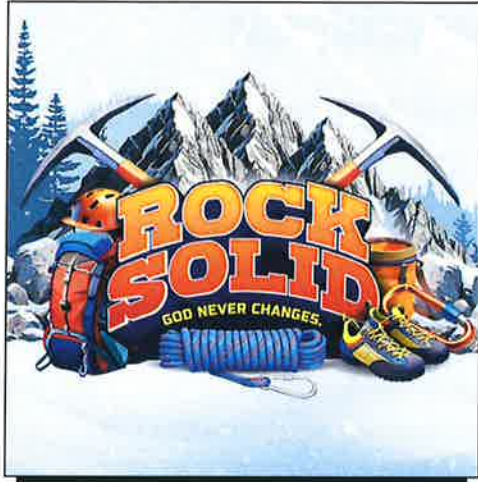




THE WILDERNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 13:1–17:6

FOCUS VERSES: Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25–27, James 1:17, Nehemiah 9:21

Summary: God freed the Israelites from Egypt. They traveled toward the land God had promised Abraham long ago. God provided for their needs over and over. He appeared as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide them. When the Egyptians chased them, He split the Red Sea so they could safely cross. God provided quail and manna from heaven when they were hungry, and they struck a rock to produce water when they were thirsty.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God provides for us.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



HOW IS GOD ABLE TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED?
God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.



HOW DO WE ASK GOD FOR WHAT WE NEED?
We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Abuse is real and the church is not immune. Here are some best practices to protect kids in your church:

- **Advocate for background screenings.** Be prompt in filling out your own background screening. Do not invite anyone to serve with you (out-of-town guest, friend, relative) who has not gone through your church's screening procedures. Advocate for background checks to be repeated every few years and for volunteers to complete an online application with references. Request that background checks include cross-checking an individual's name against the national sex offender registry.
- **Never be alone with a kid.** Avoid any situation where anyone is isolated with a kid. Keep doors open. If someone needs help in a bathroom, the bathroom door must always be propped open with a second approved, background-checked adult volunteer present. If a kid wants to talk, sit somewhere visible to others.
- **Self-enforce the two adults in a room.** While you are probably very capable of managing a group of kids by yourself, it is always best practice to have two approved, background-checked adult volunteers present. This provides accountability on multiple levels.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: HUNGER

According to the organization Feeding America, one in eight American kids face hunger.* Sometimes we think hunger is a problem kids encounter in other parts of the world, but it is also a real issue in America. You may have kids in your group whose families are considered food insecure. Hunger can obviously cause health issues, but it can also cause behavioral and learning issues. By providing small, healthy snacks in your group, you can help kids who struggle with hunger better settle in for discipleship. In today's lesson, kids will learn that God provides what we need. This idea may be challenging for kids whose families struggle with providing food. You can help kids understand that God is with them and knows what they need. They can see that every single thing they have is a gift from God, and while He may not provide everything we want, He is with us in our hurt and has a plan for our lives.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Faithful: loyal; doing what you say you're going to do

Provide: to give

Unchanging: always stays the same

Bible TEACHING

THE WILDERNESS EXODUS 13:1–17:6



PRAY: God, You are faithful to provide for us and lead us every day. May this story from Exodus reveal Your never-ending kindness and love to us all. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, scissors, painter's tape, basket, chairs

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. If using chairs, tape the pictures underneath chairs at random.

ADAPTATION:

If kids sit on the floor, hide the pictures around your space for kids to find.

Say: I have provided several pictures you will need during our story. These pictures will help us see some of the things God provided to the Israelites in the wilderness. Please check under your chair to see if you've been given one of the pictures. If so, just hold onto it for now.

Give kids a moment to search under their chairs to find the pictures.

Say: The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. When Pharaoh finally released them, they left Egypt quickly. More than a million Israelites began a great journey to the land God had promised Abraham long ago. This was called the Exodus.

Show teaching illustration: Pillar of Cloud.

Say: Even though it was not an easy journey, God took care of Israel every step of the way.

Read Exodus 13:21–22 directly from the Bible: *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

Say: Who found the picture of a cloud?

Have the kid who found the picture of a cloud come up and put the picture in the basket.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: As the Israelites continued to travel, they grew very hungry. They whined and complained, but God took care of their needs. Each evening, God sent birds called quail to their camp so they could have meat.

