



## 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

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LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS  
WATER FROM THE ROCK

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, measuring cups, and measuring spoons (10); tarp (optional); rocks (optional)

Before kids arrive, if you're using a tarp, spread it on the designated play area to limit messes. Set out the large, shallow container. Place 10 different-sized containers (e.g., cups, pitchers, measuring cups, measuring spoons, small food storage containers) inside the large container. Fill up five of the containers with water. You can also place various sizes and shapes of rocks in the large container.

**Welcome! I'm so happy you're here!** Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Come see what we have today. You can play in the water with all these items! You can pour water from one item to another.** Show kids how to pour water from one container to another.

Allow kids to practice pouring water from one container to another. Kids can pour back and forth into all the different containers. They can also put rocks in the water.

**Today we'll learn in our story how God provided water for His people in a very unexpected way! It had to do with a rock.**



## 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

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

**God is able to do far more than we could  
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?**

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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**Activity: Moses Says**

“Moses Says” is like “Simon Says,” but simpler and no one will get out. Model any actions that you say. Gather the kids together. **In God’s big story today, God used Moses to give water to the Israelites.**

**We’re going to play a game called Moses Says. Whatever Moses says, we do! Ready? Moses says touch your nose.** Touch your nose. Continue calling out and modeling directions.

- Stomp your feet.
- Touch your shoulders.
- Clap your hands.
- Sit down.
- Stand up and touch your toes.
- Pat your head.
- Give yourself a hug.

**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.