



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

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

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

Provide: to give

Unchanging: always stays the same

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, paper (1 per kid), gallon bucket, garbage bag

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****THE WILDERNESS
(EXODUS 13:1–17:6)**

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

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, chair

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Pass one piece of paper to everyone in the group. Choose one volunteer to come to the front of your space and hold the gallon bucket.

Say: Hey, everyone! I am so glad you joined us today. I want everyone to crumple their piece of paper into a ball. When I count down, everyone will throw their paper balls at once! The volunteer will try to catch as many as possible in the bucket. Everyone get ready—three, two, one!

Let everyone throw their paper balls at the volunteer. Count how many paper balls were caught in the bucket. There should be many more at the volunteer's feet.

Say: I bet you've noticed there are way more paper balls on the ground than in the bucket. It would be easy for our volunteer to look around and see what they didn't catch in the bucket. We often pay more attention to what we don't have than what we do have. A better way is to recognize all God has provided for us!

SUPPLIES:

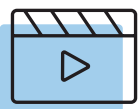
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, paper (1 per kid), gallon bucket, garbage bag

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

If your volunteer fails to catch any paper balls, place at least one in the bucket yourself.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Carson made it up the biggest wall at Wacky Wayne's Climbing Gym! It's a good thing chalk was provided. He really needed it!

Discuss: What is something you use every day that you couldn't live without?

Say: Our great God gives us everything we need! Today's Brite Idea is: God provides for us.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



How is God able to give us what we need?



How do we ask God for what we need?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?



FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching illustration: Jacob's Dream

Say: We started this month by talking about Jacob's dream and how God never changes.

Show teaching image: Joyful Reunion

Say: Then we learned about Joseph and his brothers and how God can be trusted.

Show teaching image: Moses and The Burning Bush

Say: Last week we learned about the burning bush and how God will forever be God.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Exodus. Exodus is found in the Old Testament, between the books of Genesis and Leviticus.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Exodus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened when the Israelites left Egypt to travel to the Promised Land!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on how God is unchanging.

Say: This week we will travel with the Israelites as they leave Egypt and set out to find the land God had promised to provide. Let's Find It in Our Bibles!

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Exodus. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Exodus 13:1–17:6).

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.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, chair

PREP:

Place a chair in the front of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS: For each question, call a volunteer to the front and challenge them to “climb the mountain” by stepping up on the chair and filling in the blank. Ask for a new volunteer for each question.

1. **God’s promised deliverance for His people out of Egypt to a new land is called the _____. (Exodus)**
2. **God led the Israelites by day with a pillar of cloud and by night with a pillar of _____. (Fire)**
3. **God provided fine, flaky bread for His people. They called it _____. (Manna)**
4. **When the Israelites complained about being thirsty, God caused water to flow from a _____. (Rock)**
5. **Because everything belongs to God, He is faithful to provide everything we _____. (Need)**
God created everything, and everything belongs to Him. He is faithful to provide what we need.
6. **We can ask God for what we need in _____. (Prayer)**
We can talk to God through prayer, seeking His will and asking for what we need.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



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.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



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.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, You are so faithful. We can trust You now and forever to meet our every need. Thank You for hearing our every prayer and being so generous with us. Amen.