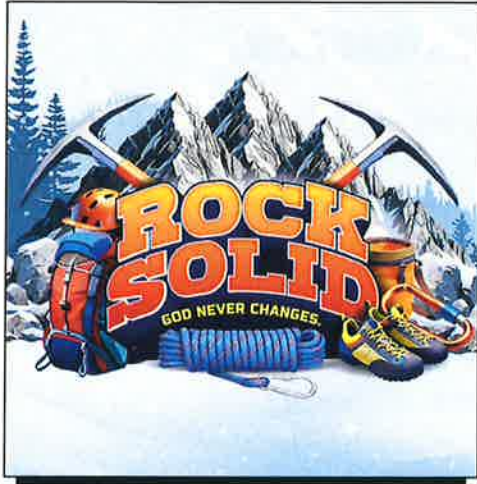




THE WILDERNESS

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:

HE

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.

WE

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.

ME

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.

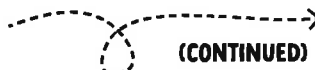
Show teaching illustration: Water from Rock.

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.

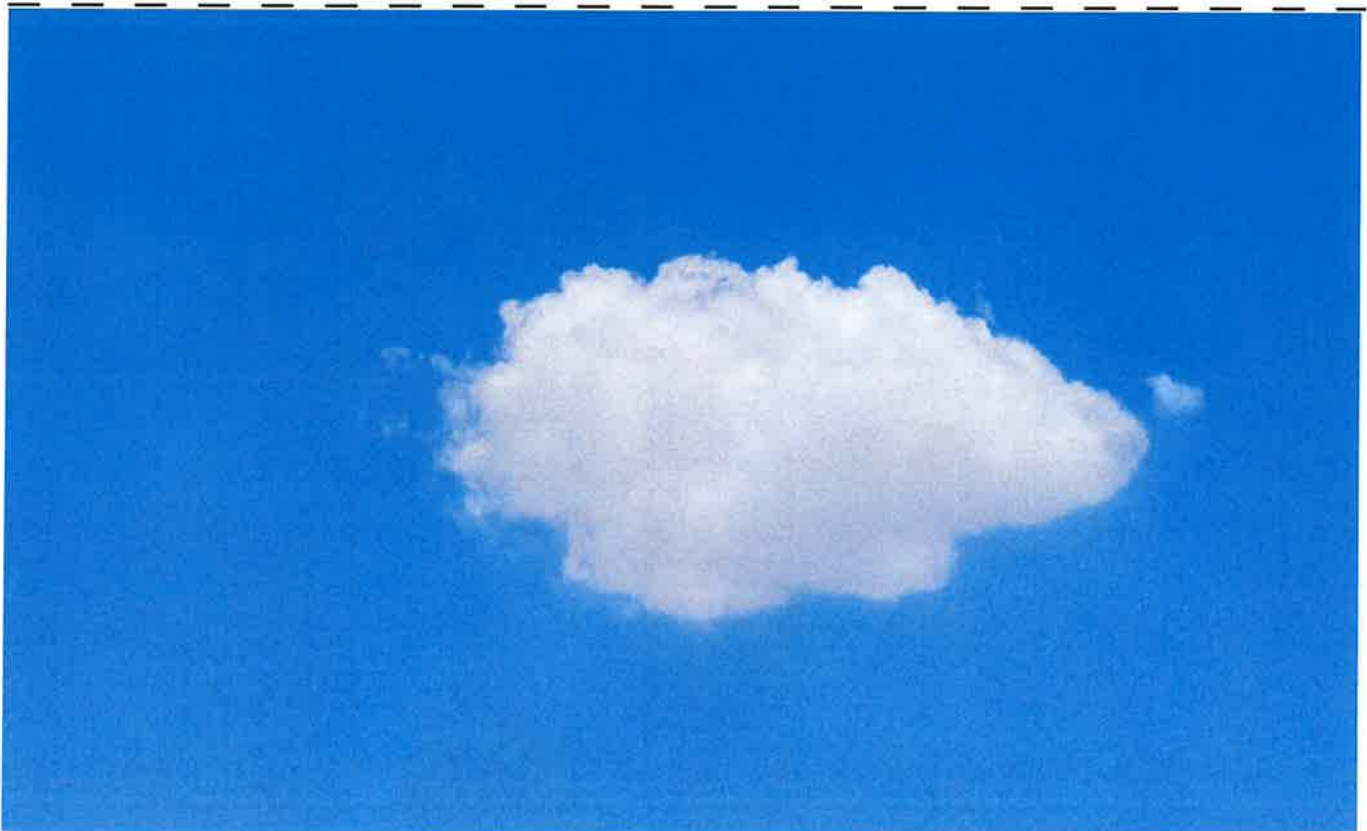
Say: If we put pictures of everything God provided the Israelites into this basket, it would run over with pictures! The same is true for us. God gives and gives and gives to us, and our response should be thankfulness and worship.

