

Lesson C1.6 - God Gives Us What We Need



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Exodus 17:1-17

- Bible Characters: Moses, God, Israelites

Moses and the Israelites had escaped from Egypt and were wandering in the wilderness. But there was no water to be found, and the people got worried and angry with Moses. Then God provided water from a totally unexpected place — a rock — and gave the people what they needed, once again.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Wilderness

After God freed the Hebrews from slavery, Moses led them through the desert wilderness. But when they ran out of water, the people panicked. Once again, God intervened and saved them.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Raise your hand if you've ever run in a race. How did you feel at the end of it? *[Call on volunteers.]* After a lot of exercise, our bodies need water, don't they? Who makes that water? God does! **God gives us what we need.** Say that with me again: **God gives us what we need.**

- Who can tell about a time when you were really thirsty? *[Call on volunteers.]*
- What would you have done if there was no water?

In today's Bible story about **God gives us what we need**, Moses is all grown up and is wandering in the wilderness with the Israelites. They get tired and hot. But there is no water! People panic. What did they need to learn? **God gives us what we need.**

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: Although Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house, he wasn't Egyptian. He was a Hebrew person, like the slaves. When he grew up, he decided to help them.

Read the caption: Moses led God's people out of slavery in Egypt. God did many great wonders and miracles to make this happen!

- *Look at this picture. What are the people doing? Why? [They are dancing and playing music. They are very happy to be free at long last.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me which person is Moses and what he's doing. [Moses has white hair and an orange robe. He is praying and thanking God.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: After crossing the Red Sea, Moses and God's people wandered for a long time. Life had been very hard in Egypt. They thought it should be easier now.

Read the caption: But when the people escaped, they found themselves in a dry desert with no water. It was hot, and the people became very thirsty.

- *Look at the picture. What do you notice? [There is no water. The people look hot and unhappy.]*
- *Raise your hand if you'd like to tell me what you would do if you were in their situation. [Call on volunteers.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: After several days, the people started talking about the water and food they had back in Egypt. They forgot how miserable they had been there.

Read the caption: The people complained to Moses. They wanted something to drink. So God told Moses to take his staff and strike a large rock.

- *Look at Moses and the man in the picture. Raise your hand if you want to tell me what you think they're saying. [Call on volunteers.]*
- *Raise your hand if you know what is on the ground at their feet. Why? [A water urn. Maybe someone broke it while trying to get out the last drops of water.]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: Moses prayed to God for help. Then God led Moses to a rock and told him to hit it with his staff. The elders who were there watched curiously.

Read the caption: Suddenly, God made water flow out of the rock so all the people could drink and not be thirsty. God gave them what they needed.

- *What is Moses doing now? [Hitting the rock with his staff. He listened to God.]*
- *Raise your hand if you want to tell me what you would think if you were super thirsty and saw this miracle. Would it change the way you trust in God? [Call on volunteers.]*

Remember today's message: **God gives us what we need!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*While walking through the wilderness,
the Hebrews felt a lot of stress.
There was no water anywhere.
Would they survive? And did God care?*

*"We're thirsty, Moses, and we're mad!
You brought us here! This place is bad!"
"O Lord, please help me," Moses said.
"The people think they've been misled."*

*God said to Moses, "Grab that stick,
then hit the desert rock with it!"
So Moses went and tapped: knock, knock;
and water poured out from the rock!*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Streams of Water Race

Materials Needed: One empty 20-ounce bottle, one small cup, two basins or buckets, masking tape, timer

**Instructions: Before class:**

Using masking tape, make a line a couple of inches up from the bottom of the bottle. (You may put the line higher or lower on the bottle, depending on the size of the class.) Place one basin at the far end of the room, and set the empty 20-ounce bottle upright in it. (The basin will catch spills that might occur during the game.) At the other end of the classroom, place the other basin, filled with water, and a small cup beside it.

To play: Have the children line up. Set a timer, based on how long it might take the class as a whole to complete the following task: The first person in line will pick up a small cup, dip it in the basin of water, race to the empty bottle, pour the water into the bottle (you may need to hold the bottle steady), then race back and hand the empty cup to the next person in line. Then the process will repeat. The goal is for the kids to work as a team and fill the bottle past the line before the timer sounds.

h. Song (optional)

This African American spiritual has motions that can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites. Or, if you prefer, sing it at a fast clip and have kids clap along in rhythm instead.

I've Got Peace Like a River

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

Verse 2: **I've got love like a river ...**

Verse 3: **I've got joy like a river ...**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: The Hebrew people got very hot and thirsty when they were in the wilderness. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for the world you made

For rain and plants and sun and shade

For those we love who love us too

We are so blessed because of YOU!

Amen.