

Lesson # 7

Hebrews 3:1-19; Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 20; Num. 14 w/3:9; John 14:15

Nov. 5, 2014

** Bring a rock and a stick (staff) to class today. This story is simple and well suited for reenactment. You can tap the rock with a stick as you tell the story of water flowing from the rock!*

Gather everyone together, seated in the story circle. Have an open Bible on your lap or on the floor close to you so that the children can see where this story comes from. You can put the lesson printout or your notes in the Bible to refer to as you tell the story.

Today let's explore a story from the Old Testament book of Exodus. God's people had been slaves in the land of Egypt for many years. Then God used a leader named Moses to take the people out of slavery. The people weren't slaves anymore! Hooray! They sang and danced. They were so happy to be free.

The Israelites followed God's special leader, Moses, into the desert. God promised the Israelite people that He would take care of them, even in the desert! The people walked for days and days in the hot sun. Soon they began to get tired and thirsty. As they grew more and more tired and more and more thirsty, they also became grumpy. They grumbled and complained to Moses that they didn't have anything to drink!

"Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you want us, our children and our animals to die of thirst?" They shouted at Moses. Moses didn't know what to do. So Moses cried out to God saying, "What am I going to do with these people?"

And God answered Moses, because God always has a plan! God told Moses to hit a rock with his staff. A staff is a long pole or walking stick that shepherds carry. "The Lord said to Moses: 'I will stand there before you... Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.'"

God wanted Moses to hit a rock to get water! That sounds pretty silly, doesn't it? Can you imagine hitting a rock with a stick and a flowing river suddenly pours out? I'm not sure I would have believed it! But, that's what God said to do. Even though the instructions were a little confusing, Moses obeyed God. Moses hit the rock with his staff and a spring flowing with water gushed out of the rock! Amazing! Because Moses obeyed God, God gave the people water to drink. God took care of His people.

Sometimes our moms and dads ask us to do things that seem hard or confusing. Our parents have rules for us. They give us a bedtime. They tell us to hold their hands when we walk across the street. Sometimes we want something different than what our parents want. Sometimes it's hard to obey their instructions because we think we know better than they do. Our parents give us rules to keep us safe and help us do the right things.

God is like that too. God wants us to obey him even when it is hard. We may not understand why God asks us to obey, but we can *always* know that God loves us. He wants good things for us. Aren't you glad that God knows what we need? Even when it seems impossible, God gives us what we need at the exact right time. He wants us to have a good attitude in our hearts when we obey Him.

Let's pray and ask God to help us listen to Him and obey His instructions, just like Moses obeyed. "Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you give us what we need. Even though we may not understand, please help us obey your instructions and do what is right with a good attitude. In Jesus Name, Amen."

Bible verse: "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15 NIRV

Grow At Home #7

Hebrews 3:1-19; Ex 17:1-7; Nu 20; Nu 14 w/3:9; John 14:15

Nov. 5, 2014

Today the children learned these God facts:

- God takes care of me.
- God wants me to listen and obey His instructions.

Live It Out:

The Israelites followed their leader Moses into the desert, but they didn't really trust that God would provide for them. They complained about their thirst so God instructed Moses to hit a rock with his staff. Moses obeyed and water came flowing out of the rock! Sometimes God asks us to do things that don't make sense or may even sound silly. Remind your child to listen and obey God's instructions, and trust that His way is *always* best.

Obeying God means doing what He says. We show that we love God when we obey Him. Play the traditional game of "Follow the Leader" with your child. Encourage your child to (1) listen and (2) follow your movements. Tell your child that even mommies and daddies need to obey God! Discuss *why* it's important to follow God's instructions. (God loves us, teaches us, keeps us safe, provides what we need, etc.)

Celebrate that your family *chooses* to follow God! Read Joshua 24:15 (NIRV) and focus on the final phrase "...As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Make this commitment in your own home. Post the verse in a prominent place where you will see it daily.

Prayer: "Dear God, thank you for loving us and giving us what we need. Even though we may not understand, please help us obey your instructions and do what is right with a good attitude."

Bible verse: "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15 NIRV