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.





PAGE 2 OF 3

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





Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

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

WILDERNESS RELAY

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

OR

WANT VS. NEED

SUPPLIES: Apple, water, toy, cell phone, stuffed animal, Bible, candy, shirt, tablet, shoes, large box that closes

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

VERSE JOURNEY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, painter's tape

OR

GOD PROVIDES SCULPTURES

SUPPLIES: Bible, modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

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

PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft tubes (1 per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid), cotton balls (handful per kid), orange, red and yellow tissue paper, scissors

OR

MOVE AND PRAY

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, music player, soft worship music



WILDERNESS RELAY

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

PREP:

Print two copies of the printable pages and cut them out. Tape 2 lines on the floor with painter's tape and place each set of cards across your space from the lines.

LEADER TIP: Make as many teams as you need to for your group. Provide one set of printable pages per team.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If your group has physical limitations, each group can work together to find the items around the room. The group with the quickest time wins!

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 He always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Discuss:** If you were stuck in the wilderness, what would you need to survive?
5. **Say:** Let's run a relay race to gather things you would need if you were stranded in the wilderness!
6. **Say:** I will divide you into two teams, and each team will line up behind a line. When I start the game, the first person from each team will run and find a picture of something you would need to survive. Be careful—there are other items there! Only bring back something that you need. Once the first person returns, the next person in line will run to get the next item.
7. **Say:** If you race up and there are no cards left of things you need, run back and have your whole team sit down! The first team to gather all the items they need and sit down wins!
8. *Divide kids into two teams and have them line up behind the tape lines.*
9. *Start the game and cheer kids on!*
10. *Declare a winner.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning a Bible story about when the Israelites were out in the wilderness. They didn't have any food or water and even had trouble knowing where to go. Miraculously, God provided what they needed!



WANT VS. NEED

SUPPLIES:

Apple, water, toy, cell phone, stuffed animal, Bible, candy, shirt, tablet, shoes, large box that closes

PREP:

Place all the items in the box and close it.

LEADER TIP: Substitute any of the items above with others you have on hand that can easily illustrate wants vs. needs.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Be considerate of kids' backgrounds when discussing "needs." Encourage compassionate discussion.

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 He always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Discuss:** Was there anything this week that you wanted but couldn't get?
5. **Discuss:** What do we often do when we don't get things we want?
6. *Lead kids to talk about how they might complain if they don't get what they want.*
7. **Say:** There are a lot of things in our lives that we really want, but not much that we need.
8. **Say:** I have some items here, and we need to figure out if we need these or if we only want them.
9. *Reveal items one at a time and allow kids to discuss whether it is a want or a need. Divide them into two piles.*
10. **Say:** Some of these things are easy to figure out, but there are others that we might think we need even though they are actually just a want.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Sometimes God asks us to do really hard things. In our story today, He asked Moses to do a difficult task.



VERSE JOURNEY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, painter's tape

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Use the painter's tape to make a line on the floor on one side of your small group area.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Think about kids' physical capabilities when selecting moves. They can also match arm and leg movements in place if needed.

