

True and Lively Lessons
Precious Gems - Ages 2-5
The Law is Our Schoolmaster Leading Us to Christ
Level 1 Lesson 4 Miracles - Prayer

Water! . . . from a Rock?

Target: Prayer brings the needed miracle.

Text: Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:8; and Psalm 78:20

Preface: (for the teacher)

Exodus 17:1 says, "And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of The Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink." The Israelites had come to a place called Rephidim on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin to Mount Sinai. The Wilderness of Sin, transliterated as "Ciyn," means, "thorn, clay, or a tract of wilderness." The name Rephidim was translated from a Hebrew word, the transliteration being Rephiydim, which means, "a resting place."

The Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, tired, hungry, and thirsty. They stopped at "a resting place," Rephidim, and wanted water to quench their thirst. When they could not find any water to satisfy their thirst, they murmured against Moses. God told Moses to smite the rock in Horeb with the assurance that water would come forth so that the people could drink. Moses smote the rock and water came forth. Later, in the desert of Zin, the people again chided Moses for water (**Numbers 20:1-12**). Moses prayed and God instructed him to speak to the rock and water would come forth. Instead, Moses, out of great frustration with the complaining people, struck the rock with his rod. God permitted water to come out, but God told Moses that he would not be permitted to enter Canaan, the land of promise, with the rest of the Israelites because of his disobedience. This sets a clear precedence that obedience to what God tells us is what brings blessing and provision.

Centuries later, the Apostle Paul would write to the church at Corinth drawing a comparison between that rock and Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 10:1-4**). In fact, Paul said that Rock was Christ! Jesus told the woman of Samaria in John 4:10 that if she'd have asked of Him, He'd have given her living water. In other words, Jesus told her that what she needed to do was speak to the Rock! Jesus said in John 7:37-39, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

Like the Israelites did in the Old Testament, we all journey through the wilderness of life with many hardships, struggles, disappointments, etc. and we look for something to satisfy our soul. We must come to the Rock and speak to Him! When we believe God for the Holy Ghost, we can simply call on His name (Jesus), and receive something that will quench our spiritual thirst and we will never thirst again because it is exactly what we need!

Activities and Materials:

Tell Jesus	Story	Snack	Craft
Canning jar with lid, Paper (5 x7 plain) Crayons, (OR pencils, pens, or markers)	robe broom long white pillowcase, mop red, yellow, orange crepe paper rubber bands chairs sheets water hose, duct tape, tables OR paper sack, balloon, yard stick, pin	vanilla wafers, plastic wrap, cups, basket, water from the "rock"	pieces of brown paper sack desert scene paper glue sticks silver and/or blue glitter

Tell Jesus:

(Have students sit at a table where pieces of paper, pencils, crayons, markers, or pens are set out and ask students to draw a picture of someone whom they want Jesus to help. Teacher and/or an assistant will need to jot on the back side of drawing, a brief description of each child's request. After students have had a chance to complete their drawing, gather them and put them in a canning jar.) **The man in our Bible story today needed a big miracle and when he prayed, I mean when he cried out to God for help, the miracle came.** *(Pull the requests and tell the children they will need to help you cry out to Jesus for each one. If you have a large group, divide into groups whose prayers can be brought to God led by an assistant. Be sensitive to children's heartfelt prayers and be prepared to minister as God touches them. Place requests back in the jar and tell the children that we have given the needs to God where they are safe. We can pull them out when we need to and pray for them again. (Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7)*

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Preparation:

(Turn pillowcase inside out and twist rubber band in a few gathered places on seams to form cloud. Turn it right side out and place on upside down broom. Pin (to mop strings) and tape (to handle) red, orange, and yellow crepe paper strips to upside mop. Make sure water hose is ready to be turned on and water to be gushed from the back side of building corner, rock shape is outlined by duct tape on corner of building and assistant is prepped for outside experience with the Rock of Horeb (OR use crumpled up paper sack rock with water balloon and yard stick with pin on end to poke water balloon when struck). Have sheets or thin blankets handy for making quick tents over tables and chairs. Wrap vanilla wafers in plastic wrap to spread on ground as manna for students to gather and put into basket for snack time. Cups are needed for students to get a cup full from gushing water outside.)

Teacher script is in bold type.

Story:

(Select and costume Moses, pillar of cloud and fire bearers. Debrief students about their roles and setting.)

Well Moses, what is the plan for today? Oh that's right. We are still going wherever and whenever the cloud and pillar of fire lead. This is God's way of showing us where to go. I remember now.