Say: Who found the picture of birds?

Have the kid who found the picture of birds come up and put the picture in the basket.

Say: Each morning, God sent fine, flaky bread from heaven to Israel. This bread was called manna, which means “What is it?”

Say: Who found the picture of bread flakes?

Have the kid who found the picture of bread flakes come up and put the picture in the basket.

Say: The Israelites also became thirsty. They whined and complained, but God took care of their needs again! God instructed Moses to raise his staff and strike a rock. When Moses hit the rock, water began flowing out so the Israelites could drink.

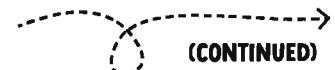
Show teaching illustration: Water from Rock.

Say: Who found the picture of water flowing from a rock?

Have the kid who found the picture of water flowing from a rock come up and put the picture in the basket.

Say: God showed the Israelites over and over that He was providing for them. But because they struggled to trust Him, they ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. Yet God was still faithful during those 40 years by providing food and water and even keeping their shoes and clothes from wearing out.

Say: Who found the picture of fresh clothes and shoes?

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Have the kid who found the picture of fresh clothes and shoes come up and put the picture in the basket.

Say: God loved His people and provided everything they needed.

Pick up the basket and show it to the kids.

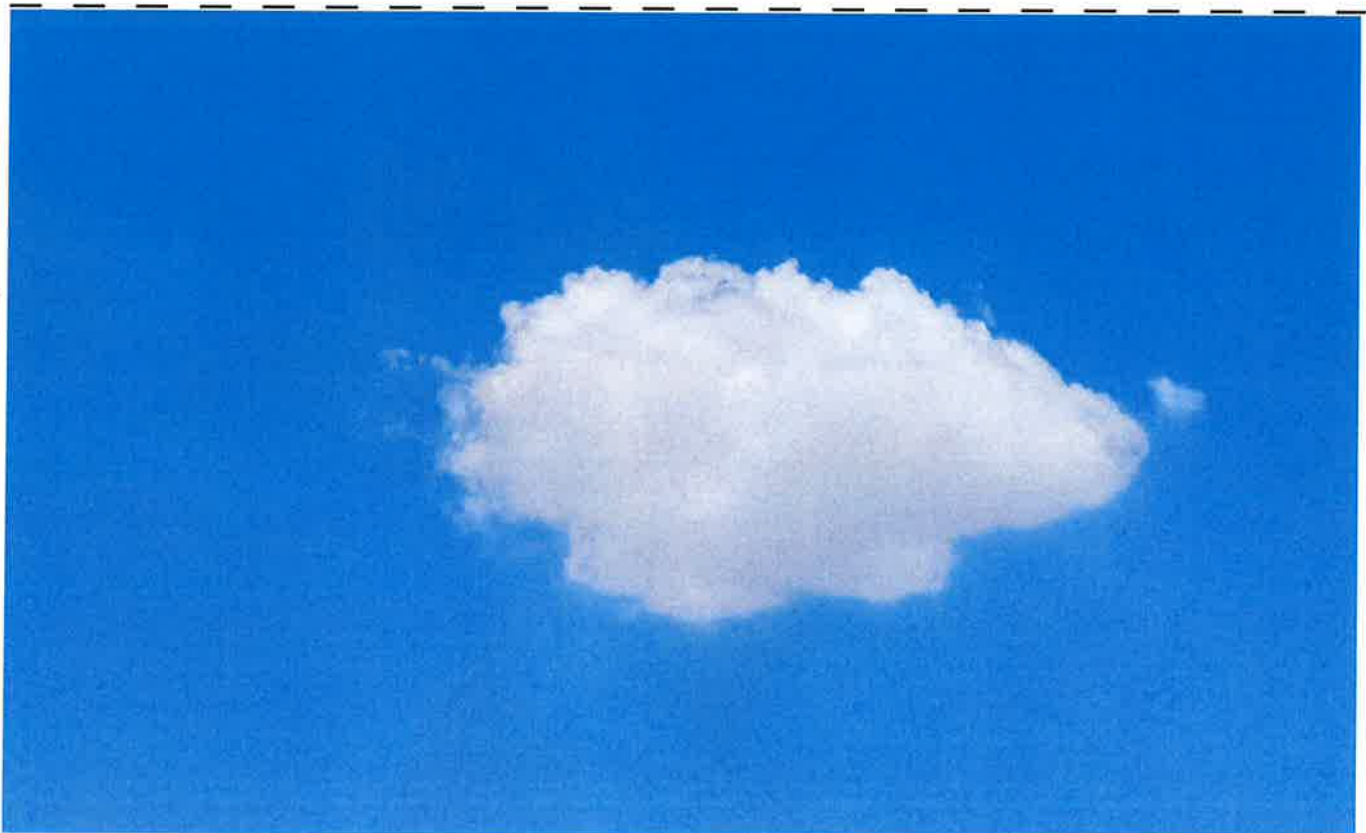
Say: If we put pictures of everything God provided the Israelites into this basket, it would run over with pictures! The same is true for us. God gives and gives and gives to us, and our response should be thankfulness and worship.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God has always existed and always will. He is the only One who can make a way for us to have eternal life with Him. Just like the Israelites were trapped in Egypt, we are trapped by our sin. We need a Rescuer. God's own Son, Jesus, came to Earth to free us from our sin. Only by His forgiveness of our sin and by trusting in Him as our Savior can we live forever with God.







Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

GOD PROVIDES

SUPPLIES: Name tag label (1 per kid), marker (1 per kid), upbeat worship music, music player

OR

WHINING COMPETITION

SUPPLIES: Timer

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

GATHER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

OR

GOD IS OUR PROVIDER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, 4 pieces of paper, coloring supplies

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

PRAYING CARD

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, index cards (1 per kid)

OR

CANDY PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, Skittles® (1 small bag per kid)



GOD PROVIDES

SUPPLIES:

Name tag label (1 per kid), marker (1 per kid), upbeat worship music, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Use foam or sticky note hearts instead!

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If your space is limited, kids can high-five the person closest to them when the music stops instead of running.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Say:** Let's play a game!
5. *Pass out name tag labels and markers to everyone. Give kids time to write one way God provided for them this past week.*
6. **Say:** Now stick your label to your shirt. I will play some music. While the music is playing, walk around our space. When the music stops, run and find a partner. Share how God provided for you this week. I will keep starting and stopping the music. Find a new partner to share with each time!
7. *Play the game for as long as you have time for.*
8. **Challenge rounds:**
 - *Find someone who wrote the same thing on their label.*
 - *Find someone who wrote something that pairs with theirs (e.g., food and water).*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Isn't it great that God provides us what we need? It sounds like God provided each of you with something you needed this week! In our story today, we are learning how God provided the Israelites with all they needed!



WHINING COMPETITION

SUPPLIES:

Timer

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Kids who are shy performing in front of others can be judges and rate each whiner on a scale of 1 to 5 in real time.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
3. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
4. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
5. **Say:** Raise your hand if you have ever whined or complained about something.
6. **Say:** Yes! We all whine and complain sometimes. Let's have a competition to see who is the best whiner!
7. **Say:** Each person will get five seconds to whine. Pretend that your parents told you it was time to turn off your video games. I will start the timer and you can whine for five seconds. After everyone has had a chance, we will vote on the best whiner. May the best whiner win!
8. *Choose one kid to go first and then continue until everyone has had a chance to whine.*
9. *Go around the circle and invite kids to pick the best whiner.*
10. **Discuss:** Do you think whining is good? Why or why not?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning a Bible story where the Israelites whined and complained all the time. But despite all their whining and complaining, God provided for them.



GATHER THE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.
Print two copies of the printable pages and cut them out.

LEADER TIP: Use two different colors of paper to help teams find their verse more easily. Divide kids into as many teams as will work best for you. Provide one set of verse cards per team.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
3. **Discuss:** How does this verse connect to our Bible story?
4. **Say:** God never changes. He will always be faithful and provide.
5. **Discuss:** How is God able to give us what we need?
6. **Say:** God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.
7. *Review the verse together a few times.*
8. **Say:** Let's play a game to remember our Bible verse.
9. **Say:** God provided manna and quail for the Israelites. Every day God provided it from heaven, and they needed to gather it up.
10. **Say:** For our game, you will need to gather the words of our verse and put them in order! There will be one set of the memory verse for each team.
11. *Divide kids into two teams.*
12. *Spread out the verse cards in the middle of your space.*
13. *Start the game and assist kids as needed. Remind kids to work together in their teams and help each other put the verse in order.*
14. *Review the verse together one more time.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

This verse is a great reminder that God is unchanging. He is faithful and provides what we need.



