



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Cares for Us

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 14–16; Numbers 11

WORD OF WONDER: From Jeremiah 32:17

God cared deeply for the Israelites. We know that He miraculously provided manna for them. God provided their daily bread. But He also included them in the provision of that daily bread. God didn't allow them to sit by and do nothing—the food didn't just drop into their laps!

Every day they were instructed to go out and gather the manna. After they gathered, they had to grind it or prepare it in some way to make the food or bread they were to eat.

Read Exodus 16:1–30. Isn't it cool that God included His people in His miracle? He gave them purpose and direction, even in their grumbling and wandering.

In Exodus 16:12, God said, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites" (NIV). He heard them, He included them, and He cared for them.

How has God heard you? How has He included you? And how has He cared for you each and every day?

It is easy for us to fall into a pattern of grumbling, but when we take our focus off our circumstances and put it on the God who cares for us, it completely changes our perspective about our situation and our God.

He is a good God, and He cares for us so deeply.

—**Kristi McElheney**

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LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

GOD PROVIDES IN THE WILDERNESS

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

While the exact number of Israelites who left Egypt isn't known, it is somewhere between 30,000 and over two million. In other words, God showed His care for a lot of people when He freed them from slavery and provided for them in the wilderness!

WHAT?

God's presence as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night led the Israelites as they traveled. It protected them from the pursuing Egyptians, provided the Israelites with light at night, and gave them shade during the day.

WHERE?

En route from Egypt to Canaan (mostly modern-day Israel), the Israelites ended up in the wilderness, generally defined as an empty region without roads or paths. While in the wilderness, they had to depend on God to provide and care for them daily.

WHEN?

Every morning, God provided manna for the Israelites to eat. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). Every day the Israelites had to trust that God would provide what they needed because nothing else was available.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised Abraham the land of Canaan would belong to his family (Genesis 17:8). Before entering the promised land, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. During this time, God cared for Abraham's descendants by providing for their needs and teaching them to depend on Him.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Play Food

SUPPLIES: toy food

Set out some toy food. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here. Come see what we have today. We have pretend food. Let's make some meals and pretend to eat! Invite the kids to play with the toy food and pretend to prepare meals. Remind them not to put their mouths on the toy food. You can order food from the kids as if you're at a restaurant and let them bring it to you. Or hold up different foods and ask the kids if they like to eat that food.

You can put the food in the middle of the room and have the kids stand on the sides. Call out one of the foods and encourage them to go to the food you called out and find it.

Today we're talking about how God provided food for His people in the desert when they were hungry.

We all have different foods we enjoy eating. What is your favorite food? Allow the kids to respond.

We can thank God for providing food for us. God takes care of us. We're going to learn a story from the Bible about how God takes care of His people by providing food for them.



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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 being here with us. We know that You love us and take care of us. We want to hear from You today. We trust Your Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts and remind us of Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [God Rescues Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how God cares for us. We can thank Him for caring for us!

Play music from the [God Rescues Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and invite the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? ***The Bible***

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

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 111-119

The Red Sea & Food from Heaven

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Nothing is too hard for God.

—from Jeremiah 32:17



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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Gathering Manna

SUPPLIES: tan construction paper (2–3 sheets), bowl or bucket, small balls or pom-poms (optional)

Ahead of time, tear the tan construction paper into medium-sized pieces. Spread the pieces out on the floor. Set out a bowl or bucket nearby.

Gather the kids and have them sit in the middle of the room.

In God's big story today, we learned how God showed He cared for the Israelites by sending food from the sky. God sent food called *manna*. The Israelites gathered the food each day to eat. Let's pretend to gather food and remember how God cares for us too!

Encourage the kids to gather the pieces of tan paper and put the pieces in the bowl or bucket. To make it more fun, you can toss the pieces up in the air and have the kids gather as you're tossing. You can also have a race to see who can gather the most manna in a set amount of time. Some toddlers may not have the fine motor skills to pick up very small pieces, so you could leave the pieces of paper larger (or use small balls or pom-poms instead).

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them and thank God for how good He is.

God, You are a big and powerful God. Thank You for how You care for us and give us everything we need. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Blessing: May you notice the amazing ways God cares for you every day, today and always!