



THE WILDERNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE (EXODUS 13:1-17:6)

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, God split the Red Sea so they could safely cross. He provided quail and manna from heaven when they were hungry, and He gave them water from a rock when they were thirsty.

Today's Brite Idea is: God provides for us.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*Jesus Christ is the
same yesterday and
today and forever.*

(HEBREWS 13:8)



BIG QUESTION

Does God ever change? No!



God provides.



God provides
for us.



God provides
for me.

LEADER TRAINING: BE READY FOR WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Even in the most carefully prepared rooms, accidents will still happen. A spill, a tumble or a frustrated outburst isn't a failure on your part (although it will probably feel like it!). Instead, it's an opportunity to show God's grace in real time.

- **Calm Is Contagious.** Kids watch how adults respond, taking their cues from them. When we stay calm and gentle, they feel safe, understood and cared for.
- **Honesty Builds Trust.** A simple explanation ("Oops! Let's clean up that spill together.") teaches accountability without shame. Kids can learn that mistakes don't break love or trust.
- **Grace In Action.** Responding with patience, calmness, kindness, empathy and guidance points kids to Jesus, who meets us in our mistakes with forgiveness and gentle care.

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. In addition to causing health issues, hunger can also cause behavioral and learning issues. By providing small, healthy snacks in your group, you can help kids who struggle with hunger to 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 parents struggle with providing food. You can help kids understand that God is with them and He knows what they need. They can see that everything they have is a gift from God, and while He may not provide everything we want, He is with us in our difficulties and has a plan for our lives.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Pharaoh: a great ruler

Provide: to give

Manna: fine, flaky bread

Quail: a type of bird

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

I'M THANKFUL FOR...

SUPPLIES: Ball

OR

NAME THAT FOOD

SUPPLIES: Brown paper bag, 5-6 play food items

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

THE WILDERNESS

(EXODUS 13:1-17:6)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE CELEBRATION

SUPPLIES: Scarves (1 per kid), Memory Verse Song, music player

OR

FOLLOW THE CLOUD AND FIRE

SUPPLIES: Printable page, large craft stick, tape, scissors (prep)

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

FOOTPRINTS

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper (1 per kid), animal figurines (1 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes

OR

PROVISION PARADE

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, musical instruments (1 per kid)



I'M THANKFUL FOR...

SUPPLIES:

Ball

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** We will go around our circle and share something we are thankful for. It can be a person, a thing or even the fact that you're here at church today!
3. *Roll the ball back and forth as kids share something they are thankful for.*
4. *Continue until everyone has answered.*
5. **Ask:** Do you know what the opposite of being thankful is?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

When people are not thankful, they don't remember what they have and they complain. We will learn about how the Israelites complained to God and did not trust Him. But God provided for them anyway. Let's learn more about how God provides for His people.



NAME THAT FOOD

SUPPLIES:

Brown paper bag, 5-6 play food items

PREP:

Fill a brown paper bag with 5-6 play food items before the activity begins.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** I have something fun in this brown bag! Inside are some pretend foods. Let's see if you can name them!
2. *Hold the brown bag. One at a time, invite each kid to reach inside the bag without looking, pull out one food item and name it after they pull it out.*
3. *If they need help, have them ask the group what it is.*
4. **Ask:** Have you ever eaten that food before?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

It's fun to discover new foods and share about them! In today's Bible story, God will provide both food and water for the Israelites. Let's find out how God provides for them.

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome! I am so glad you are here today and I'm excited to learn about a true story from the Bible with you.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: We learned how Jacob had a dream about angels going up and down a ladder. God made the same promise to Jacob that He had made to Isaac and Abraham, Jacob's father and grandfather.

Show teaching image: Jacob's Dream.

Say: Then we learned about how Joseph was treated badly by his brothers. God was with Joseph during all the bad things and had a great plan for him.

Show teaching image: Joyful Reunion.

Say: Last week we learned about how God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. God promised to rescue His people.

Show teaching image: Moses and the Burning Bush.

Say: Today we will learn a true story from the Bible about how God took care of His people in the wilderness.