GOD IS OUR PROVIDER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, printable pages, 4 pieces of paper, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the printable pages.

LEADER TIP: Provide additional supplies like biblical costumes or poster board for kids to create presentations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find James 1:17 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What do you think this verse means?
3. **Discuss:** What did the Israelites need in the wilderness? What good gifts did God give them?
4. *Lead kids to find Nehemiah 9:21 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** How is God able to give us what we need?
6. **Say:** God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.
7. **Say:** The Bible has a lot to say about how God provides for us.
8. **Say:** In groups, you will read verses about God's provision for us. Then as a group, you will create a presentation of what you learned. You could use drama, art, music or whatever you can think of.
9. *Divide kids into four groups and pass out supplies. Give each group one printable page.*
10. **Say:** Use the printable page as a reference for you to read and discuss your verse and then plan your presentation.
11. *Give groups time to read their passages and prepare their presentations. Assist groups in developing their presentation as needed.*
12. *Allow each group to present what they learned.*

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God is amazing! We can trust Him to provide all the things we need.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Go to [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources) to see examples of maps you could use.

Discuss: Look at this map of the Middle East today. What country names do you recognize? What bodies of water do you see?

Discuss: Now look at this map of the Israelites' route through the wilderness. What modern-day countries did they go through?

Say: It's really cool to see the real places where these Bible stories took place. Though names of places are different and the world has changed a lot since then, when we hear the names of countries like Iraq or Egypt on the news or learn something in school about the Nile River, we know these are places where God provided for the Israelites as they made their way to the Promised Land.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... HUNGER?

Discuss: Are there places in our world where people don't have enough food to eat? What places like this have you heard of?

Discuss: Have you ever heard someone wonder why God doesn't provide food for all of the hungry kids in the world?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: God loves every kid in every place. He is near to every kid, whether they have lots to eat or very little. Our world is broken, causing issues like hunger and poverty. God has provided the world with plenty of food, but because our world is sinful, people don't always help those in need. All over the world, God is using His people to help those who are hungry, and we can look for ways to help too. Life will never be fair for all people in this world, but we look forward to the day when Jesus will make all things new and no one will ever hunger again. Revelation 7:16 talks about that day. This verse says: *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.*



PRAYING CARD

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, index card (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did the Israelites tell God what they needed?
2. **Say:** The Bible tells us over and over that they cried out to God.
3. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
4. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
5. *Lead kids to find Philippians 4:19 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
6. **Discuss:** Where can we pray to God?
7. **Discuss:** Do we have to use special words to talk to God?
8. **Say:** God doesn't care where we are when we pray or what we say to Him. He just wants us to pray! Is there a right time to pray?
9. *Lead kids to find 1 Thessalonians 5:17 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
10. **Say:** You can pray anytime, anywhere and about anything!
11. **Discuss:** What do you need God to provide for you? It can be something physical or something you can't see like patience or kindness.
12. **Say:** On this card, write out a short prayer that you can take out and read anytime you feel you need God to help you. It can even just say, "God, help me."
13. *Hand out an index card and writing supplies to each kid.*
14. **Say:** Put this card in your pocket and take it out anytime you need it, at school, at home or even at church!
15. **Discuss:** Do you think we pray to change God's mind or to help us?
16. **Pray:** God, thank You that every good and perfect gift comes from You! Thank You for loving and providing for us. Help us talk to You anytime, anywhere and about anything this week. Amen.
17. **Say:** God provides for us. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



CANDY PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable page, Skittles® (1 small bag per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Use colored pom-poms for a food-free option.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did you learn about God today?
2. **Discuss:** How did God provide for the Israelites?
3. **Discuss:** Does God provide for us today?
4. *Lead kids to find Matthew 6:25–27 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** How have you seen God provide for you?
6. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
7. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
8. *Lead kids to find Philippians 4:19 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
9. **Say:** Let's do that today with a special prayer activity.
10. *Pass out a small bag of candy and a printable page to everyone.*
11. *Start the activity by asking kids to pick one candy from their bag. They will use their printable page to pray for the thing that matches the color of their candy. After a minute, ask them to select another candy. Continue until they have prayed several times.*
12. **Pray:** God, thank You that every good and perfect gift comes from You! Thank You for loving and providing for us. Help us talk to You anytime, anywhere and about anything this week. Amen.
13. *After the activity, let the kids eat the rest of their candy.*
14. **Say:** God provides for us. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

