



Lesson 16

Water From the Rock

Large Group Lesson & Games

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>God Provides</p> <p><i>John 3:1-17</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• A rock and a stick for props• A pom-pom• One plastic cup or bowl per team• One spoon or pair of chopsticks per student• Two or three large bags of cotton balls
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>"The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing."</p> <p><i>Psalm 145:15-16, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive God's Provision.</p>	



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

Show the rock to students. What can you use this rock for? Next, display the stick. What can you do with this?

Take students responses.

If you were hungry, would you look for a rock? How about thirsty? Or this stick? Why not?

Take students responses.

Today's true story from the Bible is about how God used a rock to care for his people!

After Moses led God's people out of Egypt, they roamed in the wilderness. While they were there, the Israelites worried and grumbled.

(Read Exodus 16:2-4)

It was dry, hot, no crops, no stores (no ice-cold soda pop). They followed the cloud of the Lord. But they complained and grumbled. They forgot to be thankful. They forgot about God's power. They said they would rather have died in Egypt, where they experienced slavery, beating, and misery, because at least then they'd have enough food to eat.

God sent manna and quail to feed them.

(Read Exodus 16:14-15 and 16:31)

God sent a swarm of quail to the camp. The people ate and were full. God also sent bread from heaven. Manna literally means, "What is it?"

What do you imagine it looked like? What do you think it tasted like?

Take student responses.

When the morning dew dried, it was there, like frost. And every morning, it was a new miracle.

The Israelites were to follow the instructions God had for them. Each person would get about an omer (2 quarts or 2 liters). If they gathered too much and were too greedy, it would rot. They were not allowed to gather any food on the Sabbath, the day of rest. Some people did not follow God's instructions.



(Read Exodus 16:20)

Yuck! It is much better to follow directions.

Every day, God provided until they had reached Canaan

(Read Joshua 5:12)

Every morning for 40 years, they gathered food from the desert floor. The people became so used to it, they forgot it was a miracle. God had promised to bring them to Canaan. He could not let them die in the desert. It was up to him to keep them alive.

The people were out of water, also. There were 1-2 million people who needed water. This is a LOT! Their problem looked so big. They questioned whether God was really with them at all.

(Read Exodus 17:7)

The people were angry. They were ready to stone Moses — to throw rocks at him until he died! So Moses brought the problem to God.

(Invite students to show their angry faces.)

He cried out to God (a loud and desperate prayer for HELP). This is one kind of prayer. It does not have a lot of fancy words. It is simple, honest, and real. God heard him.

(Read Exodus 17:5-6)

What did God tell Moses to do?

Take students responses.

He hit the rock, probably a rock wall or the base of a cliff. Was it a hard thing for Moses to do? What did God do?

Take student responses.

He sent water flowing out of the rock for EVERYONE to drink. Was it hard for God to do?

Take student responses.

No! He can do anything.



We'll talk about what it looks like to receive God's provision in our small groups today!

Dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Object of Game: Be the team with the most cotton balls in the plastic cup at the end of play.

Materials: One plastic cup or bowl per team, one spoon or pair of chopsticks per student, two or three large bags of cotton balls

Spread the “manna” (cotton balls) all across the floor of the playing space. Set one cup or bowl for each team in a designated spot, not to be moved. Give each player a spoon or a set of chopsticks and instruct them to pick up the manna and place it in their teams’ cup. Give them a set amount of time (one minute, 90 seconds, etc.) Once time begins, all students may move freely around the playing space collecting manna. No one may touch the manna with their hands, only the utensils they have been given. Whichever team has the most manna collected in their cup or bowl at the end of the time wins that round.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Preparation: A pom-pom

Ask students to sit in a circle with one student in the middle with their eyes closed. Give the pom-pom (treasure) to one student in the circle and tell everyone to pretend like they are holding the pom-pom in their hands or behind their back. The child in the middle must guess who really has it. You can adapt the game by changing the number of guesses you allow or by letting the guesser ask a certain number of “yes” or “no” questions to figure out who has it.

