

Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES

For Children

Lesson 32

Level A—Little Bible Treasures :
Water Out of a Rock

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:
Water Out of a Rock

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:
Water Out of a Rock

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:
Water Out of a Rock

**Level E—Bible Bits: Contentment/
Topic Treasures—Sing Your Troubles Away**

Water Out of a Rock

The Israelites needed water while they were travelling in the wilderness. It was difficult to be thirsty and not have water.

Instead of praying for what they needed, the people started to complain to Moses and get upset. Moses prayed and asked God what to do. God said He'd bring water out of a rock!

Moses hit the rock like God told him to do, and water came pouring out! All the people and animals had water to drink.

Another time the people learned to be more cheerful, and they sang a song, while some princes did what God said to do that time—to use their sticks to dig in the ground, and God made a spring of water there for them.



Water Out of a Rock

God liked to show His love and care for the travelling Israelites. When they needed fresh drinking water all they needed to do was to ask Him for it. It was hard for the people to be thirsty and to not have water for drinking, cooking and washing, as well as water for their animals to drink.

They often forgot to just pray and ask God in faith for what they needed, as they were just starting to learn about God's amazing power to do anything to help them. They often asked Moses in grumbling ways for what they needed. Moses was patient and humble, and had faith in God's care. Moses knew the best thing to do was to pray and ask God for help.

One time when there was no water anywhere, Moses prayed and God told him to hit a rock with the rod, and water would come out of it. Moses did as God said, and water came pouring out, and everyone had the water they needed.

Another time God wanted to give water out of a rock, but in a new way. He wanted Moses to speak to the rock and the water would come flowing out.



The people were acting very unkind and complaining. That time Moses had a hard time staying patient with the people's unkind words, and lack of faith in God. He got upset and spoke angrily to the people, and hit the rock this time as well, instead of only speaking to it.

God wasn't glad that Moses got angry and had disobeyed what He said to do. God still sent the water, but it was a lesson to everyone that patience, obedience, and knowing God's love and care were important.

There were many lessons of faith and prayer along the way as they journeyed. There was another time when the people needed water again, and they made the right decision to have faith and obey God's instructions. God said for some of the important men, the princes, to use their sticks and to dig in the dirt, and He would make water spring up out of the ground.

As the people watched they sang a song, and God sent the water they needed. That was a great way to react. Singing songs of praise and prayer when in a difficult situation, or when there are things that you need, helps bring faith to your heart. It brings the answers from the Lord too!

Activity

*Gather toy (or real) instruments, or use objects to make some fun sounds with. Have a song prayer time. Think of some things that you need, and would like to ask Jesus for. Make up tunes while you express thankfulness and prayers to the Lord for what you need, while making fun musical noise!

Water Out of a Rock



It might be hard to understand why the people didn't stop to praise and pray and get God's instructions, when yet again there was no water to drink in the next camping place. It was taking them a long time to learn, but do you always ask nicely for everything you want all the time?

Even though you know your parents love you and want to take good care of you, don't you still complain sometimes when you are feeling really hungry, or tired, or thirsty, or sick, or hurting?

It was pretty difficult to be travelling for so long, especially for people who were used to living in one place, and having water available when they needed it. It was hard for them to all of a sudden, from one day to the next, not have a house and to be moving all the time.

It wasn't easy to have to carry all their things around and lead the animals onward, and not always having even the most basic things they thought they needed. They no longer had gardens to grow their vegetables in, or plenty of water around to drink. It wasn't easy.

In so many other ways it was better than what they were enduring through all the hard times in Egypt. However, when you feel you really need something, it can be rather hard to start thinking of all the good things that you do have. It's human nature to focus on just that one thing that is hard, or the one thing that you don't have right then.

Learning to react to difficulties with faith, with words of thankfulness on your lips, and with a prayer, is a good way to bring wonderful things in your life. People don't always think of doing it, because they often don't feel

like doing it at the time. You can start to see things in a warped way. Your thoughts can lead you to believe that things were better for you before, or that others must have things much better than you do, or to think that "everything is going wrong." That's not how to bring fast, good results your way.