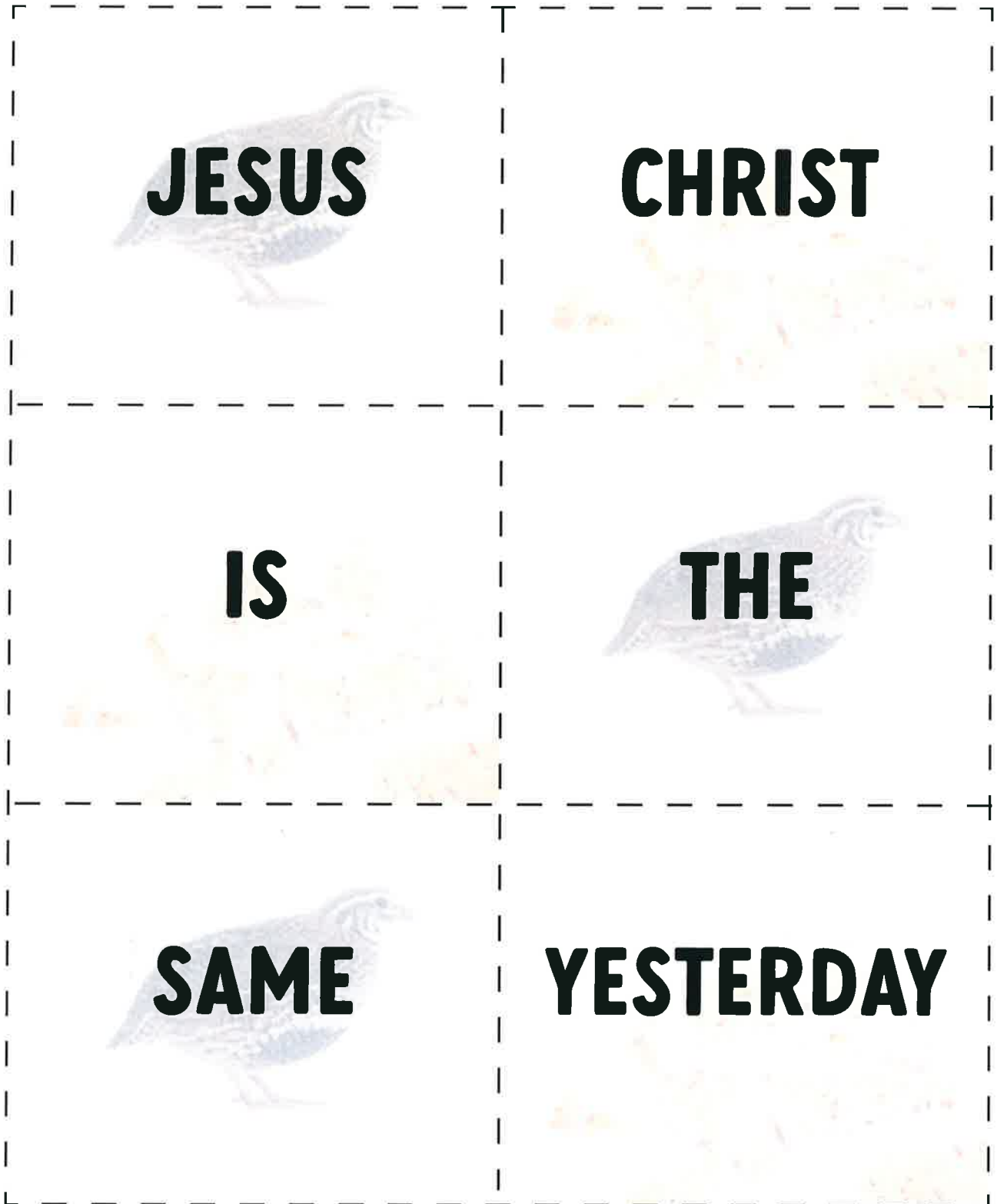


GATHER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print two copies of the printable pages and cut them out.



