testifying to our redemption.

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.