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. **Say:** Let's practice our verse by playing a game. You will line up across this line (*point to line*), and I will stand across from you. I will tell you how you will move to me. While you are moving toward me, we will say the verse.
6. *Line up the kids along the line. Tell kids they will walk to you in baby steps.*
7. *Say the verse aloud and have kids join you as they move. This allows you to control the speed with which you say the verse.*
8. *Continue the game, using different movements (e.g., crawl, jump, skip, slither like a snake, gallop, march, dance, run, etc.) and speeding up how fast you say the verse.*
9. **Read:** Matthew 6:25–27.
10. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



GOD PROVIDES SCULPTURES

SUPPLIES:

Bible, modeling dough (1 handful per kid)

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Give kids a piece of paper to use as a placemat for their dough if they are sitting on the carpet.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God provide for the Israelites in the wilderness?
2. **Read:** Philippians 4:19.
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse say that God will provide for us?
4. **Discuss:** What are some examples of how God provides for us?
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:** Let's learn about the things that God provides.
8. *Pass out modeling dough to each kid.*
9. **Say:** I will tell you something to make with your dough, and then we'll talk about how God provides for us.
 - **Shape your favorite food. Discuss:** God provides us with food. How does God provide food?
 - **Shape a water bottle. Discuss:** How does God provide us with water?
 - **Shape an arrow. Discuss:** God provides direction for us. Where can we find directions from God?
 - **Shape a cross. Discuss:** God gave us Jesus. What did Jesus do for us?
 - **Shape a heart. Discuss:** Why did Jesus die on the cross for us?
10. *Collect the modeling dough.*
11. **Read:** Matthew 6:25–27.
12. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about God?


ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Our verse today reminds us that God provides for our needs. God loves us and knows what is best for us. We don't need to worry because we can trust that God will provide what we need.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God showed His goodness to the Israelites throughout their entire journey. He guided them, rescued them and gave them food and water. Because His goodness never changes, God still provides for us today.

Read James 1:17 directly from the Bible: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

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.*



PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft tubes (1 per kid), glue sticks (1 per kid), cotton balls (handful per kid), orange, red and yellow tissue paper, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the tissue paper into 1-inch squares (1 handful per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God provide for the Israelites? How did He guide them?
2. **Say:** God provided a guide to the Israelites in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. Every time they needed something, He provided for them.
3. *Pass out a craft tube, cotton balls, tissue paper squares and glue to everyone. Encourage kids to cover their tubes with cotton balls on one side and tissue squares on the other.*
4. **Say:** The cotton balls remind us of the pillar of cloud, and the tissue paper reminds us of the pillar of fire. Both of those things show us how God was always with the Israelites and provided for them!
5. **Discuss:** Does God provide for us? How does God provide for us?
6. **Read:** Philippians 4:19.
7. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
8. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
9. **Discuss:** What has God provided for you? Is there anything you need right now?
10. *Close your time in prayer, praying for things that kids mentioned.*
11. *End your prayer time by having kids fill in the blank, "God, please provide _____. " Have everyone say, "Thank You, God, for providing!"*
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. **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.



MOVE AND PRAY

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, music player, soft worship music

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God provide for the Israelites?
2. **Discuss:** How is God able to provide for us and give us what we need?
3. **Read:** Philippians 4:19.
4. **Discuss:** How do we ask God for what we need?
5. **Say:** We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.
6. **Read:** James 1:17.
7. **Say:** Every good gift comes from God! I'll play some music and you will move around our space. When the music stops, you will freeze and sit down. I will tell you something to talk to God about. You will pray, then I will start the music and you will move around again.
8. *Turn on the music and have the kids stand up and start moving.*
9. *Stop the music and give kids one of the prayer prompts listed below.*
 - **Praise:** Pray and tell God what you love about Him.
 - Prompt: God, I praise You because You are ...
 - **Seek:** Pray and ask God to show You His will.
 - Prompt: God, show me ...
 - **Ask:** Pray and ask God for something you need.
 - Prompt: God, I need ...
10. *Continue until you have prayed through all the prayer prompts. You can vary the way the kids move around: dance, tiptoe, sidestep, walk on heels, baby-step, walk in slow motion.*
11. **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.
12. **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.



