



## 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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Contributor to Wonder Ink

## 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

### Curiosity Activity: Walls of Water Walk

**SUPPLIES:** blue disposable tablecloths or large sheets of blue butcher paper (at least 2), painter's tape

Hang the blue tablecloths or butcher paper on the walls of the room or a hallway using painter's tape or invite a few other volunteers to assist in holding the tablecloths/paper up to create a "wall of water" on opposite sides. Kids will walk between the two "walls" so be sure to allow enough space for kids to walk between walls of water.

**Have you ever been to the ocean or sea? A lake? A river?** Allow the kids to respond. **Have you ever walked out into an ocean, sea, lake, or river?** Allow the kids to respond. **Did the water part or move for you to walk through on dry ground?** Allow kids to respond.

Invite the kids to walk through the walls of water. **Today we'll hear about when God's people, the Israelites, walked through a sea on dry land! It was an amazing way that God took care of them! We'll learn more today about how God showed the Israelites that He cared for them. And we'll learn that God cares for us.**



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### 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.**

### 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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **How did God provide for the Israelites in today's story?** (*He parted the Red Sea so they could escape the Egyptians, provided water to drink, provided manna and quail from the sky.*)
- **What happened when Moses raised his staff when the Israelites were at the Red Sea?** (*The waters parted so the Israelites could walk through the sea on dry land.*)
- **How did God care for the Israelites when they were thirsty?** (*God sent water.*)
- **What food did God give the Israelites while they were in the desert?** (*manna and quail*)
- **Do you ever complain about being hungry or thirsty? How do you think you could respond the next time you're hungry or thirsty?**
- **How has God taken care of you or provided for you?**
- **What food would you want if you were in the desert?**

Sometimes we complain when we are tired, hungry, or thirsty. We can ask God to help us when this happens. God cares for us and will provide the rest, food, and water we need. Let's talk to God in prayer.

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

Nothing is too hard for God.

—from Jeremiah 32:17



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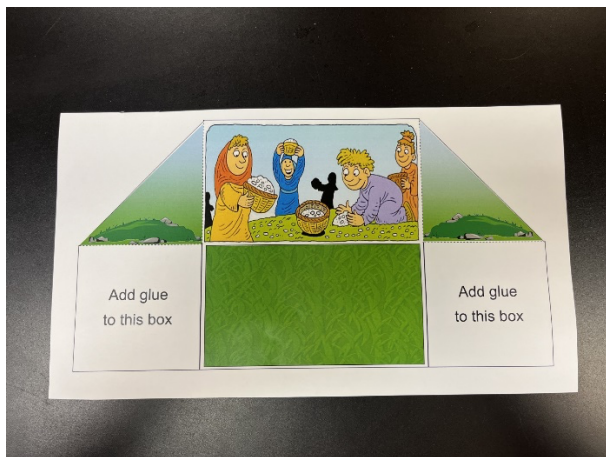
## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Craft: Manna in the Desert Diorama

**SUPPLIES:** diorama template (1 per kid), glue sticks, rice

**What did God provide for the Israelites?** Allow the kids to answer. **God provided manna and quail for the Israelites to eat when they were in the desert. God cares for us. He provides everything we need. He gives us so many amazing things. Let's make a picture to remind of us how God provided for his people.**

Give each kid a diorama template and a glue stick. Help them fold both sides of the paper on the *dotted lines*. Add glue to the white squares and adhere to the grass. Then add glue to grass and sprinkle a few grains of rice to represent the manna.



**Take your paper home as a reminder of how God provides for us and gives us everything we need. God cares for us.**



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Game: Gathering Manna

**SUPPLIES:** tan construction paper (1–2 sheets), bucket or bowl, timer or stopwatch

Ahead of time, tear a sheet of tan construction paper into medium-sized pieces (or let the kids help with the tearing!). Set out a bucket or bowl.

Today we learned how the Israelites gathered manna each day when God provided food for them. The manna and quail came from the sky. God knew just what His people needed, and He cared for them in wonderful ways.

Let's play a game where we'll gather pretend manna like the Israelites. Spread out the paper pieces on the floor. The paper pieces are the pretend manna. Remember, they were only supposed to gather enough for each day. I'm going to set a timer for 30 seconds and we'll gather as many pieces as we can and put them in the bucket (or bowl).

You'll gather as much pretend manna as you can and put it in a bucket (or bowl) until the timer goes off. When the timer goes off, everyone will freeze and say, "God cares for us!" Repeat the game several times, spreading the pretend manna out on the floor for each new round.

### 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!