

Trusting God for Provision

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 15:22-27 and 16:1-36

Bible Truth: I will trust God to provide for me.

Bible Story: Exodus 15:22-27 and 16:1-36

Bible Verse: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Need or Want?”

Preparation

Place all of the materials on a table at one end of the room.

Presentation

Say: **Have you ever heard someone say they wanted or needed something? Can you name something you want?**
Allow children to answer. **Can you name something you need?**

Allow children to answer. **Sometimes it is hard to remember that the things we want are sometimes different from the things we need. We need food, clothing, and shelter. Those are things we need to live. There are also things we want, like toys, but we do not need them to live.**

Divide children into two teams of six. (If you have more than 12 children, choose volunteers or play the game more than once.) They will play a relay race type of game where each child races to the table and gets an item. Once the team has six items, they need to divide them into two piles: things people want and things people need. The first team to correctly gather and sort six items wins.

Say: **God has promised that He will provide everything we need. He will not give us everything we want, but we can always trust Him to provide what we need.**

Materials

2 food items
2 cups of water
2 pieces of clothing
4 toys
2 balls

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Philippians 4:19

Preparation

Write Philippians 4:19 on a piece of poster board.

Write each word of Philippians 4:19 on a separate piece of paper and attach them to the wall. If you are meeting outside, attach the papers to a piece of string and have two people hold the ends of the string.

Materials
poster board
markers or crayons
paper

Explanation

Read Philippians 4:19 with the children. Say: **This Bible verse contains a promise. Can someone underline the promise?** Allow one child to underline the phrase, "And my God will meet all your needs." **The second part of this verse tells us that God will meet our needs out of the riches of glory that come from Jesus. Since there is no end to the riches or glory of Jesus, there is no end to God's provision for you. He will meet your needs.**

Memorization Activity

One at a time, ask children to remove one word of the Bible verse from the wall or string. Each time a word is removed, read the verse with the children, asking them to remember the missing words.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "God Provides for the Israelites," Exodus 15:22-27 and 16:1-36

Preparation

Read and study Exodus 15:22-25 and 16:1-36.

As an adult or teen helper to prepare the Bible story monologue. Give him a Bible costume to wear if available.

Materials
Bible
Bible costume

Presentation

Say: **Do you remember the story about God parting the Red Sea for the Israelites? Moses was the leader of the Israelites during that time. He has some interesting stories to tell us about God providing for their needs.**

Moses: Thank you so much for inviting me to speak to you today. As your teacher mentioned, I was the leader of the Israelites. My first job as leader of the Israelites was to guide the people out of slavery in Egypt and across the Red Sea. I stood in amazement as God pushed the water of the Red Sea aside so we could walk across on dry ground. Then, when we were all across the sea, He let the water fall on Pharaoh's army so they couldn't chase us. We were so excited and sang praises to God for protecting us. I thought the people would always trust God because they had seen His power. Unfortunately, they quickly forgot to trust God.

Just a few days after crossing the Red Sea, the people began to complain that they were thirsty. I have to admit that I was thirsty too! We had not had any water for three days. We finally came to a water source, but the water was too bitter to drink. I prayed to God, and He sent an interesting answer. He told me to throw a stick into the water. When I did, the bitterness disappeared, and we had all of the water we needed. Then, God led us a little further into the desert to a place with 12 springs of fresh water. Now, I was sure the people would trust God to provide what they needed.

Once again, I was wrong. After a few more days of traveling, the people began to complain that they were hungry. They even said that they wished we had stayed as slaves in Egypt because as slaves at least they had food to eat. Once again, I prayed to God for help. He answered in an amazing way. That evening, God sent birds (called quail) into the camp for everyone to eat. Then, the next morning, He covered the ground with a special type of bread called manna. We continued to find the manna every morning! God gave us specific instructions about gathering the manna because He wanted us to trust Him to provide for us. We were only allowed to gather enough manna for each person to eat on that day. We couldn't save any of the manna for the next day. Some of the people didn't have enough faith that God would send manna each morning, so they collected extra and saved some in containers. But the next morning, fresh manna was on the ground and the manna they had saved was full of worms! From then on, we only collected the amount of manna allowed by God, and He continued to provide for our needs each day.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "God Provides"

Preparation

Write "God Provides" at the top of a sheet of paper for each child.

Materials
paper
poster board
crayons or markers

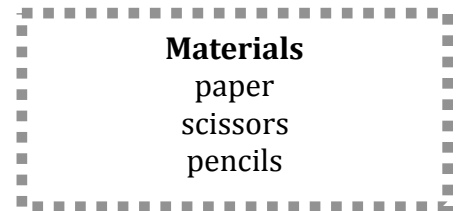
Presentation

Say: **We can trust God to provide what we need. Let's make a list of things that God provides for us on this poster board.** Write down the children's suggestions. Be sure to emphasize the difference between our needs and our wants. When finished, give each child a prepared sheet of paper and ask them to draw three things that God has provided for them.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

Cut the paper into the shape of a piece of bread. Make one for each child.



Presentation

Say: **Just like God provided water and food for the Israelites, He will provide everything you need. Can you think of a need you have right now? Maybe your family needs more money to pay the bills or buy food. Maybe you need a new pair of shoes or clothes.** Give each child a bread-shaped piece of paper. Ask them to write their need on it. If children cannot think of anything they need personally, ask them to write down the need of a friend. You might also share needs of children in other countries. Place each of the papers in a bowl and pray for God to provide for these needs.