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? One, two, three ... drumroll!

? BIG QUESTION

Show Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Does God ever change? We will find out in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Encourage kids to interact with today's Bible story. Give direction on how the kids should say the repeated word three times and then stop to ensure you are able to continue teaching without disruptions.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE
Bible Song

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the Old Testament in the book of Exodus. The Old Testament is filled with lots of stories about God's creation, His people and the things that happened before Jesus came to Earth.

THE WILDERNESS

(EXODUS 13:1-17:6)

Say: Pharaoh told the Israelites to get out of Egypt, and they left very quickly! They began a great journey to the land God had promised Abraham long ago. This was called the exodus.

Say: Have you ever been on a long trip? Did you ever get fussy or complain on that long trip? The Israelites did too!

Say: It was not an easy journey, but God was with them. During the day, the Lord went before them as a tall cloud.

Show teaching image: Pillar of Cloud.

Say: At night, He led the way as a tall pillar of fire so they could see as they traveled in the dark. Still, the Israelites found reasons to complain. During our story today, there will be times I tell you to whine! Let's practice. When I say, "Go," I need you to say, "Waa, waa, waa" in your best whiny voice. Just say it three times then stop. Ready? Go!

Say: Something scary happened. **Pharaoh** changed his mind. He sent his army to capture the Israelites. The people were trapped and scared. They forgot that God had rescued them and was with them! This was the first time they whined and complained.

Say: Ready, go! "Waa, waa, waa."

Say: The people complained that God brought them out of Egypt just to be caught. But God had a plan. He split the sea in two! The people walked across it on dry land. The Israelites were saved again!

Say: As the Israelites continued their journey, they became very hungry. They whined and complained.

Say: Ready, go! "Waa, waa, waa!"

Say: But God **provided** for them. Each evening, God sent birds called **quail** to their camp so they could have meat. In the mornings, God sent fine, flaky bread called **manna**.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Pharaoh: a great ruler

Provide: to give

Manna: fine, flaky bread

Quail: a type of bird



Say: Next, the Israelites were very thirsty. They whined and complained again!

Say: Ready, go! "Waa, waa, waa."

Say: But God **provided** for them again. God told Moses to hit a rock with his staff. When Moses hit the rock, water flowed out so the Israelites could drink.

Show teaching image: Water From Rock

Say: God showed the Israelites again and again that He was taking care of them. But they had a hard time trusting Him. They whined and complained.

Say: Ready, go. "Waa, waa, waa."

Say: Because they did, they ended up having to wander in the wilderness for 40 years instead of going into the Promised Land.

Say: But even during those 40 years, God still **provided** food and water and even kept their shoes and clothes from wearing out. God loved His people and **provided** everything they needed, even when they were whiny.

Say:: Ready, go! "Waa, waa, waa."



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God provides for us. God created everything, so He owns everything. He loves us and knows what we truly need. God gave His most precious gift—His Son, Jesus—so we can live forever with Him!

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for how You provide for us. You care for and love each one of us. Thank You for always being with us. Amen.



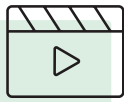
BIG QUESTION

Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
One, two, three ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

Say: Does God ever change? No!

Say: The Bible teaches us that God will stay the same forever and ever.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after the
verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Jesus Christ (point to the palms of your hands)
- is the same (clap your hands)
- yesterday (point backward)
- and today (point down)
- and forever. (point out)
- Hebrews 13:8 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

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



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "God provides."

Have the kids point up and say, "God provides."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "God provides for us."

Have kids reach out and say, "God provides for us."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "God provides for me."

Have kids point to themselves and say, "God provides for me."



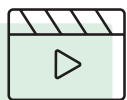
God provides.



God provides for us.



God provides for me.



* Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.



MEMORY VERSE CELEBRATION

SUPPLIES:

Scarves (1 per kid), Memory Verse Song, music player

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Be mindful of the music volume depending on the needs of your group.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned how God led His people through the wilderness with a cloud during the day and fire at night.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's get ready to move while we practice the memory verse! We will wave our scarves as we sing along to the song.
2. *Hand out a scarf to each kid.*
3. *Play the Memory Verse Song and lead kids to wave their scarves to it.*
4. *Repeat the song and encourage them to sing along.*
5. **Ask:** Does God ever change?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God never changes! He is always good, and He always keeps His promises. Let's wave our scarves one last time and say, "Thank You, God!" together.



