



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Can you think of a time you really needed something but didn’t have what you needed—like a pencil to complete a school assignment? What did you do?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s for Dinner?” on the activity page.

SAY “Every creature requires certain things to live. In today’s Bible story, we will see how God provided everything the Israelites needed as they wandered in the wilderness. God also provides for our need to be saved from sin by sending Jesus.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT IS IT?



Choose a volunteer to sit in a chair at the front of the room. Instruct him to close his eyes. Stand behind the volunteer and show the rest of the kids a random household object.

Put the object into a gift bag and guide the volunteer to reach inside and feel the object. Ask, “What is it?” and invite the volunteer to guess what object is in the bag. Then let him look at the object to see if he is correct. Play additional rounds with new volunteers. Each time, ask “What is it?”

SAY “To identify something new, you might feel it or smell it. You could listen to it or look at it. In today’s Bible story, the Israelites encountered something they had never seen before. They asked, ‘What is it?’ and then they tasted it! We’ll find out what it was.”

OPTION 2: JUST ENOUGH

Before meeting together, place three different sized containers, two measuring cups, and one pitcher of water on each table.

Form kids into groups of four or five kids and direct them to sit around a table. Challenge them to look at each container and estimate the amount of water it will take to fill each one without it overflowing.

Direct kids to use their measuring cups to check if their estimates were correct.

SAY “Was it difficult to guess the amount of water needed to perfectly fill each container? In today’s Bible story, we will see how God perfectly provided for His people’s physical and spiritual needs.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, everyone! I’m [your name], and I am so glad you are here! If you brought your Bible today, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

Each time we meet together, we study God’s Word. [Hold up your Bible.] The stories recorded in the Bible really happened. Every story we study during this time is true, and the people we hear about were real people. I’m looking forward to sharing a story with you as we learn about how God cared for His people long ago and how He still cares for His people today. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Over the next few weeks, we will think about a big picture question. This question helps us focus on important truths as we study God’s Word.

Our big picture question is, **What is worship?** Have you ever heard the word worship at church? Sometimes churches even call the time they meet together “worship services.” What do you think worship means? [Allow kids to share.] **Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.** That’s the answer to our big picture question. Let’s say our big picture question and answer together: **What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.** As we get to know God, we’ll discover that we have a lot to celebrate! ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Let’s think about how we got to today’s story. In the beginning, God created the world. After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God promised to provide the solution for the problem of sin. He promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham’s family.

The descendants of Abraham’s grandson Jacob—who were called Israelites—were slaves in Egypt. Moses delivered them out of Egypt and led them toward the promised land. But all their problems didn’t go away immediately. To get to the promised land, the Israelites had to travel through the wilderness. It wasn’t long before the people got hungry.

Our story today is called ‘God Provided Manna.’ What’s that? Let’s find out. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 16–17. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Provided Manna.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD PROVIDED MANNA

“Moses led God’s people from the Red Sea to the wilderness. They were hungry, so they complained to Moses. **“We wish we had died in Egypt! At least there was food to eat,”** they said. **“You brought us out here to starve!”** But Moses had not brought them out there to die. God was in control.

God’s glory appeared in a cloud and **God said to Moses, “I’ve heard the Israelites’ complaints. Tell them: In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread** until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.”

Sure enough, **quail came into the camp in the evening. In the morning, fine flakes like frost were on the ground. “What is it?”** the Israelites asked.

Moses said, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.”

The Israelites called the bread manna, which means “what is it?” **God told the people to collect just enough to eat for the day.** If they collected too much, the leftovers went bad. **He told them to collect twice as much on the sixth day, because the seventh day was the Sabbath—a day to rest.**

The Israelites did not always follow God’s instructions. Sometimes they collected too much manna, and sometimes they tried to collect manna on the Sabbath day. **God provided for His people, and He wanted them to trust Him and obey Him. The Israelites ate manna for 40 years—the whole time they were in the wilderness.**

The Israelites moved about the wilderness as God told them to do. One day, they came to a camp with no water. **“Give us something to drink,”** they told Moses.

“Why are you complaining to me?” Moses asked.

The Israelites had forgotten that God was with them and **had a plan for them. “You brought us out here to die,”** they said again.

“Lord, what should I do?” Moses cried out. **God showed Moses a rock and instructed him to hit it with his staff. Water came out of it, and the people drank.** It was a sign that the Lord was with them.

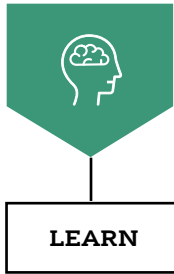
Christ Connection: God provided water and manna for His people’s physical hunger. Later, He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening:

As you tell the story, direct the kids to listen for times the people of Israel complained. Each time they hear a complaint, instruct them to give you a thumbs down.

Vary your voice: Use a dramatic voice as you tell the story. Try to use different voices as you say what the people of Israel said and what Moses said.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God’s people had experienced many incredible things—from being led out of Egypt, walking through the middle of the Red Sea on dry land, and now being led by the Lord in the wilderness. When the people faced challenges, did they move forward in confidence, believing that God would help them? [Allow kids to respond.] No! They were quick to forget all that God had done and how He provided for them. They complained. They assumed the worst. Look at Exodus 16:2-3. [Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 16:2-3 aloud.]

The people thought Moses had brought them out into the wilderness to die. Of course, we can see the bigger picture of what was happening because we have the whole Bible to read. We know that God had a plan.

How did God provide for His people when they were hungry in the desert? [Allow kids to respond.] God provided for the physical needs of His people by sending quail and manna, and He gave them special instructions. Look at Exodus 16:4. [Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 16:4.] God wanted the people to trust that He would provide for them each day.

As God met His people’s physical needs by providing manna, quail, and water, they were reminded that God was always with them. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ When we trust Jesus for salvation, He is with us too and provides for our greatest needs. God provided manna for His people’s physical hunger. Later, He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. We cannot save ourselves from sin, but God provided His Son, Jesus, to be the payment for our sins. The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever. In Him, we can be saved from the punishment we deserve and have eternal life. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did God’s people want to go back to Egypt where they were slaves?
2. Do you ever forget all God has done for you? How can you remember?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ God provided manna and water for the Israelites in the wilderness. People in New Orleans don’t eat manna, but they do eat beignets (bin YAYs), which are like doughnuts. New Orleans is a city in Louisiana, near the Gulf of Mexico. [Point to New Orleans on a map.]

You may have heard of New Orleans because of hurricanes that have hit there or because they