

Children's Worship Lesson – September 20, 2020

Focus Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15

Purpose: To continue building community and to explore how God is with us.

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Hat, sunscreen and water bottle

Lighting the Christ Candle: *We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.*

Prayer

Thank you, God, for this special circle of friends.

Teach us to follow in your loving way.

Amen.

Song: Whole Lotta Change (Roar VBS on You Tube)

Introducing the Theme

Set out your hat, sunscreen and water bottle.

Look what I have here. What are these things used for?

What kind of day do you think it would be, if you saw me carrying these things to the park?

Do you remember any really hot days this summer? What did you do to keep cool? (ran through the sprinkler, went swimming, had a cool drink, etc.)

It is good to have fun things to do on hot, hot days.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

In our Bible, there is a story about the people of Israel who went on a very long journey - one that lasted forty years. Moses was their leader. For most of their journey, the people were travelling through the hot, dry desert.

Optional: Show the picture of the desert.

In a desert, there are no hoses to run under, no lakes to swim in when you get hot. It is always hot during the day and there are very few places where you can sit in the shade. Day after day, the people of Israel walked through the desert. Fathers, mothers and children walked.

They walked, and walked, and walked. **How do you think they felt? (hot, tired, dusty, hungry, thirsty)**

Let's pretend that we are on that journey with the people of Israel.

Put the towel on your head and wrap the tie around to hold it on. Pick up the walking stick. Hello, I am Moses, your leader, and I am going to guide you through the desert.

Lead the children around the room. Comment on the sand, the sun, the dry scruffy bushes, and the hot wind. Encourage them to make appropriate actions such as wiping sweat from their faces, shielding their eyes from the sun as they look for a good place to camp, or putting their arms across their faces to keep the blowing sand out of their noses.

We have been walking for so many days! It's time to stop for the night and have something to eat. I'm really hungry. (Rub your tummy.) Are you hungry too? (Have the children rub their tummies.) Let's get out some food.

Pretend to look for food in bags.

Oh no! It's almost all gone! The food that we brought from Egypt will be used up soon. The people are going to become very hungry. Where will we get more food? There are no stores in a desert, and no other people to buy food from.

Have the children hold up their hands and shrug their shoulders to show that they don't know where they will find food.

Some of the people are becoming very worried, and very angry with me. They are afraid they are going to starve in the wilderness. Some have been grumbling and complaining, saying, "Moses, why did you bring us out into the desert? We will die here!"

Have the children cross their arms and stamp their feet, maybe even shake their fists at you.

We need to trust God. God freed us from being slaves and will help us again. I will pray to God while you sleep.

Have the children curl up together and go to sleep – perhaps still rubbing their tummies and grumbling. Kneel and pretend to pray. Wake up everyone. Look!

Have the children stretch their arms and get up. The ground is covered in small white flakes. Pick some up. Taste it!

Everyone bends down, picks some up and "tastes" it. It's delicious! It's sweet, like honey. Do you like it? (Have the children nod.) We can even make bread from this. We aren't going to starve!

Everyone claps hands with joy. Remove the towel from your head. You are no longer Moses.

God gave the people food to eat. Every morning for the rest of their journey, God provided this special food, which the people called "manna." After this happened, the people said to each other: "God is with us."

God loved the people of Israel. God watched over them and helped them get food. God also loves and cares for each of us - each person in this room is special to God.

Activity/Game or Craft – "Finding Objects"

Have the children find different objects starting with the letters in "desert."

Start with the letter “d.” Ask them to find something in their house that starts with the letter “d”. Once the children have come back with something, then repeat with the letter “e”, etc. until you have finished with the letter “t”.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, God, for teaching us about Moses’ walk in the desert with us.

Thank you for giving us ways to cool down in the hot sun.

We are glad to learn the stories about you and your disciples.

Help us to leave here remembering what we have learned.

Amen.

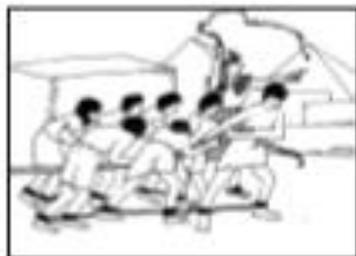
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Unit 1

Gathering into the Sacred Circle
September 6 to October 11, 2020

A New Beginning



Bring out the teaching picture "Slaves in Egypt" (#7)

The ancestors – the great, great, great, great, grandparents of the people of Israel – had moved to Egypt when there had been a bad drought and no crops grew in their homeland of Canaan. After the drought ended, the people continued to live in Egypt. But as time went by, the king of Egypt forced them to become his slaves. They had to work very, very hard from sun-up to sundown, making bricks to build his buildings. They were so tired. Their bodies ached and they had no time for their families. They prayed to God to help them.



Show the picture "Baby Moses" (#7)

The king started to get worried about how many people of Israel lived in his land. One day he said that all of their baby boys were to be killed, so that there would be fewer Israelites. A woman named Jochebed (jock-uh-bed) hid her baby, Moses, in a special basket and floated it among the bulrushes at the edge of the river. The princess, Pharaoh's daughter, found Moses and took him home to the palace to be her son. The baby Moses had an older sister, Miriam, who was hiding in the bulrushes watching. She offered to get a nurse to help the princess look after her new baby. Moses' mother was able to go to the palace to look after Moses and tell him stories about his people.



Show the picture "The Burning Bush" (#8)

When he was a young man, Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of the slaves. It made him so mad that he hit the slave driver with a severe blow. Moses knew that he was in big trouble, so he ran away and stayed away for many years. While he was gone, the people of Israel continued to pray to God, asking for help. Then, one day, Moses' brother Aaron came running in, all excited. Moses had returned! Moses said that God had called to him from a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. God told him to lead the people of Israel away from the cruel Pharaoh and back to their homeland of Canaan. Their prayers had been answered. The people were so happy!



Show the picture "Let the People Go" (#8)

It turned out not to be as easy as the people had hoped. Moses and Aaron went to ask the king to let the people go free, but the king said, "No!" Then some terrible things happened like plagues of polluted water, and frogs, and flies and grasshoppers and sick animals. But still the king said, "No!" Then God spoke to Moses and said: "Get the people ready, because this last plague that is coming will cause the Egyptian people to get sick and some will die. Then the king will let you go." The people followed God's instructions and prepared to leave. When the king said that they were free, they left right away - in the middle of the night.

It was a new beginning!

Maze: Help Moses lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt.

