



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 30

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Wilderness, Water and Wells

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Wilderness, Water and Wells

Level C— Story Time with Jesus:

Wilderness, Water and Wells

Level D— What Does it Actually Say?:

Wilderness, Water and Wells

Level E— Bible Bits: Dig 'n' Discover (11-15)/

Topic Treasures—Praying With Faith

Wilderness, Water and Wells

Moses and his team of travellers needed water, and were glad to finally find some. However, the water tasted bad!

The people started to grumble. But is that what will help to bring the solution? No! The first thing to do is what Moses chose to do—he prayed and asked God about it.

God said to throw a special tree into the water. When he obeyed what God said, then all of a sudden the water tasted good! Everyone was very happy, and could drink and wash, and their animals could drink the water too.

Moses told everyone the lesson of that miracle. If they wanted to have good health and have what they needed, it was important to obey whatever God told them to do.

The next place they travelled to was very nice. It had 12 wells of water, and lots of trees for shade.



Wilderness, Water and Wells

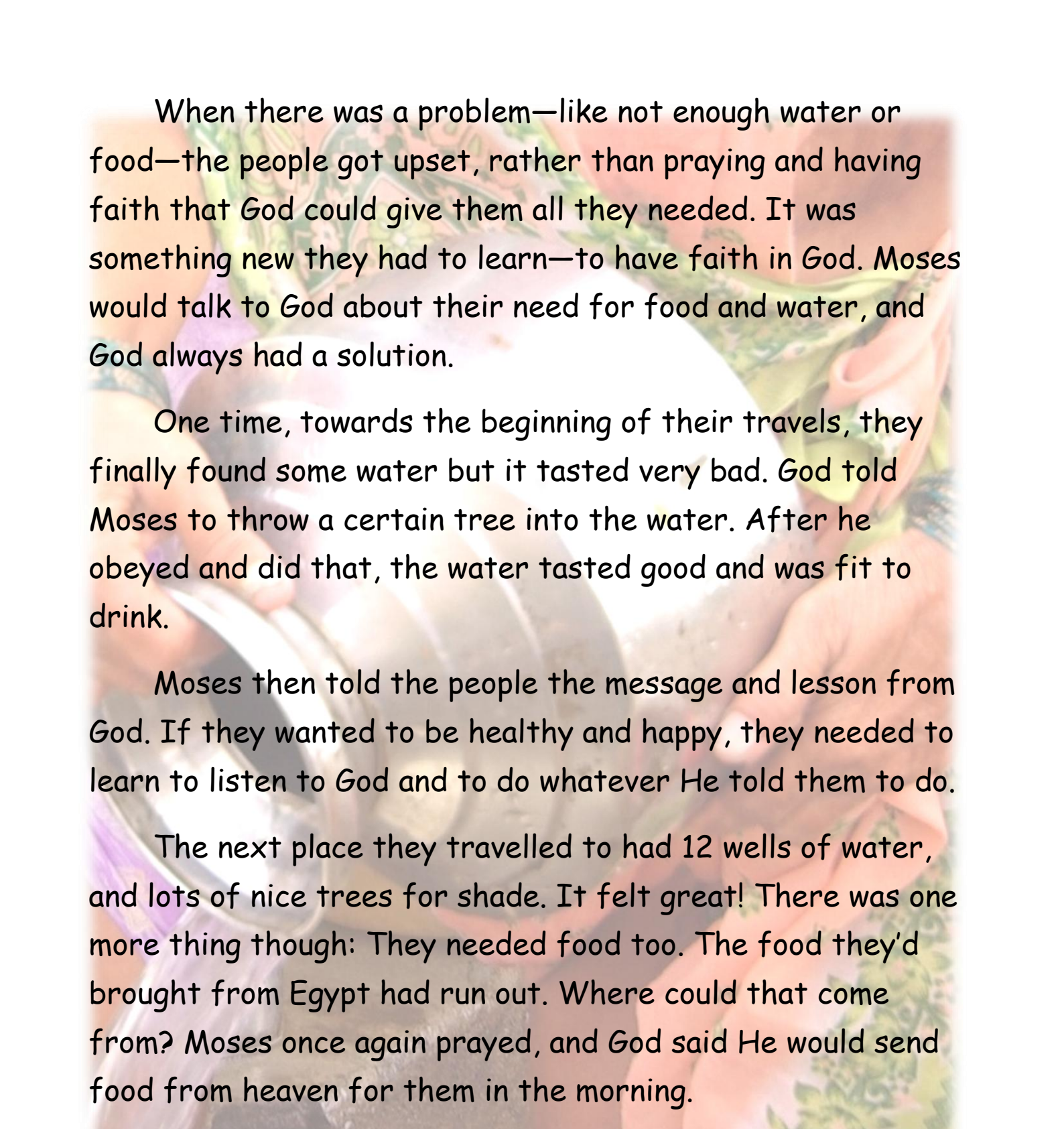
When you are hungry, tired or thirsty it's hard to be cheerful. It was just the same for the team of travelling Israelites. They were taking a journey through a difficult place.

