



3rd -5th

September 10-11, 2016

DATE

Wilderness

LESSON TITLE

Exodus 14-17, Lamentations 3:22-23

WHERE TO FIND IT

God provides for his family.

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

Pray with your team, and invite God into your time in Kids' Club! It's okay if the kids see you praying before the hour. In fact, it sets a good example for them. So, gather your other volunteers for a few minutes when you arrive and pray—it could be the most important thing you do to prepare!

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them what's in their bottle and why the word "Gratitudes" is written on it!

large group heads up

Today's story is all about how God provided for the Israelites after he rescued and delivered them out of slavery in Egypt. He stayed faithful to his family no matter what!



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.*

COMPLAINTS AND GRATITUDES

- Divide kids into **small groups** and give each group a **large sheet of tear-off paper**.
- Tell kids that we're going to talk about **complaints** and **gratitudes**. Ask kids what they think a complaint is, and then ask what a gratitude is (For example, a complaint might be what we think or say when we're not happy with something. Gratitudes are things we're thankful for, based on the idea of gratitude, or thankfulness.)
- Give each kid **3 post-it notes** and **set out markers**. Have them write down 3 things they have complained about in the last week. (Ones that they don't mind sharing with the group!) Stick the post-it notes all over the large sheet of tear-off paper.
- Next, have kids cover up each of their complaint post-its with **another post-it** and write a new note, but this one should turn the complaint into a gratitude.
- Here's some examples you can share with kids:
 - **FROM:** "I have been so bored this week. There was nothing to do." **TO:** "It's been great to have free time over this past week. Everyone needs a break sometimes."
 - **FROM:** "School is so early, and I hate getting out of bed." **TO:** "It's great that I live in a place where I get to go to school."
 - **FROM:** "I didn't want to go to church today." **TO:** "I'm so thankful I get to come to Kids' Club and play games."
 - **FROM:** "I don't want leftovers for dinner." **TO:** "I'm thankful to have food when I need it."
- After kids have spent some time turning their complaints into gratitudes/thanks, go around the group and have each kid share one complaint they turned into thanks.
- If someone has a hard time turning some of their complaints into thanks, you can let the group help think of ways to turn it into a gratitude!

TALK ABOUT IT

- Was it easier to come up with complaints...or gratitudes? Why?
- What is something that you're thankful for?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand how God provided for his family while they were in the wilderness, (2) recognize why we can trust God to take care of us, and (3) identify one thing we need to ask God for.

Why? We all need to rely on God for provision, because he's the only one who can truly take care of all our needs.

Tip: To help kids think of one thing they need to ask God for, give them a personal example of one thing YOU need to ask God!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What difficulties did the Israelites face? (They had to travel through the harsh desert, they needed water and food.)
2. What did the Israelites complain about? (They didn't trust that God would give them water, they were tired of having the same food everyday, they worried God wouldn't take care of them.)
3. How did God provide for the Israelites? (He gave them clean water, gave them new food every morning, he kept them healthy, he protected them from harm, he promised them a new home.)
4. What difficulties do you face?
5. What can we do instead of complaining?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid **5 paper squares** and set out **markers**.
- Think about the complaints we thought of earlier today in Connect Time, and write out 5 specific gritudes. (If you need to, refer to the examples from Connect Time of how they turned complaints into gritudes.)
- Next, give each kid a ***pill bottle & lid*** and a ***"Gritudes" sticker***. Have them put the sticker on the bottle, and then fold up/roll up their new "gritudes" and put them inside the bottle.
- When they go home, they can put it somewhere they'll see often, and when they feel the temptation to complain, or even worry, they can pull out the gritudes and thank God instead!

(Continued on next page.)

Extra time? Play "Don't Say No." Tear up a piece of paper and give each kid a small piece to hold. Then have them walk around and play, and if they hear someone else say "No" or complain in any way, they get to take that person's piece of paper. See who can collect the most papers! Remind kids that when we say "No" all the time, it's a way of being negative and complaining. This activity helps us be more aware of how much we do it!

special notes

As we talk about complaining and worrying amidst tough situations, make sure to stay sensitive to the fact that a lot of kids are going through really tough things. Recognize and give value to that, while also encouraging them to thank God for taking care of them.

presenter tips

You can find today's God's Story video at crossroadskidsclub.net/weekend.

script

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and actively worship.

