



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

October 4-5, 2014

DATE

The Wilderness

LESSON TITLE

Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-15, Isaiah 40:31

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Provides for His People

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

What unexpected ways has God provided for you? Share personal examples with your group about how God has given you what you need, but not necessarily what you want.

## check-in/out

Ask kids what they've written on their wristband, and why they're wearing it instead of just carrying it.

## large group heads up

Some kids may not have the basic things that we normally think they have, like a home or food for every meal. Others may have a lot. Today we're focusing on how God has provided us a rescuer to heal and save us, Jesus!



## connect time

**Goal:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **No One Wins**

*\*Break the room into small groups (or keep together if needed).*

- Give each group a **large piece of tear-off paper and markers.**
- Draw a line down the middle of the paper.
- Tell your group that on one side of the paper, they can write things that they **NEED** (food, water, a home, etc.). On the other side, they can write things that they **WANT** (toys, video games, etc.).
- If you have time before large group, ask kids to talk about some of the things they wrote down. What makes something a **NEED** verses a **WANT**? You can also go around the group and ask kids what the best or worst part of their week was.

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will **(1)** retell the story of Moses and the bronze snake **(2)** understand that God will always provide for his people **(3)** identify how God provides for us in our own lives.

**Why:** We may not always have everything we want, but God will always provide what we need. He promises to take care of his family!

**Tip:** This Bible story may seem a little strange, but we can still focus on how God saw a need, and provided his people with a rescue plan. Connect this to how God sent us another rescue plan, Jesus!

## small group

### Review and Dig Deeper:

**\*Pass around a bean bag to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the bean bag and answer questions.**

1. Why were the Israelites complaining to God?
2. How do you think God felt when they rejected the food he was giving them?
3. What did God give to his people after the snakes bit them?
4. Have you ever felt that something you had wasn't enough? Why?
5. What are some things God has provided in your own life?
6. What has God given us as a "bronze snake" that we can look to, to be rescued?

### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

- Set out a **brown paper bag** and write "worries" on it with a **marker**.
- Hand each kid **2 long strips of paper**.
- Tell kids that on one strip of paper, they should write down/draw something they are worried about. It could be something that they want (and don't think they'll get), something they are scared of, etc. Once they're done, they can fold it and drop it in the "worries" bag.
- On the other strip of paper, have them write down/draw one thing they are thankful for, something that God has provided for them. Once they're finished, they will wrap it around their wrist and connect with **tape**.
- Remind kids that this strip of paper can remind them of how God always provides for his family.

**Prayer**

God, thank you for sending us your son to rescue us. Thank you for providing us with what we need. Help us to always remember what you've done for us.

***Extra time?** Pass the **bean bag** around the small group and have each kid say one thing they would normally complain about this week. Ask them what they will be thankful for instead. You could have kids toss the beanbag to someone of their choice.*

## special notes

Think of a personal story you could share with kids about a time that God provided for you. You could even just talk about what you're thankful for.

## presenter tips

The worship videos can be found here:  
I'm Yours

<http://vimeo.com/77168212>

Grow Up Like Jesus:

<http://vimeo.com/49923932>

## script

*\*Click to play intro music*

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so glad to see you all, and I can't wait to hear about some of the things you all just listed! Can I have some volunteers come up here and tell me what things you wrote that you really WANT? (Let a few kids come up and respond.) Wow, awesome. Thank you guys! Now can I have a few volunteers who will tell me what things you wrote that you really NEED? (Let a few kids come up to respond.)

### **WE ALL WANT MORE**

You know, we all want things that we can't have sometimes. (The next paragraph should be said in a very whiney, complaining voice:) For instance, today, I was eating cereal for breakfast, and it was so gross! It was just plain old cheerios. It was the only thing in the house, so I ate it, but I really just wanted Reese Puffs! Mmm, I love Reese Puffs. Why can't I have Reese Puffs? And you know what else? I don't like my car. I had to drive it here today and it's so boring and uncool, I really want a new convertible car, is that too much to ask? Another thing, I need more money! I want to buy some new stuff, but God hasn't given me enough money to get it! What am I supposed to do? How about this weather? I hate it. All I want is (talk about weather that you'd rather have). Doesn't God want me to be happy? Ugh! (You can continue to make up stuff to "complain" about if you want.)

Uh oh. You know guys, I have to make a confession. I have been complaining all day today, and you know what we're learning about? A bunch of people in the Bible who also complained a lot. They were called the Israelites. But we'll get to that in a minute. First, I want you to find a friend, then ask each other two things. **1) What's their name**, and **2) What's something they've complained about this past week?** Ready? Go! (Let kids talk for a few minutes.)

Okay, would someone like to come up here with your friend and tell us what you've been complaining about this week? (Pick a few volunteers and let them respond.)



## script continued

We all complain. I do, you do, and our friends do. In fact, it's pretty hard not to do it in this world! Sometimes we don't even realize we're doing it. Let's watch this quick commercial. Try to pay attention to what the kids say you really "need."

### **SLIDE: BURGER KING BIG KIDS MEAL CLIP (0:00-0:14)**

All right, who can tell me what those kids said you NEED to be a big kid? (Let a kid respond.) Yep, they said you need MORE of everything! That's what a lot of commercials say. Even TV shows, movies, music, they all tell us we need more to be happy! But God says something very different. We're going to find out what that is in a minute.

