A Desert Surprise

Bible Story
Exodus 15:22-25; 16

Teacher Challenge
God doesn’t seem to always do things the way we want—or on our timetable. God’s people had been rescued miraculously, yes. But the journey had only just begun, and rough road was ahead. They didn’t find water for three days, and when they did, it wasn’t drinkable. God told Moses to throw a log into the water. Moses obeyed. The people watched. God miraculously intervened. The people saw that God would take care of them in their most desperate times.

➥ List ways God has been good to you this week.

➥ List the reasons it’s hard to trust God about some areas of your life. Ask Him to help you trust Him better in these areas.

A teachable moment in your class may come anytime a child has a need. When we respond to a child’s need, we can link our response to God’s Word at a time when the child’s attention is high. Maybe it won’t be the way you were planning your class to go, but when you make a lesson out of a simple question or need of a child, the children will remember it. Maybe they will reenact it at home with their family. Maybe because of it, they will know in their heart that God is good.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center: Color Toss

Collect
Bible, different colored sheets of paper, beanbag.

Prepare
In an open area of your classroom, place the different colored papers in rows on the floor.

Do
1. Children stand several feet away from papers and take turns tossing a beanbag onto the papers.
2. Child identifies color of paper on which beanbag lands and then names a food that same color. Continue as time and interest allow.

Talk About
- In today’s Bible story, God’s people picked their food up from the ground each morning. Let’s play a game reminding us of all the different foods God gives us.
- The beanbag landed on the red paper. What food is red? What are some other red foods? What are some of your favorite foods?
- The Bible says, “Lord, you are good to us.” God is good to us and gives us food and water.
- What are some other good things God gives you? (Friends, families, pets, etc.)

For Younger Children
If you have more than six children, provide additional beanbags so children do not have to wait too long for their turn.

For Older Children
Children take a step farther away from the papers each round.
Play to Learn

Art Center:
Pizza Party!

Collect
Bible, large white paper plates, scissors, different colored construction paper, yellow and/or white yarn, glue.

Prepare
Cut each paper plate into fourths, one fourth for each child. Cut construction paper into small shapes (rectangles, circles, squares) to represent different pizza toppings. Cut yarn into 2- to 3-inch (5- to 7.5-cm) lengths to represent cheese.

Do
1. Distribute paper plate slices to children. Write child’s name on his or her slice before they start the activity.
2. Children glue paper shapes and yarn onto their paper plate to create a pizza slice.

Talk About
- In our Bible story, God gave His people good water and food called “manna.” God gives us food and water to show His love for us. Let’s make pretend pizza slices.
- Pizza is one of my favorite foods. God made tomatoes to grow so that we can have tomato sauce. God makes wheat for flour. Where does cheese come from? I’m glad God made cows and other animals and plants so that we can have good food to eat. What is your favorite food?
- The Bible says, “Lord, you are good to us.” God gives us good food for lunch. What do you like to eat for lunch? Pray briefly, thank God for the foods children mention.

For Younger Children
Instead of gluing on toppings, children color their pizza slices.

For Older Children
Children place their slice with three others to form a complete pizza. Talk about each child’s choice of toppings.

God’s Word
“Lord, you are good to us.” (See Psalm 86:5.)

God’s Word and Me
God shows love to me by giving me food and water.
Lesson 4

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“Lord, you are good to us.”
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Block Center: Camp Out

Collect
Bible, sheets of white and blue paper, construction paper, blocks, toy people.

Prepare
Tear the white paper into small pieces.

Do
1. Children outline the boundaries of a camp area with blocks and fold sheets of construction paper in half to make tents. Children set up toy people, and place the blue paper outside the camp to represent water.
2. As you briefly tell the Bible story, scatter torn pieces of white paper on the ground around the camp. Children move toy people to collect manna.

Talk About
➡ In today’s Bible story, God’s people picked up their food from the ground each morning. Let’s build the camp where the people lived.
➡ God showed His love to His people by giving them good water and food called manna. What food does God give us?
➡ The Bible says, “Lord, you are good to us.” God is good to us and gives us food and water.

For Younger Children
Prefold tents.

For Older Children
Instruct children to pick up a specific number of papers each round. Provide small paper cups for children to place papers in.
Lesson 4
God’s Word
“Lord, you are good to us.”
(See Psalm 86:5.)

God’s Word and Me
God shows love to me by giving me food and water.