WILDERNESS RELAY

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 1 OF 3

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



WATER



FOOD



FLASHLIGHT



FISHING POLE WITH HOOK



WILDERNESS RELAY

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 2 OF 3

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



FIRST AID KIT



MAP



MATCHES



VIDEO GAME



WILDERNESS RELAY

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
THE WILDERNESS

PAGE 3 OF 3

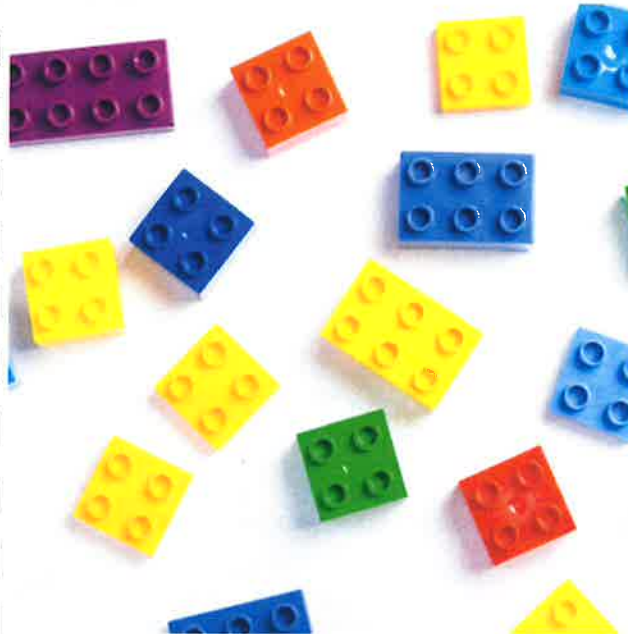
PREP: Print two copies of the printable pages and cut out.



BALL



DOLL



BUILDING BRICKS



BOARD GAME



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://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

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



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.

☐ DAY 1

Read: Exodus 16:13-15

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 17:5-6

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 3

Read: Psalm 23:1-2

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?

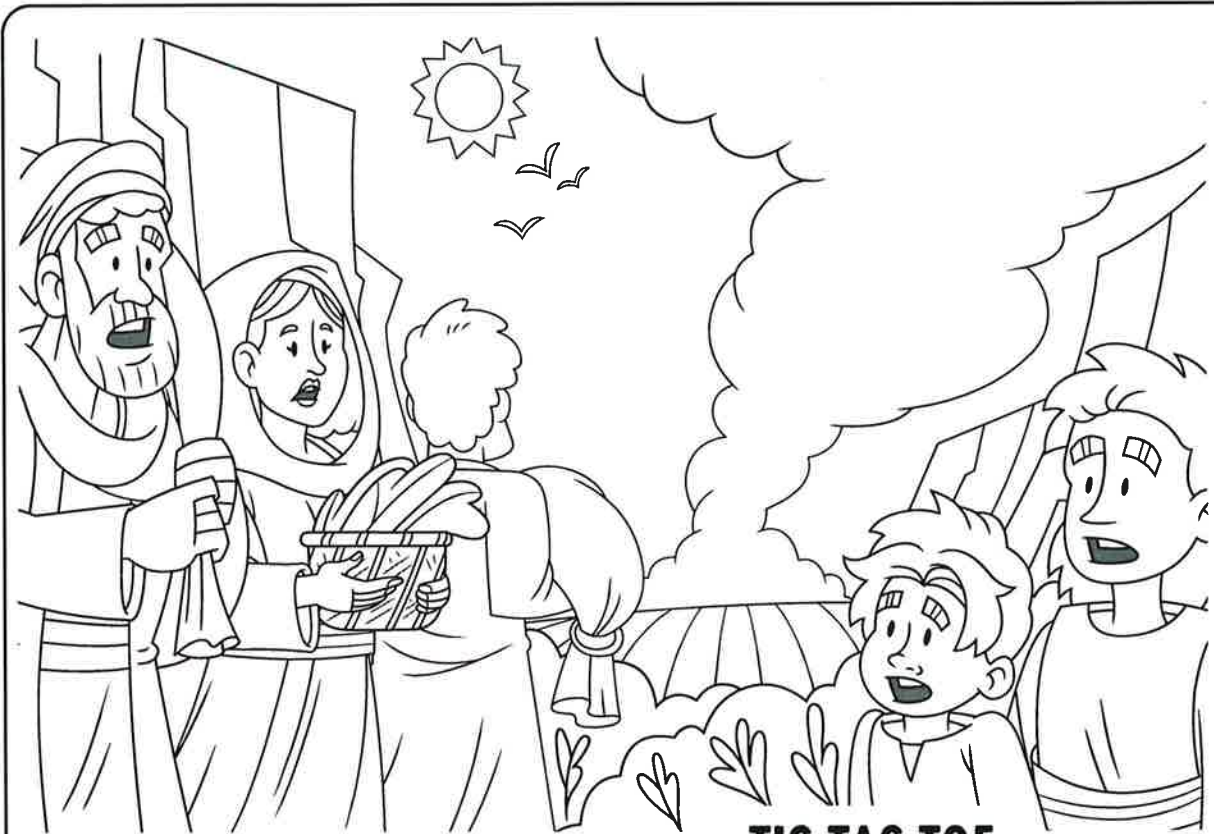
ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