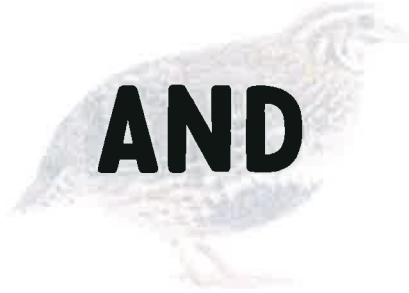


GATHER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).



AND

TODAY



AND



FOREVER.



(HEBREWS



13:8)

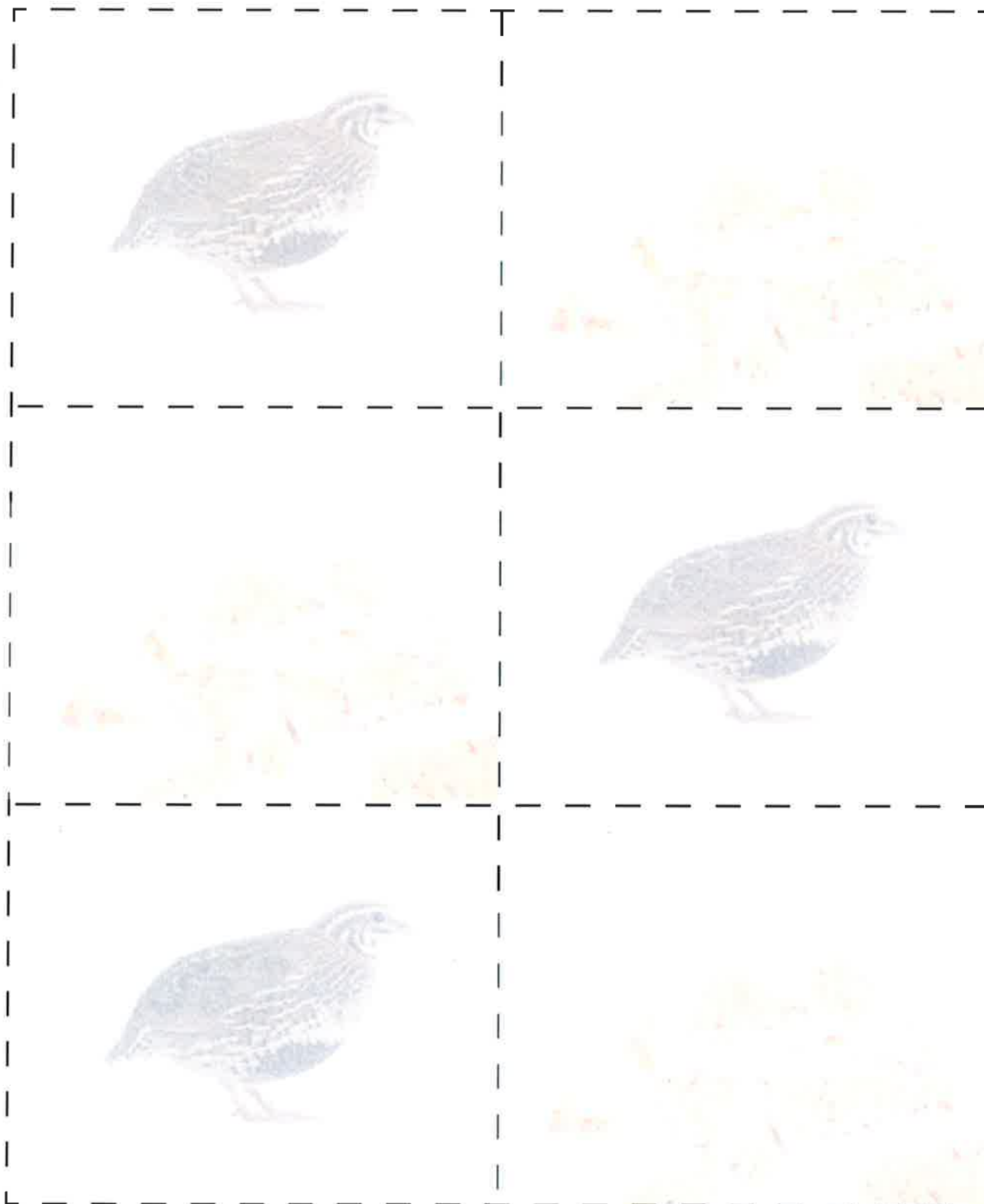


GATHER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

CUSTOMIZABLE
PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).