The cloud seems to be staying in one place so I guess we will go ahead and pitch our tents here for now. *(Use blankets, tables and chairs to quickly create makeshift tents that have a back and side walls, but front is open (for clear supervision). Have the children settle in tents.)*

Time to go! *(Helper assists child with carrying cloud to lead the children around; Teacher walks with Moses right behind the cloud.)*

(Teacher "directs" the journey by alternating between actions of setting up camp, packing up, following by day, and following by night. Time to set up camp and go to bed, time to get up and go, time to wait, time to travel by night, etc.)

(Children begin to get weary of all the up and down, stop and go. They become hungry. Teacher's helper incites them to "chide" (quarrel, rebuke, reprimand, scold Moses all at once; jumbled and overriding each other,) "We're hungry! Why did you bring us out here? We're all gonna die! (In unison led by helper:) (repeat until unified)

We want garlic! We want leeks! We want food stuffed in our cheeks!

(Teacher helps Moses to say,) "Stop! God will provide. Let's see what God has for us in the morning."

(They set up tents, settle in, close eyes and pretend to sleep. While sleeping, scatter the manna around.)

Time to get up! (Gasp!) Look, what is this? (Open manna and take a bite.) Tastes sweet. Yum. God sent us food to eat. Let's gather it all up and have a meal. *(Everyone gathers manna in baskets to distribute as desired.)*

(Conduct another quick journey. Children begin to chide again, adding to their repertoire :)

**We are thirsty, don't you care? There's no water anywhere!
We will die; our children too! If you don't fix this we'll kill you!**

(Teacher helps Moses to pray,) Pray Moses, pray!!! Cry out to God! Say, Lord, what will I do for these people? They are ready to kill me. (Moses repeats the prayer.)

(Teacher tells the rest of the story leading Moses by the hand motioning to the rest of the class to follow outside to the "rock".)

And so God directed Moses to take his rod (the same one he used at the Red Sea) and to meet him at the Rock at Horeb, and to strike that rock. Moses prayed, obeyed God and hit the rock with his rod and what a miracle!! . . . (Child/Moses hits the "rock" and water from the hose flows.) Water came out of the rock . . . enough to provide water for all of them and their children and all their animals! (Teacher passes out cups for everyone to get water from "the rock" and return to classroom. Ask assistant to remove duct tape (rock outline) from building and return hose to its proper place before returning to classroom.)

Prayer/Worship:

(After class is back in the room, explain the following:) **I need to tell you something very important about what God thought about how the people acted toward God and Moses. God was NOT pleased with their attitudes and that they did not trust Him. God gave water from the rock because Moses prayed and believed God. The people were not praying. They were complaining and being mean to their leader, Moses. Let's pray right now that God will help us not to act like that and let's thank The Lord for answering Moses' cry and answering our cries to Him. (Pray and give thanks to The Lord.)**

Snack: *(Let children eat "manna" and drink water until satisfied.)*

Memory Verse: "Pray unto Him and He shall hear thee" Job 22:27

(Do a call and response. Begin with "He shall hear thee." Have helper ask, "When?" Teacher answers with students,) "Pray unto Him and He shall hear thee." Job 22:27. (With each practice begin with, "He shall hear thee," helper asks, "when," and class answers with the full phrase,) "Pray unto Him and He shall hear thee." Job 22:27 (Teacher can emphasize the "when" part by reiterating the fact that we need only to pray and he will hear us.)

Craft: Rock of Horeb

(Have students crumple a piece of brown paper sack (rock) and glue onto desert scene paper with memory verse,) "Pray unto Him and He shall hear thee" Job 22:27. (Give them glue sticks to make streams on the rock (teacher and helper assist) and sprinkle silver and/or blue glitter onto glue streams. Put names on students' craft. Glue stick glue dries quickly and will be ready for students to take after you sing the theme song.)

Theme Song: Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*

(form Bible with hands) Verse 1: ***The Bible is the way
The Bible is the way
The way to go to Jesus
Oh, the Bible is the way***

(walk in place) Verse 2: ***I want to go the way
I want to go the way
The way to go to Jesus
Oh, I want to go the way***

(teacher leads one student skipping in circle) Verse 3: ***Show me the way
Show me the way
The way to go to Jesus
Oh, show me the way***

(skip in pairs) Verse 4: ***Let's go the way
Let's go the way
The way to go to Jesus,
Oh, let's go the way***

Dismissal:

(Have children take their memory craft Rock of Horeb and distribute any leftover manna as they are led quietly to their families or bus attendants.)

Appendix:

Craft/Memory Verse Page:

Pray unto Him and He shall hear thee.
Job 22:27