In some ways it was easier than travelling through areas where there were cities and people living, that wouldn't want this huge band of people passing through.

God knew that at the beginning of their trip it would be better and easier for them to travel through places that weren't developed and made into cities. They could stop and camp wherever God led them, and no one was going to bother them.

The only trouble was that there wasn't enough water or food to eat in some places, until God made these things available by miracles. The Israelites were on the move, so they couldn't make a big farm to plant crops, nor was there always enough water around to do so.





When there was a problem—like not enough water or food—the people got upset, rather than praying and having faith that God could give them all they needed. It was something new they had to learn—to have faith in God. Moses would talk to God about their need for food and water, and God always had a solution.

One time, towards the beginning of their travels, they finally found some water but it tasted very bad. God told Moses to throw a certain tree into the water. After he obeyed and did that, the water tasted good and was fit to drink.

Moses then told the people the message and lesson from God. If they wanted to be healthy and happy, they needed to learn to listen to God and to do whatever He told them to do.

The next place they travelled to had 12 wells of water, and lots of nice trees for shade. It felt great! There was one more thing though: They needed food too. The food they'd brought from Egypt had run out. Where could that come from? Moses once again prayed, and God said He would send food from heaven for them in the morning.

Activity

*Gather items and make a collection to display, or talk about the many things that water is needed for. (For example, gather items like a pot to represent that water is needed for cooking, a towel to show water is needed for washing, a plant, etc.)

Wilderness, Water and Wells



Having too much water to get across, like the Red Sea, wasn't the only difficulty this massive team of Israelites encountered on their long trek through the wilderness.

Their trip wasn't just to get from one part of the land to the other. A big part of the reason for the journey was what was going on inside their hearts.

They needed time to learn to follow *God*, to learn about His new and better way of doing things. They needed to learn faith not only in His power to help, heal, supply, protect and provide for them, but faith to do just what He said to do, and to do it when He said it was the best time to do it.

It was like a travelling training camp. The Israelites had been in Egypt for so long, and were used to being ordered around by earthly men and rulers. Even if they had wanted to do things differently, they couldn't. That was one of the main reasons for them to now be free—not so they could do things their own way, but so that they'd be free to follow *God's* plan.

It was going to take a lot of time and training to teach them that they couldn't just do as they pleased, but that they needed to obey *God* and listen to what He told them to do—if they wanted things to go well.

Speaking of "well," that's what they needed. They were thirsty and needed water. That was the first and biggest need. After a few days of wearying travel they at last reached some water, but it tasted terrible.

Can you imagine how you'd feel, if after a hot time in the sun you came into the house to drink a nice glass of water, and found that the only water around is a pitcher of terrible tasting water? The water in the place the Israelites called "Marah" was like that, and it was a grumbling bunch of people that complained to Moses about it.