Notes:

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here!
- **Say:** Let's start out today with a few worship songs to help us get ready to hear from God. When we sing and dance and celebrate out loud, it's a great way to spend time with Him.
- **Music Video: I'm Not Alone**
- **Music Video: I'm Yours**
- **Ask:** Okay, go ahead and have a seat. What did you all think of our Connect Time game? Was it easy to come up with three different complaints you've had this week? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, we've probably all complained this week. Maybe we've even complained today!
- **Ask:** Was it hard to take something that seems bad or tough, and turn it into something good that you're actually *thankful* for? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, it can be really hard to see the good in a situation sometimes! Instead of being grateful or thankful, sometimes it's just easier to vent about how stressful or annoying it is.
- **Say:** One thing I've complained about lately is... *(Share a personal example of something you've complained about, and then share a way that you realized you could be grateful instead.)*

COMPLAINING VS GRATEFULNESS

Main Goal: Use a Willy Wonka movie clip to show how we can get everything we want, and still be unhappy!

Notes:

- **Say:** Let's watch a video clip from the movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. There's a girl named Veruca who pretty much gets everything she wants. And even when she gets what she wants, she still isn't happy!
- **Video: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory/Veruca**
- **Ask:** So what was the girl doing in that clip? (Let kids respond.) Yep, she thought she deserved to have anything she wanted. Even though she's in this amazing chocolate factory, and can have so many other things, she STILL wants more!
- **Ask:** How could she have been grateful instead? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, she could have thanked Willy Wonka for letting her come to his factory and experience all that cool stuff!

GOD RESCUES HIS FAMILY

Main Goal: Review how God rescued the Israelites, and promised them a new home.

Notes:

- **Say:** Veruca was obviously ungrateful for what she had. It seemed pretty silly, didn't it? But we all do it. In today's story, God's family, the Israelites, complained when things got difficult, instead of giving thanks!
- **Say:** God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt, where they were forced to work as slaves. He did miracles, like parting the Red Sea, all to rescue his family from slavery.
- **Say:** After the Israelites were rescued, God promised them something amazing. He told them he would give them a brand new home called Canaan, the Promised Land! This new home was going to be incredible, and would have everything they needed.
- **Ask:** Have you ever been really excited to go somewhere new and exciting? (Let kids respond.) Well so were the Israelites, and they couldn't wait to get there!

THE ISRAELITES STRUGGLE

Main Goal: Watch a God's Story video and understand the challenges the Israelites faced in the wilderness.

Notes:

- **Say:** Unfortunately, the Israelites' trip wasn't easy. We're going to watch a video and see some of the tough times they went through. As you watch, pay attention to the hard parts of their trip, but also how God takes care of them!
- **Video: God's Story / Wilderness**
- **Ask:** So what were some of the toughest challenges the Israelites went through? (Let kids respond.) Yep, to get to their new home, they had to travel through a desert. Would that be easy or comfortable? (Let kids respond.) Nope, it would be hot, dry and dusty all the time! And it really would have been hard to find food.

THE ISRAELITES STRUGGLE

Main Goal: Understand that growth happens through challenge.

Notes:

- **Say:** They were tired, worn out, hungry and thirsty. They were worried and afraid that God wouldn't take care of them.
- **Ask:** Why do you think God let the Israelites go through those tough things to get to the Promised Land, Canaan? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, sometimes we go through difficult things because it's necessary to change us, and help us grow. It's kind of like...lifting heavy weights!
- **(Click to show image of dumbbell.)**
- **Say:** Let's pretend I have a really heavy dumbbell in my hand right now. (*Pretend to lift it up and down a few times. Act like it's really hard to lift.*) If I've never lifted weights before, and then all of a sudden I start doing it, how are my muscles going to feel? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, they'll probably be sore! But is that a bad thing? (Let kids respond.) No. It just feels sore at first because the muscles are growing and changing, and that HAS to happen if I want bigger muscles!

THE ISRAELITES NEEDED TO RELY ON GOD

Main Goal: Understand the specific ways that the Israelites had to rely on God for provision in the desert.

Notes:

- **Say:** The Israelites were going through something similar. Even though it wasn't easy at first, they still had to go through hard times so that they could grow!
- **Ask:** Remember how the Israelites used to be slaves, and the ruler of Egypt told them what to do, and how to do it, every single day? They had no freedom at all.
- **Say:** Well now that they were free, they had to learn how to depend on God for what they needed instead. They had to figure out how to trust and obey Him no matter what.
- **Ask:** Did God provide for the Israelites when they relied on him for food? How? (Let kids respond.) That's right, He gave them food, called "manna," every single morning.
- **Ask:** Do you remember what He told them about how much food they should collect each day? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they should only get gather enough manna for that day, except when their day of rest was coming; then they should gather enough for two days.
- **Ask:** How about water? Did He provide that too? How? (Let kids respond.) Yep, first He turned the dirty, bitter water into clean water. Than He made water spew out of a rock!