FOLLOW THE CLOUD AND FIRE

SUPPLIES:

Printable page, large craft stick, tape, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print the printable page and cut out. Tape the cloud on one side of the craft stick and the flame on the other side. These will represent how God led the Israelites. Have both items ready to switch back and forth as you lead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Replace the steps with fast and slow clapping to support kids with physical limitations.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned how God led His people through the wilderness with a cloud during the day and fire at night.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We will play a game where you follow the cloud and the fire—just like the Israelites followed God!
2. *Gather kids into a single-file line.*
3. **Say:** When I hold up the cloud, we will all march together. When I flip to the fire, we will all take really big steps.
4. *Hold up the cloud and begin walking around your space. Have kids follow behind you marching.*
5. **Say:** When we follow the cloud, we remember how God guided His people in the daytime.
6. *Switch to the fire halfway through and lead kids to take really big steps.*
7. **Say:** When we follow the fire, we remember how God guided His people in the dark.
8. *Repeat switching back and forth to the cloud or fire.*
9. **Say:** God never left them—He stayed with them and gave them what they needed!
10. **Ask:** Can we trust God to provide for us, too?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Just like God led and provided for the Israelites through the wilderness, He can lead and provide for us. God is the ultimate Provider. We can trust Him because He never changes!



FOOTPRINTS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper (1 per kid), animal figurines (1 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes

PREP:

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

LEADER TIP: Talk about how God leads us while helping each kid make their footprint on the paper.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned how God led His people through the wilderness and took care of them. God provided for the Israelites, and He never changes!
2. **Say:** We will make footprint art as we remember how God provided and cared for and led the Israelites.
3. *Pass out a paper to each kid. Lay out the washable ink pads and give each kid an animal figurine.*
4. *Show kids how to stamp the animal figurine into the ink pad and press it onto their paper. Repeat, making a trail of footprints.*
5. **Say:** As you make all the footprints, we can remember that God provides for us. God cares about You and loves You.
6. *Wipe the animal figurines clean and set them aside.*
7. *Write each kid's name on their paper and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How did God provide for the Israelites?
- Why did the Israelites complain?
- Does God provide for us?
- Does God ever change?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for providing for us. You never change, and we can always trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



PROVISION PARADE

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, musical instruments (1 per kid)

PREP:

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

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If your group is sensitive to sounds, consider waving streamers or ribbons during your parade.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned that God provided for His people. He took care of them because He loved them and He never changes!
2. **Say:** Let's each name something that God provides.
3. *Call on each kid to name something and help brainstorm as needed.*
4. **Say:** God is the Provider! Let's celebrate that God provides by having a parade!
5. *Hand each kid an instrument.*
6. *Lead kids in a simple parade line around the space. As you walk, pause and have kids cheer as they say, "God provides for me!"*
7. **Say:** God provided for the Israelites, and God can provide for you and me.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How did God provide for the Israelites?
- Why did the Israelites complain?
- Does God provide for us?
- Does God ever change?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for providing for us. You never change, and we can always trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions of what kids should do in each center.

- **Manna Scoop and Pour Bin:** Fill a bin with rice, beans and different-sized cups. Allow kids to scoop up the rice and beans.
- **Wilderness Blocks and Tents:** Put out blocks and encourage kids to try to make tents with the blocks.
- **Modeling Dough:** Encourage kids to create their favorite foods with the modeling dough.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: God rescued His people from Egypt, and they left quickly on a big journey toward the Promised Land. Along the way, they faced many challenges. But God provided each time and took care of them. When Pharaoh changed his mind and sent an army to bring God's people back to Egypt, God rescued them again by parting the Red Sea. When they needed food and water, God provided. He led them each day and night, showing how great He is.



BIG QUESTION

Does God ever change? No!