Good things were about to come their way, and fresh water to drink too, but there was a lesson to be learned first. Their experiences were all part of the training they needed. Moses had the right reaction to this dilemma. He prayed and asked God what to do. He knew that the way to receive what they needed from God was simple: Tell Him of their need, listen to Him, and obey what He said to do.

"Throw that tree into the water!" was God's instruction to Moses when he asked God about the water problem. No further questions and pausing were necessary. If God wanted a tree in the water, Moses would do just that. As soon as that was done, the water became fresh and drinkable.

While they were all being refreshed, and their animals were getting a good drink also, God explained why He had allowed that to happen. Remember the Egyptian's first lesson, when they were not obeying God's instructions to let the people go and Pharaoh had continued to say "no"? They had bad water too.



So if the travelling team wanted to have a good trip, and not to suffer those difficulties like the Egyptians did, and wanted the blessing of good health and healing, they needed to listen to God and do what He said.

It was a pretty new idea for a lot of them. But the sooner they formed that new habit, the better things would go for them. The next place they went to was a wonderful one, a place with 12 wells of good water, and many palm trees for shade.

After a bit more than a month of travelling their food supplies had run out. Now what could be done? Did they say, "Oh, I know! Let's all stop to praise God for how wonderful He is, and how He can give us all that we need, if we will just ask! Then let's pray for food to be given! We don't see a way for us to get any food at all, but impossible things are never a problem to God. We'll just praise Him and pray, and let Him do the providing. Whatever He says to do then, we'll do!" ?

Well, that's not quite what they said. If they had learned that lesson right away, you can be sure they wouldn't have had to wait so long to get more food. Instead, they waited until they were so very hungry, and then rather than praying for God's provision, expecting His help, they turned to Moses, whining about their needs, almost feeling sure that things would never get better.

The people were acting like Moses was some sort of food shop, with shelves that had run out of supplies. They grumbled to him to come up with food for them. Complaining to Moses showed a lack of faith in the Lord's care for them.



God heard all that they were saying, and wished they'd just say, "Please can I have some? Thank you!", as children learn to do. Murmuring and getting upset wasn't a fast way to get what they needed.

Moses couldn't do a thing to make food appear out of thin air. Or could he? Well, in a way he could, the same way anyone who loves and is following God can—through prayer, asking the One who can do just that, to provide. The people could have easily done the same, but it was taking them time to form the new habits, and to learn a new way.

After Moses prayed, God told a wonderful thing to all the people. The next morning was to be the first day to receive something very special, that God would give them for many years from then on. God said He would, "rain bread from Heaven."

He'd make a delicious type of food appear all around, to be gathered and eaten. God was providing and caring for them as they learned to let Him be their King and Leader. He knew what was best, they just needed to follow Him, pray, listen to Him and obey His instructions.

Activity

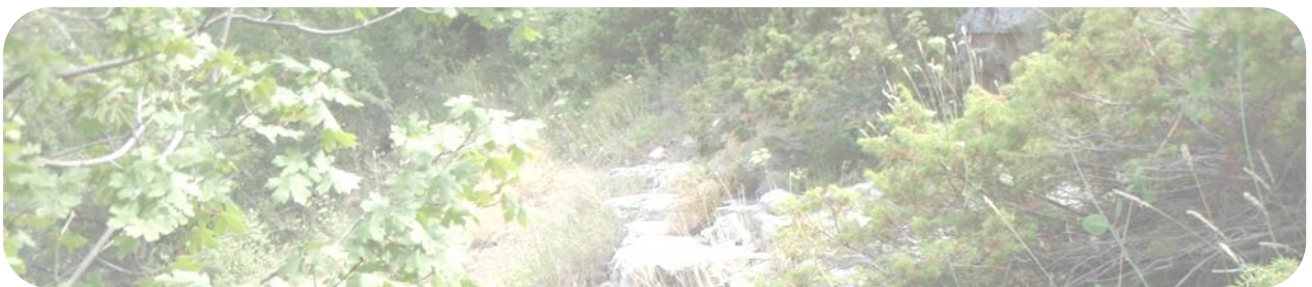
*Make up some scenarios and practice ways to ask nicely for things, without worry and complaint.



