



LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Cares about Our Needs

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17

WORD OF WONDER: From 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

Founder and Director of ReFocus Ministry 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 Israel and God's representative to the community of Israel. God speaks directly to Moses like a person speaks to a friend.

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](#))!



Curiosity

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: large, shallow container (1); different sizes of containers and measuring cups; coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Water from the Rock Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Pouring Station

Set-up: Spread a tablecloth on the designated play station area to limit messes. Put a large, shallow container on top of the tarp. Place containers of various sizes and shapes (e.g., cups, pitchers, measuring cups, small food storage containers) inside the large container. Fill up some of the containers with water.

Play: Allow kids to practice pouring water from one container to another. Kids can pour the water back and forth into the various containers.

Play Station: Water from the Rock Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the [Coloring Sheets](#) and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite body of water, such as a river, pool, lake, or ocean.



Belief

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for giving us everything we need—the Bible, family, friends, food, water, and a home. Help us hear from You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Beginner's Bible, pages 118-119

The last part of the story: Food From Heaven

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was leading the Israelites in today's part of God's big story? (*Moses*)
- Where had God rescued the Israelites from? (*Egypt*)
- Why were the Israelites complaining? (*They were thirsty.*)
- How did God care about the needs of the Israelites? (*He gave them water from a rock*)
- God loved His people even though they complained. What does this show us about God? (*He cares about our needs.*)
- What are some ways God shows He cares about your needs?

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**God is able to do far more than we can ever
ask for or imagine.**

— Ephesians 3:20

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does it mean that God can do more than we**
- **imagine? Why can God do such great and powerful things?**



Faith

LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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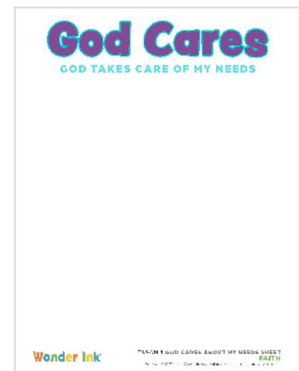
Craft: God Cares about My Needs

SUPPLIES: glue sticks, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Cares about My Needs Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print enough copies of the [God Cares about My Needs Sheet](#) for each kid to have one set.

Set out coloring utensils and glue sticks. Give each kid a [God Cares about My Needs Sheet](#). Write kids' names on their papers. Let the kids color and glue pictures from the My Needs page onto the God Cares page.



Today, we learned that God cares about our needs. We can be thankful for everything God provides for us. Now we'll make a craft to remind us to thank God for how He meets all our needs! On this paper (hold up the God Cares part), glue pictures from here (hold up the My Needs part). Color and cut out the pictures of things we can thank God for. Your pictures can help you remember all the things that God provides that you are thankful for. Then remember to pray, thanking God for how He cares!



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Closing Game: Water March

SUPPLIES: small disposable cups (1 per kid), water (enough to fill all the cups halfway), marker

Before starting the activity, fill one small cup of water half full for each kid. Make sure each kid has a water cup. Write the kids' names or initials on the cups so they don't get mixed up. Place the cups on a table or countertop so water doesn't spill.

In God's big story today, the Israelites grumbled when they were thirsty. They didn't trust God to give them water. God still cared about them and provided for them. God always cares about us too and gives us what we need. We're going to play a game called Water March.

Let's form a line to get started! Have kids stand in line. **We'll march around the room five times.**

Then when I say, "water from the rock," take a sip from your water cup. Point to water cups around the room. Make sure all kids know which cup belongs to them. **After we take a sip, we'll say, "God cares about our needs!" Let's say that together first. Repeat after me: "God cares about our needs!"** Let kids say the Wonder Truth back to you. **Good job! Now we're ready to play the game!**

Have kids help count their laps as they walk around the room five times. After the fifth time, call out, **"water from the rock!"** Have kids take a sip from their water. After each kid takes a sip, have kids say together, **"God cares about our needs!"** Have kids line up again and resume marching.

Leader Tip: Have kids hold up fingers to show many times the group has marched around the room.

9:00 Service

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for caring about our needs.

God, thank You for always knowing what we need. You never forget us. Thank You for Your love. Help us trust You and to be thankful this week for how You provide and care for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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