When dealing with the people's negative reactions when being faced once again with the need for water, rather than giving up, Moses took the situation to the only one who could, and would, make things better for them. He brought it to God in prayer.

King David, who lived many years later, wrote in Psalm 23, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." That is what happened on that day in the wilderness. God told Moses to take the rod of Aaron, and to go with the elders of the people, to a certain rock. Moses was instructed to hit the rock. God said His spirit would be right there on the rock, making water come out of it for the people to drink.

That's how it happened! Water came gushing from the rock, giving them all that they needed. Everyone knew how real and close God was to them, providing for them what was needed, even in a seemingly impossible situation.

There were other times when the need for water became a cause for complaint. One time, the lack of trust in God's care caused unkind words to be said again to Moses and Aaron about the need for water. Moses didn't take it very patiently.



It was hard for him to hear all the harsh words of others. His sister also had recently passed away, so things were extra difficult for Moses.

God wanted to do an amazing miracle, to prove to the people how real and powerful He was, and to help encourage everyone. He wanted them to think more about Him and all the great things He could do, rather than getting too down and discouraged about their problems. He told Moses the plan.

Rather than hitting the rock, like God told him to do the first time, Moses was to just speak to the rock, and the water would come out of it. That would look pretty impressive, don't you think? Someone just speaks, and water gushes out of a rock with great force, pouring and rushing down like a stream until it forms a big pool!



As Moses stood before the rock he saw and heard all the upset people, grumbling and blaming him for every problem they were facing.

He got his mind on them rather than God and His tremendous love

and great care, and the marvellous way He was going to answer their need for water. Moses then went ahead, in a spirit of angry impatience—which was rare for him—and he hit the rock twice, speaking to the people angrily.

God was kind and still made water come out, and plenty of it! Everyone got all the water they needed, and were glad. However, God wasn't too pleased with Moses' and Aaron's disobedience to His plan, and how they showed a poor example. It wasn't the right way to react.

God told them that as a result, when at last they did reach the land that was promised to them, that neither Moses nor Aaron would be allowed to go in. God needed to let the people know that it is wrong to not follow His instructions, and that reacting in an angry way isn't right either.

Everyone makes mistakes; even great leaders do at times. Only God is perfect. You can follow others' good examples, if they are following God's way, while you continue to look to God most of all for the right example. How do you do that? Study the Bible, and receive My Words to you while praying and getting quiet, taking your problems and needs to Me—Jesus.

You'll be amazed with the solutions I can give, and how I can work things out—without you getting all impatient and forcing the situation in your own way. Trust Me to take care of things, and listen to My thoughts.

Later on, when the Israelites needed water again, the people remembered that the right way to get things from God was to hear from Him, obey His Words, and praise Him! God instructed Moses to gather the people together, as He was going to give them more miracle water.

God told Moses where to direct the princes and noble men to just dig into the ground with their staves. Then the people sang! Yes! They sang a song, a song of prayer and praise, for the water to spring up.

Even if you are in the middle of the wilderness and have nothing but dry ground and a stick, if you are talking to God in faith, and hearing what He wants you to do, and singing and praising Him, He can make a spring of water come up right out of the ground if you need it. With faith, prayer and praise anything can happen, if God is helping you out!



Let's Talk About It

*Have you ever noticed the effect that music, and various types of music, can have on you, and the way it can make you feel? Think of some songs and how they make you feel. What mood they put you in, or what do they make you feel like doing?

*When people have said and done things that have upset you, and you feel that angry feeling, what can you do to calm down so you can make the right choices that please the Lord, and that will make things better again?

Activity

*Circle the things done right in this story, and cross out the wrong deeds and reactions:

Complaining

Praying

Obeying

Anger

Faith

Worrying

Listening to the Lord

Impatience

Digging

Disobedience

Singing

Water Out of a Rock



Connect and Communicate

*Applaud! Say things that you are glad that someone in the room did. Then clap and cheer for them! Say as many things as you can think of, so everyone in the room gets some praise and encouragement. Then do the same for things that Jesus has done!