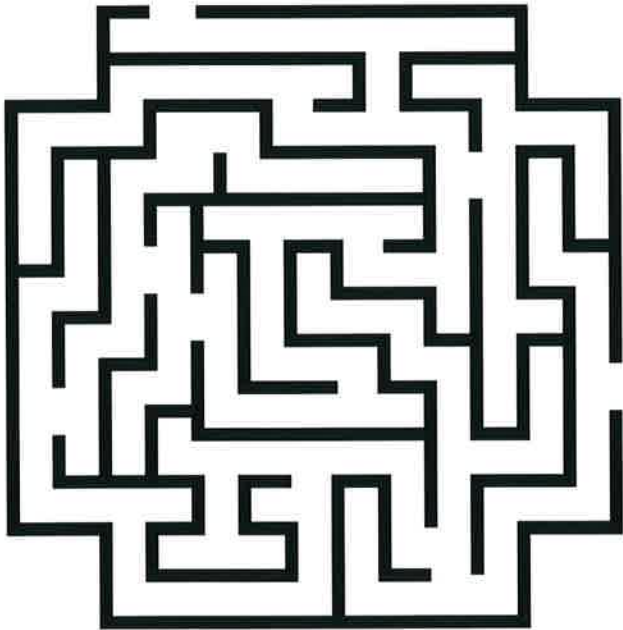
TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

THE WILDERNESS

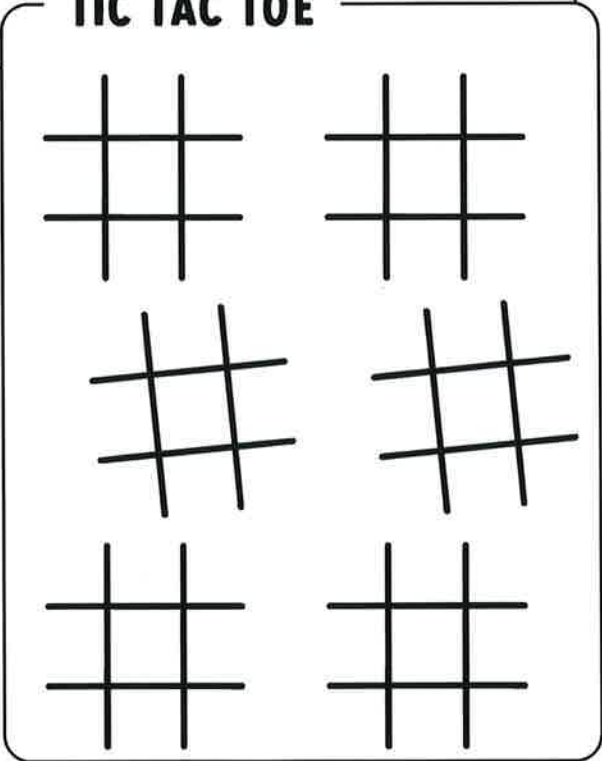


COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION

MAZE



TIC TAC TOE



EXODUS 13:1-17:6

THE WILDERNESS