### **INTRO: ISRAELITES**

Today, we're learning about some people who had the same problem, only they lived thousands of years ago! They were the Israelites. This group of people was really special because they were God's chosen people. His special family that he promised would someday bring about a king to save the world!

Here's some of the things God did for his family: (You can show the slides first and have kids guess what they think it means.)

- He promised them that he would bring a king out of their family to save the entire world. **(SLIDE: CROWN)**
- He delivered them out slavery in Egypt! They were suffering, and he sent them a leader, Moses, who would help them escape. **(SLIDE: MOSES)**
- He saved all their firstborn babies from death. **(SLIDE: BABY)**
- He parted an entire sea to help them escape! **(SLIDE: PARTING THE RED SEA)**
- Once they escaped slavery, he showed them where to go by giving them a big cloud to follow during the day, and a pillar of fire to follow at night. **(SLIDE: PILLAR OF FIRE)**
- When they were hungry, he gave them food and water. **(SLIDE: FOOD)**

Wow! God did a lot of things for his family, didn't he? How would you feel if God did all those things for you? (Let a kid respond.) Well, you would think that the Israelites would feel that way too. Let's watch a video and see what happened. I want you to pay special attention to what the Israelites do when God gives them what they need.

### **VIDEO: WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE CLIP - "WANDERIN' IN THE DESERT", 31:38-34:44**

So who can tell me what the Israelites did even though God gave them food and water? (Let a kid respond.) Yep, they complained! Even after God saved them and their kids from death! Even after he delivered them from slavery! They still wanted more.

### **THE ISRAELITES WANT MORE**

When the Israelites couldn't find their own food, they asked God to give it to them. So he did! He sent them manna, which is a type of bread, and quail, which is a type of bird meat. This food showed up on the ground every single morning! How awesome is that?



## script continued

Unfortunately, the Israelites got sick of that too! Let's see what they said:

**SLIDE: NUMBERS 21:5: They spoke against God. They spoke against Moses. They said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt? Do you want us to die here in the desert? We don't have any bread! We don't have any water! We hate this awful food!"**

So up to this point, God had given them meat to eat, but they wanted more. They got tired and bored of the food he was sending. For them to complain about God's food was a pretty big deal. They were actually rejecting a gift from him! And by rejecting his gift, they were saying that he was not good enough to provide for them. That he was not all-powerful or good.

### **WE HAVE MORE THAN WE THINK**

We're going to do a game now. I'm going to ask you some questions, and I want you to think in your head and answer with yes or no. If your answer is yes, do a jumping jack!

- Have you ever played video games?
- Do you watch tv?
- Do you go to school?
- Do you eat everyday?
- Do you have running water in your house?
- Do you have clothes in your closet?
- Do you have a roof over your head when you sleep?
- Do you have water to drink when you need it?

Okay, everybody, good job! Go ahead and have a seat. It looked to me like most of you were doing jumping jacks that whole time! That's because God has given us a lot of things like a home, food, water, etc. He has provided everything we need to live!

### **GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE**

Here's what happened next. God let poisonous snakes roam around the desert, and they bit some of the Israelites. Some of them even died. But the story doesn't end there. God wanted to show his family that he **WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE**. So he told their leader, Moses, to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. **(SHOW SLIDE OF BRONZE SNAKE.)** God said that all people have to do is look at that snake, and they would be healed!

God **ALWAYS** provides for his people. For you and me. He'll give us what we **NEED**, but maybe not always what we **WANT**, and that's okay. You know what else he gave us? He provided something more amazing than we could ever hope for on our own. He gave us his own son, Jesus, to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world. Let's look at one more verse:

**SLIDE: JOHN 3:14-15: "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. Then everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever."**

Wow! So when Moses lifted up the bronze snake for the Israelites to be healed, God was showing us that soon, he would lift up his son Jesus so that we could be healed, too!



### **script continued**

I'd like everyone to lay down and close your eyes for a minute. As you do that, think about how Jesus is like the bronze snake. God has provided a way for us to be rescued. He has provided a way for us to be saved from the wrong things that happen in our lives. Ask God right now to help you always look to Jesus when you need saving. (Give kids a minute to be quiet and alone with God.)

Okay, now let's all stand up and celebrate what God has provided for us! We're going to sing some worship songs about how God is always with us, and we are never alone.

**VIDEO: I'M NOT ALONE**

**VIDEO: GROW UP LIKE JESUS**

### **PRAYER**

God, thank you so much for rescuing us from the small things and the big. Help us to be thankful even when we feel like complaining. We love you, Amen!



# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group: One large sheet of tear off paper, markers

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## small group supplies

Per kid: 2 strips of paper (each strip should be 2"x11")

Per group: 1 roll of tape, markers, 1 bean bag, 1 brown paper bag

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide/ Intro music
2. Video: Burger King Commercial (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw5PggPjlk4>)(only use 0:00-0:15)
3. Slide: Crown
4. Slide: Moses
5. Slide: Baby
6. Slide: Red Sea
7. Slide: Fire
8. Slide: Food
9. Video: What's in the Bible/Wanderin in the Desert (31:38-34:44)
10. Slide: Numbers 21:5
11. Slide: Bronze Snake
12. Slide: John 3:14-15
13. Video: I'm Not Alone <http://vimeo.com/49923964>
14. Video: Grow Up Like Jesus <http://vimeo.com/49923932>

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## connect questions

What has God given you?

What did God give the Israelites?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts - separate doc.