Let's Talk About It

*How do the polite words and kind speaking of others make you feel? What kind of requests are easier for you to want to say "yes" to—when people demand and complain and say "you never do this or that"? Or when others say something good about you, and encourage you, and ask kindly if you would mind helping or giving them something?

*Why do you think it's so displeasing to the Lord to hear us whining and complaining about things, rather than noticing all the other good things that He has done, or that you know He can do for you?



Wilderness, Water and Wells



Connect and Communicate

* Sing a song or hymn that has several verses, and pause after each verse or natural break to tell the Lord the words of praise and thankfulness, that the words of the song remind them of. The song resumes and pauses for praise, until it is ended.

Study Fun

Discover: On a Bible map the area where they were travelling. Or use a regular map of the world and find the general area where they were.

Underline: The Lord's conditions for giving them good health and protection.

Define: "Ordinance" and "statutes".

Exodus

15:22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

15:23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

15:24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

15:25 And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

15:27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.



16:4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

16:8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you ... in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.

Activity

*Practice praying in faith! First, acknowledge the Lord's love and kindness and all the multitudes of blessings He's given thus far, and then pray with faith, knowing that He will take care of you in the way that is best.

We don't always get everything we want just at the moment we want it, either from people or from the Lord. Things just don't work out that way. The world is filled with many people with many different needs all at the same time, and it's good to have situations that teach us patience and trust, and many other things too.

If we focus on the good that the Lord has done for us, it helps to bring many more blessings our way than if we were just sitting around complaining. Praise and faith are like a vacuum and draw God's blessings to our side.

Fountain of Faith

Psalms 20:6 Now know I that the Lord saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

Psalms 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.



Dig 'n' Discover (11-15)

Prayer

Psalms 6:9 The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer.

*Divide into two teams. One team will take turns saying short, one-sentence prayers, and then the other team will read or quote a related Bible verse for it. Go back and forth between short prayer and verse said, as many times as you wish.

11.) Did people use rhyming names? (1 Chronicles 7:15-16)

12.) Were there libraries? If so, what might they have been called, since books as we know them now, hadn't been created yet? (Ezra 6:1)

13.) What was a mirror called? (James 1:23-25)

14.) Is your bed too small? I wonder if Isaiah was tall, and knew what it felt like. (Isaiah 28:20)

15.) What are some of the names that the best governor mentioned in the Bible is called by? (Isaiah 9:6)

Activity

*Look up the verses in your Bible to find the answers!



Topic Treasures

—Praying With Faith

Study Fun

Discover: The uses of olive oil in Bible times.

Underline: The phrases in these verses that tell us to pray in faith and to have confidence in asking God for what we need.

Define: Confidence, liberal, waver, recompense, and petition.

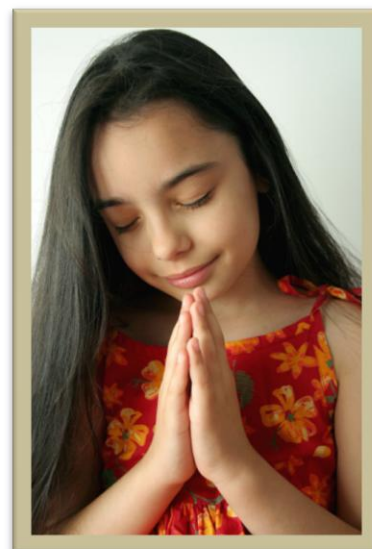
James 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 5:14-15 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:35-36 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.



Daily Diary

*What are some things that you think would be good to have, or are needed, or even a wish in your heart, that you have not yet prayed for? Write them down, and pray in faith for them today. If it's what He knows is best, He'll make it happen!