Study Fun

Find: These words as you go about reading the text: pomegranates, eyes, faces, fetch, spring, nobles.

Learn: The meanings of the words: congregation, assembly, sanctify.

Demonstrate: And act out the three water stories below, after reading each of them.

Exodus

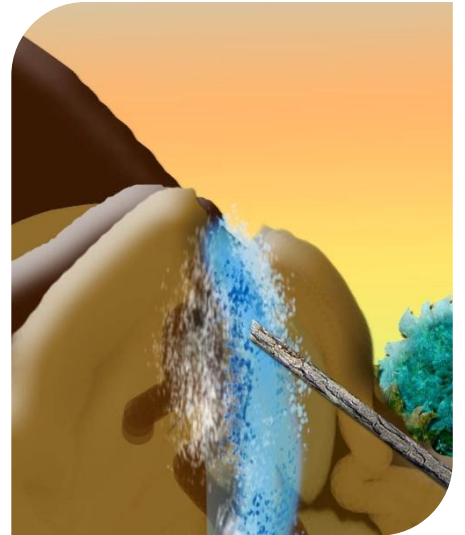
17:1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses.

17:4 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people?

17:5 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.



Numbers

20:5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

20:6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.

20:7 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock



twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

20:12 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

20:13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them.

Numbers

21:16 And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the Lord spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water.

21:17 Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it:

21:18 The princes digged the well, the nobles of the people digged it, by the direction of the lawgiver, with their staves.



Activity

* Make a study on various ways of getting drinking water. (For example: collecting rain water, digging wells and types of wells, desalinating sea water, etc.)



Fountain of Faith

Joshua 21:45a

There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken.



1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.



Contentment

Prayer

Psalms 55:16-17 As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

*Have one person lead the prayer, and say it one phrase at a time. After each phrase is said by the prayer leader, everyone then repeats it out loud together.

Topic ideas to pray for:

- God's help and supply for those in difficult or hardship situations, without sufficient food or water.
- For the safety of loved ones travelling.
- To learn to have prayerful and thankful reactions even when things aren't going well.

Instructions:

1. Read a verse from the list below.
2. Read the "Scenario Starter", and choose who will finish making up the scenario. Have them tell of a situation where the verse would be just the thing to help give faith, peace, and patience.
3. Reread or quote the verse as you think about it in relation to the scenario given.

Verse:

Habakkuk 3:17-18 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Scenario Starter:

Farmer Jorge looked over his fields, and just shook his head...

Verse:

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Scenario Starter:

Sally and Ann Marie were chatting at the playground. Sally didn't live in a place as luxurious as Ann Marie, nor did she...

Verse:

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Scenario Starter:

"We need to be out of our house by next month? But we've been here so long..." It wasn't the easiest of news...

Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Scenario Starter:

"Now to get out my favourite clothes for the outdoor birthday party this afternoon. Oh! We are going to have fun! Uh Oh! What's that...?"

Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Scenario Starter:

Their vacation flight was to leave first thing in the morning, which meant a very early and busy start on the day. Then as a warning or reminder to the travelling family, just as they were about to hurriedly drive off, with their minds only filled with thoughts of ..."

Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Scenario Starter:

Paul and his sister Bessy were sitting on the floor beside the fireplace. "That was quite a day!" said Paul. "Yes! I wouldn't quite call it the best day ever," added Bessy. "As the day started, first thing in the morning..."



Topic Treasures
—Sing Your Troubles Away

Study Fun

Find: And mark all the words you can spot in the verses below that talk of singing, or music, or instruments.

Learn: About some of the musical instruments used in Bible times.
What might King David's harp have looked like?

Demonstrate: Or play audios of types and styles of singing, both modern and old fashioned.

Psalm 33:2 Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

Psalm 33:3 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

1 Chronicles 16:9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Psalm 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Acts 16:25-26 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord.

PSA.98:1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

PSA.104:33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.





Daily Diary

*Try to make up a little rhyming praise to Jesus, two or four phrases long, and write it down. See if you can sing it to a new tune, or to an existing one. Or you can chant it to a beat while you play the bongos or drum on a box!