



## 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

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** toy food; disposable eating utensils such as bowls, plates, and silverware; coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God Provides in the Wilderness 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 you prepare for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

#### Play Station: Play Food

**Set up:** Set out toy food and disposable eating utensils such as bowls, plates, and silverware using the classroom toys.

**Play:** Encourage kids to play with the food and create meals for each other (or you!) You could help them take orders and make pretend menus. Tell them we'll learn today about when God sent food to His people.

#### Play Station: God Provides in the Wilderness Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheets and set out coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite food.



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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

### Game: Manna, Manna, Quail!

**In our story today, God provided something called manna and quail for the Israelites to eat. Let's play a game to help us remember the manna and quail.**

This game is played like Duck, Duck, Goose. Gather the kids to sit in a circle. Choose one to be "It." It will walk around the circle, tapping each player on the shoulder, saying, "manna" each time until choosing one person to tap and say, "quail." Quail will chase It and try to tag her. She will run around the circle and try to take the now vacant seat of the quail without being tagged.

If the quail tags It, the quail keeps his spot in the circle, and It must either continue to be It for another turn or sit in the middle of the circle while another kid takes over as It.

Repeat as often as time allows.

**We learned how God provided two things for the Israelites to eat: manna and quail. If you had to choose only two foods to eat every day for a year, what two foods would you choose?** Allow the kids to respond. **What do you think the manna and quail tasted like?** Allow the kids to respond. **How do you think the Israelites felt about it when God sent them manna and quail?** Allow the kids to respond.



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Responding in Worship: God Cares

**SUPPLIES:** disposable plates or bowls (1 per kid), markers

Challenge kids to think about how God cared specifically for them this past week. Allow kids time for reflection before giving further instruction. **God cares about every detail of our day! We must pay close attention sometimes to notice how much God cares for us.**

**God always hears us and always cares for us. God provides exactly what we need when we need it. In God's big story today, we saw God provide and care for the Israelites throughout their journey out of Egypt into the wilderness. God knew everything that they needed and gave them food and water. He showed that He cares for His people. He provides for us too. God cares for us. Think of things God has provided for you and ways He has shown you that He cares for you. We can thank God for providing for us and caring for us.**

Give each kid a disposable plate (or bowl) and markers. Invite the kids to draw on their plates the ways God has shown them He cares for them. If they need help, offer prompts such as: providing food, shelter, clothing, water, rest, friends, family, pets, etc.

As kids work and pray, play music from the Early Childhood flashdrive.

As kids begin to finish, ask if any kids want to share what they drew. Allow those who may not be finished to continue working while they listen.

**Wow! God is there with you in every detail of your day! Let's take a moment to pray silently over our work and thank God for all the ways that He cares for us.** Encourage kids to point to their drawings while they pray silently and thank God for caring for them.

### 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!