GOD PROVIDES, NO MATTER WHAT

Main Goal: See how God provided for his family, even when they doubted him.

Notes:

- **Ask:** Now, God gave them what they needed, but were they satisfied with what they had? (Let kids respond.) Nope, they complained and wanted more, kind of like Veruca in that movie clip we watched earlier!
- **Ask:** Even though they doubted God, and worried that he wouldn't take care of them, did God STILL provide for them? (Let kids respond.) Yes!
- **Say:** Let's read a verse that we've been learning for the past several weeks. It's all about how God shows us mercy and takes care of us, no matter how we act.
- **Slide: Lamentations 3:22-23 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.**
- **Say:** God took care of the Israelites no matter what. Even when they messed up and didn't obey Him, he still took care of them, day after day. Every morning, He showed compassion and gave them another chance.
- **Ask:** Does God want to provide for US too, when we go through hard things? (Let kids respond.) Absolutely!
- **Say:** He wants us to grow during our toughest times, just like the Israelites did. And He wants us to learn to trust that he'll provide what we need when we go through those tough things!

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Main Goal: Review God's faithfulness and provision during every hard thing the Israelites faced.

Notes:

- **Say:** There's another reason God wanted the Israelites to grow. He wanted them to be more like him! And He wanted them to experience a great blessing—the Promised Land.
- **Say:** Let's look back at how God gave his family just what they needed, every time they experienced something hard.
 - **(Click to show image of bitter/clean water.)** First, they panicked because they didn't have water. What did God do? (Let kids respond.) He showed them some water. And later, He made water spring out of a rock!
 - **(Click to show image of manna.)** Next, they wished they were slaves again, just so they could have food. What did God do then? (Let kids respond.) He gave them fresh manna everyday.
 - **(Click to show image of desert.)** Remember, during this whole time, they were wandering in the desert. But God promised them an amazing new home!

RECOGNIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS

Main Goal: Recognize God's provision in our own lives, even when we face hard times.

Notes:

- **Say:** Isn't it crazy that the Israelites complained and grumbled so much, even though God kept doing amazing miracles, and showing them that he can do anything? They kept forgetting that God had rescued them, and would protect them no matter what!
- **Say:** Think about all the blessings and good things you have in your own life. (Give kids a few seconds to think.) Now think of all the times you've complained just this week. (Give kids a few seconds to think.) See, sometimes we just focus on the problems, instead of all the blessings we have.
- **Say:** Now in this world, we do face trouble. For some of us, life can be really hard. Honestly, life in the desert was really hard for God's family. But it's important to find reasons to give God thanks, *especially* when it's hard.

RESPONSE TIME AND PRAYER

Main Goal: Let kids actively respond to the Holy Spirit and close the lesson with prayer.

Notes:

- **Ask:** What do you think is a good way to keep from complaining? (Let kids respond.) Those are great answers! We can be *grateful*, and thank God for what he's done, and what he *will* do! That's called gratitude.
- **Say:** When we thank God, and praise him for what he's given us, that helps us trust him, and not just focus on what we don't like.
- **Say:** Take a minute and think about some of the tough things you've gone through in your own life. Maybe you're in your own "desert" right now, like the Israelites were. (Give kids a few seconds to think.) Okay, now close your eyes, and ask God to show you how you can trust him with those tough things. Maybe even thank him for something good. (Give kids a few seconds to respond, then close in prayer.)
- **Pray:** God, we all go through difficult times, but you will always provide for us, and we can trust you no matter what. Thank you for taking care of us. Amen!

Dismiss kids to small groups.

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per small group: 1 large sheet of tear-off paper, markers

Per kid: 6 post-it notes

small group supplies

Per group: Bible, markers

Per kid: 5 paper squares (size of paper squares: cut 1 piece of 8.5x11 paper into sixths), 1 pill bottle with lid, "Gratitudes" sticker (Page 11)

large group supplies

Per Group: Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Music Video: I'm Not Alone (<https://vimeo.com/49923964>; youtube link not yet available)
3. Music Video: I'm Yours (<https://vimeo.com/771682121> youtube link not yet available)
4. Video: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory / Veruca (0:23-2:37; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zcVnNwAHys>)
5. Video: God's Story / Wilderness (youtube link not yet available)
6. Image: Dumbbell
7. Slide: Lamentations 3:22-23 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
8. Image: Bitter/clean water
9. Image: Manna
10. Image: Desert

connect questions

How did God provide for his family?
What has God given you?

Gratitudes

Gratitudes

Gratitudes

Gratitudes

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