



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](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources)

1

BELONG

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

WILDERNESS DISCOVERY

SUPPLIES: Bin, 3 magnifying glasses, rocks, sand, 4 scoops, 4 mini cups

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

THE WILDERNESS (EXODUS 13:1–17:6)

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

GOD PROVIDES

SUPPLIES: Music player, Memory Verse Song, paper, bin, scissors (prep)

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

GOD MAKES A WAY

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, fish stickers (3 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes



WILDERNESS DISCOVERY

SUPPLIES:

Bin, 3 magnifying glasses, rocks, sand, 4 scoops, 4 mini cups

PREP:

Fill the bin a quarter of the way with sand. Then put the rest of the supplies into the bin, placing the magnifying glasses on top.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will learn about how God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness.
2. *Lay out the prepared bin. Invite kids to come and discover what is inside.*
3. *As kids look through the bin, show them how to use the magnifying glasses to examine the different items.*
4. **Ask:** What do you think the wilderness was like?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God provided for His people in the wilderness. Let's learn all about the ways that God was there for His people and made a way for them!

THE WILDERNESS

(EXODUS 13:1–17:6)

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Exodus. **Pharaoh** told the Israelites to get out of Egypt and they left very quickly! They started a big journey to the land God had promised long ago.

Say: It was not an easy journey, but God was with them. During the day, the Lord God went before them as a tall cloud. Can you reach your arms up high? 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 things to complain about.

Say: Something bad happened. **Pharaoh** changed his mind. He sent his army to get the Israelites back. The people were trapped and scared. They forgot that God had rescued them and was with them!

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! Everyone say, "Hooray!" The people walked across it on dry land. The Israelites were saved again!

Say: As the Israelites continued their journey, they got hungry. They whined and complained. 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 flaky bread called **manna**.

Say: Next, the Israelites were very thirsty. Can you pretend to drink water? *Demonstrate for the kids.* But God **provided** for them again. God told Moses to hit a rock with his staff. When Moses hit the rock, water came out so the Israelites could drink.

Say: God showed the Israelites over and over again that He was taking care of them. But they had a hard time trusting Him. They ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years instead of going into the Promised Land. But during those 40 years, God loved His people and **provided** everything they needed, even when they complained.



POINT TO JESUS

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

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Pharaoh: a great ruler

Provide: to give

Manna: fine, flaky bread

Quail: a type of bird

WRAP-UP:**BIG QUESTION**

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.

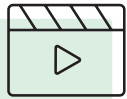
Say: Does God ever change? No!



God provides.

God provides
for us.

God provides
for me.

**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)



GOD PROVIDES

SUPPLIES:

Music player, Memory Verse Song, paper, bin, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Cut the paper into pieces to represent manna. Put all the cut pieces into the bin.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned God provides. God provided for His people by rescuing them, making a way through the Red Sea and providing food and water. God never changes, and He is always faithful.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Take the bin and scatter the pre-cut paper all around your space.*
2. **Say:** Let's practice our memory verse by listening to our Memory Verse Song.
3. **Say:** I have put "manna" all over our space. As we listen to the song, let's go and gather it. Then as you put the pieces into the bin, we will say a word of the memory verse for each piece.
4. *Play the Memory Verse Song and lead kids to work together to gather the manna.*
5. *After the song, lead kids to put the manna in the bin and say one word of the verse for every piece they put in: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)*
6. *Repeat the song and play again, having kids scatter the manna and then regather it.*
7. **Ask:** How did God take care of His people?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

God provides. He never changes. He will always be with us, and He will stay the same forever. God provided for His people, and He provides for us, too.



GOD MAKES A WAY

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, fish stickers (3 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** God provided for the Israelites. When it seemed impossible, God made a way through the Red Sea. Let's make a craft to remember that God provided for His people and can provide for us!
2. *Pass out a printable page and coloring supplies to each kid. Have kids scribble and color on the picture.*
3. *Lay out the washable ink pads. Show kids how they can press their fingers into their ink pad and then onto their papers to decorate them.*
4. *Give each kid fish stickers. Help them put the stickers on the water part of their picture.*
5. *As kids decorate their pages, share how God can provide for them.*
6. *Clean kids' hands with the baby wipes.*
7. *Write each kid's name on their paper and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did God provide for His people?
- Did the Israelites always trust in God?
- Why did the Israelites complain?
- Does God ever change?

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

Dear God, thank You for being a Provider. Thank You for loving us and caring for us. Help us to trust in You and know that You will always provide. 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 on what kids should do in each center.

- **Creation Station:** Provide pipe cleaners or wax sticks and have kids make different people out of them. Share how they can use them to retell the Bible story.
- **Modeling Dough:** Provide blue and brown modeling dough for kids to make a parting of the Red Sea together.
- **Food Sorting:** Provide pretend food and paper plates. Encourage them to make plates of food for one another. Share how God provided food and water for the Israelites.

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!