



ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

LESSON 1

WATER FROM THE ROCK

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Cares about Our Needs

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17

GOD'S BIG STORY: God has faithfully rescued His people, but they're now thirsty and complaining in the desert. God responds with kindness, providing water for them from a rock because He cares about our needs.

WORD OF WONDER: God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. —Ephesians 3:20

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: What is something you complain about at home?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Unstoppable God, Here With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WORD OF WONDER: Ephesians 3:20

I sometimes feel bad for Moses. As someone in ministry, I'm sure you understand why. I mean, this poor guy was just trying to be a shepherd in Midian, and the next thing he knows, he's pastoring thousands of people in the desert with no apparent destination in mind.

I'm quite sure Moses faced a daily onslaught of questions, concerns, ideas, and inquiries, and I'm sure he was exhausted.

I'm sure of that because Moses was human. And so are we. Each one of us. We get tired. We don't always have the answers.

In these situations, what are we to do? I love what Moses did. He went to God. He didn't go in some pious or religious way. He went to God in sheer desperation. Take time to read Exodus 17:1–7.

God did what God does. He showed up in an unexpected way to care for the people's needs. He told Moses to hit a rock and water would gush out. I promise you that was never in Moses' "Next Steps for Israel" plan. And yet, that's exactly where God showed up.

Where is God showing up for you? If you are feeling weary, take a note from Moses' book. Go to God. Cry out to Him. He cares for you, so tell Him about your needs. Be honest. But also, be ready. God may show up in an unexpected way for you too.

—**Christina Embree**

Nonprofit Ministry Director and Minister of Generational Discipleship

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses has led the people of Israel away from Egypt and into the desert. He has been serving as the leader of and God's representative to the community of Israel. God speaks directly to Moses in the same way one friend speaks to another.

WHAT?

The Israelites find themselves in need of water and, instead of asking God for water, they violently grumble and complain. Moses goes to God with their complaints along with his own. God responds by meeting their need through Moses in a public display of His power.

WHERE?

The Israelites are in the Desert of Sin, a geographic area between Elim and Mount Sinai. The place where the rock was struck is called by Moses "Massah and Meribah," which means "testing and quarreling" because "the Israelites quarreled and ... tested the LORD" (Exodus 17:7, NIV).

WHEN?

Scripture indicates the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40–41) and wandered for 40 years (Numbers 14:34). This narrative happens after the Red Sea crossing (Exodus 15), fresh water at Marah (Exodus 15), and the provision of manna and quail (Exodus 16).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God's provision for Israel, despite their complaints, is a testament to God's patience with all of us. He is, "slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6, NIV). Jesus is the greatest expression of God's love and faithfulness (John 3:16)!

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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WONDER TRUTH: God Cares about Our Needs

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As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop.

Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be sure to move to their level and introduce yourself to any new friends. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

Welcome Question

Consider using a **30 or 2:00 Countdown** to let leaders and kids know it's almost time to begin!

At Your Start Time...

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question board:

Welcome Question: **What is something you complain about at home?**

Encourage kids to be creative as they share their answers with one another.

They might share about a person they know or a character from a book or movie. If kids prefer, they can draw a picture answering the question. Invite small group leaders to begin.

"Sometimes it's easy for us to complain. Today we're going to learn about how the Israelites were thirsty while in the desert and complained and struggled to trust God. But in spite of the Israelites' complaints, they learned what our Wonder Truth today says:"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CARES ABOUT OUR NEEDS."**



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

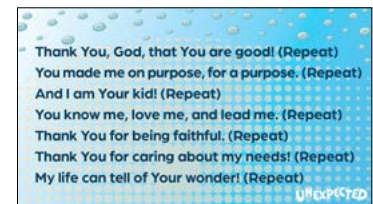
"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! I have a little game for us first today!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

- Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)
- You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)
- And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)
- You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)
- Thank You for being faithful.** (Kids repeat.)
- Thank You for caring about my needs!** (Kids repeat.)
- My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words, with this prayer as an example if needed **Father, thank You for bringing each of us here to learn more about You today. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will help us hear what You have for us today as we remember that You care about our needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

****NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Unstoppable God, Here With Me

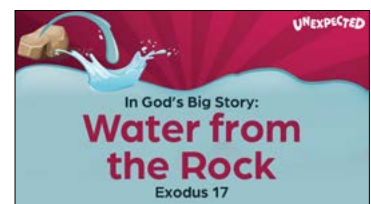
God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

Remind kids that Exodus is the second book of the Bible, and the first 14 chapters are all about how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.

"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!"