GATHER THE VERSE

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

CUSTOMIZABLE
PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 memory verse set per 3 kids).





GOD IS OUR PROVIDER

**OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS**

PAGE 1 OF 4

PREP: Print the printable pages.

Read Luke 12:24.

What does this verse tell us about how and what God provides for us?

**How can we present this to the rest of our group?
Use the space provided to write down your plan.**



Read Matthew 6:25-27.

What does this verse tell us about how and what God provides for us?

**How can we present this to the rest of our group?
Use the space provided to write down your plan.**



Read Philippians 4:19.

What does this verse tell us about how and what God provides for us?

**How can we present this to the rest of our group?
Use the space provided to write down your plan.**



Read Matthew 7:7-11.

What does this verse tell us about how and what God provides for us?

**How can we present this to the rest of our group?
Use the space provided to write down your plan.**



CANDY PRAYERS

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page (1 per kid).



God, I praise You _____



God, I'm sorry _____



God, I need _____



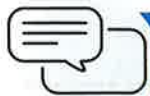
God, I'm sorry _____



God, I need _____



God, I praise You _____



TAKE-HOME

THE WILDERNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE: EXODUS 13:1-17:6 God led the Israelites out of Egypt toward the promised land. He guided them with a cloud and fire, parted the Red Sea to save them, and provided everything, including food and water when they were hungry and thirsty.

POINT TO JESUS: God provided His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay the price for our sin. When we trust in Him, we can have a right relationship with God and live with Him forever. When we have a relationship with Jesus, we can pray and talk directly to God, asking Him for what we need.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.*
(HEBREWS 13:8)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO
REMEMBER ABOUT THE STORY TODAY?**



**HOW IS GOD ABLE TO GIVE US WHAT WE
NEED?**

God created everything, and
everything belongs to Him. He is
faithful to provide what we need.



**HOW DO WE ASK GOD FOR WHAT WE
NEED?**

We can talk to God through prayer,
seeking His will and asking for what
we need.

HOW IS GOD INVITING **ME** TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Read together Philippians 4:19. Discuss how you know the difference between wants and needs.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Hunger can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://www.britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**





GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week! Read each passage and answer the three questions.



DAY 1

Read: Exodus 16:9-15

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 2

Read: Exodus 17:1-7

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 3

Read: Psalm 23:1-6

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?



DAY 4

Read: Matthew 6:25-26

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?





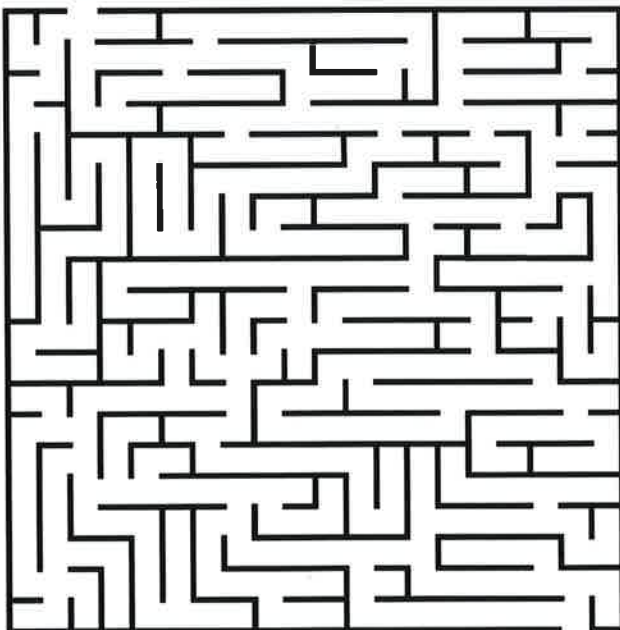
TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

THE WILDERNESS

COPY THE PICTURE



MAZE



SUDOKU

2					1	4		
7				9				
	3			5	6			2
	7		2	1	8	5		6
1		2			5	9	3	
	6				9			
6				8				
9			5		3	8		
4	1	8		2			6	5

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9