Play to Learn

Science Center: Seed Matchup

Collect
Bible, fruits and vegetables with seeds (apple, watermelon, squash, peach, tomato, cucumber, avocado, pea pod, etc.), knife, paper plates, napkins.

Prepare
Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Do
1. Show children fruit and vegetables. Ask children to tell which fruit or vegetable they think would have the biggest seed, smallest seed, most seeds, etc.
2. Cut the fruit and vegetable and show seeds. Let children compare the seeds. Give children small pieces of fruit to taste.

Talk About
- The Bible says, “Lord, you are good to us.” God is good by giving us all kinds of foods to eat.
- Madison, what is your favorite kind of fruit?
- Daniel, what is your favorite vegetable?
- What other kinds of food do you like to eat?
- What do you like to drink?
- Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for giving us food to eat and water to drink.

For Younger Children
Cut fruit into pieces small enough so they are not a choking hazard.

For Older Children
Extract some seeds from fruit and vegetables. Place one seed on a plate and ask children to identify which fruit or vegetable it is from.
Lesson 4

God's Word

"Lord, you are good to us."
(See Psalm 86:5.)

God's Word and Me

God shows love to me by giving me food and water.

Listen to Learn

Exodus 15:22-25; 16

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 8 pictures from God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, hat.

Greet Each Other

Lead children in a game similar to Hot Potato.

Farmers grow fruit and vegetables. While working in the sun, they wear a hat. Let's play a game with a hat! Children sit cross-legged in a circle and pass the hat around the circle while you play "Come On In!" (track 1 on CD).

When you stop the music, the child with the hat says, “Hi, my name is Tyler.” The rest of the group waves to Tyler and replies, “God loves Tyler.” Tyler stretches out his legs in front of him to show he has had a turn. Repeat activity until everyone has had a turn.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Exodus 15. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 8 pictures.

What did you have for breakfast today? Where did you get the food you ate? Today we’re going to hear about one way God gave food to His people.

God’s people were on a long trip. They walked through the desert. The desert is a hot place. There are not many trees for shade. There is not much water to drink, but there is a lot of hot sand. God’s people walked across the hot, hot sand. Step, step, step.

For three days, God’s people had no water. “We are thirsty!” they all said. Then someone shouted, “Water!” They saw beautiful cool water. The people ran to the water. They took big drinks. Yuk! The water tasted bad! “We can’t drink this water,” the people said. “Where will we get good water?” they asked Moses.

Moses asked God what to do. God told Moses to throw a special piece of wood into the water. The special piece of wood made the water taste good. Everyone drank the good-tasting water.

God’s people had brought food with them from their old home. That food was almost gone. There were no stores to buy more food. “We’re hungry,” the people said. “What shall we eat?” the people asked Moses. Again Moses talked to God. That night God sent many birds to the people’s camp. Now the people had plenty of meat to eat. They were happy.

But God gave them even more. The next morning the ground was covered with little white flakes. “What is it?” the people asked.

“This is the bread God sent,” Moses said. The people picked up the bread and tasted it. It was good! The bread was called manna.

God cared for His people. The people thanked God for His gifts of food and water.
Talk About the Story
What kind of food did God give to His people? (Birds. Manna.) God showed His love for His people in the desert by giving them food to eat and water to drink. What food do you like to eat? Volunteers respond. God shows His love for us by giving us good food and water, too!

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about God’s care for us. Lead children in singing “God Cares About You” (track 2 on CD). God shows He cares about you by giving you food and water. What are some other ways God shows His love? What other things has God given you? Volunteers respond.

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Psalm 86:5, say verse aloud. What does this verse tell us about God? (He is good to us.) What motion could we make for the word “good” as we say this verse? Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times, making suggested motion for the word “good.”

Pray to God
Children repeat the following prayer after you, one phrase at a time: Dear God, . . . thank You for being so good to us. . . . We give You thanks. . . . In Jesus’ name, amen.

Praise to God
Say, I went to the store and bought a (broom). Do you think I should eat it? Why not? What do you think I should do with it? Repeat, using food and nonfood items, silly and serious. I’m glad God gives us good food to eat!
**Talk to Learn**

**Bible Story Activity Pages Center**

**Collect**
A copy of Activity 8 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers; optional—glue, small piece of brown or dark green fabric for each child.

**Do**
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric to tents.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

**Preschool Puzzle Center**

**Collect**
Copies of Puzzles 7 and 8 (p. 21 and p. 23 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

**Do**
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

**Read-Aloud Story Center**

**Collect**
A copy of Story Picture 4 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, glue, grass or hay.

**Do**
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.