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY



LESSON 1 WATER FROM THE ROCK

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: box (prop to use as a rock), stick, blue crepe paper, tape, robes for Israelites and Moses (optional)

RESOURCES: Cue Cards 1–6 Sheets, Egypt Sheet, Rephidim Sheet

Ahead of time, print the Cue Cards 1–6 Sheets, Egypt Sheet, and Rephidim Sheet. If using a separate narrator, print a copy of the Experience It! Script for him. Consider providing robes for five volunteers to wear. Ensure the Cue Cards 1–6 Sheets are in numerical order. Designate one area of the room to be “Egypt” and tape the Egypt Sheet nearby. Choose another area of the room to be “Rephidim” and tape the Rephidim Sheet nearby. Place the rock prop and the stick at Rephidim. Hide the blue crepe paper behind the rock.

Ask for volunteers for the following roles: Moses, Israelite 1, Israelite 2, Israelite 3, and Israelite 4. Explain that they will read from their cue cards when you point to them, and they should pantomime the actions you (or the narrator) describe in the story. Practice some of the motions, such as working as slaves. Help them understand the emotions they can convey during the different scenes, such as tiredness, anger, and frustration.

Leader Tip: The Experience It! narrator can be the lesson leader or another dynamic adult or youth volunteer who prepared by reading the script ahead of time.

Gather kids together. **“Today we’re going to hear about a time God showed His people that He cared for their needs. I have asked some friends to help us tell this story from the Bible. Friends, will you come on up?”** Volunteers should stand in the area marked Egypt.

NARRATOR: A long time ago, God’s special people—the Israelites—had lived in the land of Egypt as slaves. Every day they had to work in the sun and the dirt, building monuments and temples for the Egyptians. Day and night they asked God to take them away from Egypt and set them free.

Hold up Sheet 1.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger volunteers or nonreaders can participate as well. Simply stand near them and whisper their lines to them or practice their lines with them ahead of time.

ISRAELITE 1: Get us out of here!

NARRATOR: God was faithful to them. He heard their prayers and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt and find a new life together as a big family. Instruct Moses to lead the Israelites across the room to the Rephidim sign. But as they journeyed looking for a new place to live, they started to get tired and hungry and thirsty. When they camped at Rephidim, there was no water to drink. They complained to Moses, saying:



Hold up Sheets 2–4, one after the other in order.

ISRAELITE 2: **We're so thirsty!**

ISRAELITE 3: **Why'd you make us leave Egypt?**

ISRAELITE 4: **We're all going to die of thirst!**

NARRATOR: **Moses could not believe what he was hearing!**

Hold up Sheet 5.

MOSES: **I cannot believe what I'm hearing!**

NARRATOR: **God had saved His people from slavery in Egypt, and they were still unhappy. So Moses cried out to God:**

Hold up Sheet 6.

MOSES: **What am I going to do with them? I think they want to hurt me!**

NARRATOR: **How did God respond? Did He get angry and tell the people just to go back to Egypt? No! God cared for them even though they were grumbling. God could see they needed water, and He decided to help the people, even though they were not being grateful for all God had already done. Even though they were faithless, God was faithful. God had told the Israelites that He would take care of them, and He did, because God always does what He says He will do.**

God told Moses, "Go out in front of the people and take some of the [leaders] with you. Take in your hand the walking stick you used when you struck the Nile River. Go. Instruct Moses to hold the stick and stand by the prop serving as a rock. I will stand there in front of you by the rock at Mount Horeb. Hit the rock. Then water will come out of it for the people to drink" (Exodus 17:5–6).

Leader Tip: Ahead of time, prepare your Moses volunteer to know his actions and when he should perform them.

Have Moses hit the rock. You or another volunteer should then throw blue crepe paper from behind the rock to look like water.

That sounds impossible, doesn't it? But Moses obeyed God. Moses was faithful to God, and God was faithful to him. Moses went in front of the people and took a few leaders up to the rock with him and, just like God told him to, he hit the rock with his walking stick. And guess what? Water came gushing out of the rock, enough water for all the people to drink!

God loved the Israelites and took care of them in ways they thought were impossible. Here's the really cool part: God loves us too! Even when things seem impossible, God shows up in unexpected ways because He loves us and keeps His promises. Just as He cared about the Israelites and their needs, God cares about our needs."

Thank your volunteers and invite them to return to their seats.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CARES ABOUT OUR NEEDS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

God provided for the Israelites even when they complained in the desert. Just as He was patient with them, God is patient with us. Later in the book of Exodus, God describes Himself to Moses: "I am the LORD. ... I am slow to get angry. I am faithful and full of love" (Exodus 34:6). God's greatest expression of His love, patience, and faithfulness is Jesus! God sent Jesus to save us because He loves us (John 3:16)."



Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

*****Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.**

WORSHIP VIDEO: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus



Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words, with this blessing as an example if needed:

Blessing: May God draw near to you this week and remind you, through His Holy Spirit, that He is always with you and cares about all your needs.