

Unit 3: Harvest

Faith Focus: God provides for our needs.

The LORD bless you and protect you. (Numbers 6:24)

SESSION 10

GROW IN FAITH

God Provides When You Need It Most— Exodus 15:22–17:7

The Israelites were free from slavery after more than 400 years. After celebrating, they started a long journey out of Egypt and across the Reed Sea and found themselves in the wilderness. Neither food nor water was abundant in this desert. The people became anxious and began to complain and wish they had never left Egypt. God responded by sending quail in the evening and manna in the morning. God provided just what they needed and no more. Each person, regardless of how much manna was collected, ended up with the right amount. Any left overnight became contaminated. This story may evoke thoughts and emotions around scarcity or even ungratefulness. Many people might not know abundance, and not everyone values sharing. Both are important ways to look at the story to gain better understanding.

- Explore what it might be like to live in a desert.
- Use tactile play to better understand the Bible story and make connections to the resources children have.

SUPPLIES

crayons

colored pencils

markers

scissors

tape

drawing paper (optional)

baskets

plastic tub or kiddie pool

water

assortment of containers

rocks

floor covering (optional)

loaf of bread

napkins

cups

TV and DVD player or
streaming device

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—God Provides
for Our Needs

Collection Basket
(Craft)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 3–6
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Basket Relay
(Game)

Water from Rocks
(Sensory Play)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the “Fall Sticker Page” (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the manna sticker on the Session 10 space.

SAY: We will be learning how God provides for us, making it possible for us to live full lives and share God's love with the world. Humans need food, water, shelter, and care to live.

ASK: What else do you need to live? What does God provide for you?

Faith Focus—God Provides for Our Needs

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, colored pencils, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20). Photocopy “Matching for Manna” (Leader Guide—p. 70) for each child.

SAY: In today's Bible story, we will hear how God provided food and water for God's people, who were traveling for a long time in the wilderness. God provided something called manna to God's people.

ASK: What do you think manna is?

- Give each child a copy of “Matching for Manna.”
- Let the children color the squares and cut them out.
- Use the squares to play a matching game to collect all the manna.

Collection Basket

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors, tape

Prepare Ahead: Tear out “Collection Basket” (Session 10 Activity Sheet) for each child. Cut apart the strips for the basket.

SAY: When God provided food for the people wandering in the wilderness, God told them to collect the food called manna in baskets. Soon all the baskets were overflowing with enough food to share with everyone.

- Give each child a set of the basket strips.
- Show the children how to weave the strips together in a over/under pattern. Place four of the strips next to each other vertically. Use the other four strips to horizontally weave over and under the vertical strips.
- Place tape across each edge of the square. Fold up the ends to make four sides and tape the corners together to make a basket shape.

ASK: What can you collect in a basket? How do you think the people felt when they saw their baskets overflowing with the food God provided?

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story from Exodus 15:22–17:7 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How do you think the people felt when they didn't know where their food and water would come from?

SAY: God provides for our needs, just like God provided for the needs of the people wandering in the wilderness. The people had enough food for each day and enough water for each day. They trusted that God would provide enough for everyone to eat and be healthy, and that's what God did. We can trust God, too.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 10 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: How does it feel to trust that God will provide? Who else in your life provides for you and helps you?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, markers or permanent markers, paper (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) and Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) if you haven't already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Our story today showed us how God provided food for the people wandering in the wilderness. They didn't have enough food to begin with, but they trusted God. God sent a special type of bread called manna that the people could collect in big baskets.

ASK: Have you ever made bread? What was it like? Who helped you? What kind of bread do you want to try to make?

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Invite children to draw their favorite type of bread (toast, bagel, challah, pretzels, and so forth) on the poster.

Tip: Children will draw something on this poster in each session of this unit, so encourage children to draw small if possible. You can also add additional paper around your poster if needed.

FUN WITH FAITH

Basket Relay

Supplies: baskets, items that you have around your class space

SAY: When God provided food for the people in the wilderness, God told them to collect it in baskets. They needed to have food for every person, and God provided enough when they needed it the most.

ASK: What can you collect in baskets?

- Divide children into groups of three. Tell the children they will do a relay. Give each group a basket.
- Use the following prompts to start the relay. When a child finds an item that meets the need named, they put it in their basket and return to you. Then they pass the basket to the next person in their group.

SAY: I need something...

- that can cut paper,
- soft to cuddle,
- to use to make art,
- that is your favorite color
- that you can share with a friend.

ASK: Did some items meet the same need? Could more than one need be met by one item?

Water from Rocks

Supplies: plastic tub or kiddie pool, water, assortment of containers, rocks, floor covering (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Fill a plastic tub or kiddie pool with water. You may want to place a tarp or towels under and around the tub or pool.

SAY: Humans need water in order to live. We need water to drink to keep our bodies healthy. We need water to bathe and clean ourselves. But water is also fun to watch and fun to play with.

ASK: Have you ever been to a place to play with water, like an ocean, lake, beach, or pool?

- Allow children time to play with the water. Observe how they are using the containers and then suggest that they experiment with water displacement by adding rocks to the water.

SAY: God provided water for the people wandering in the wilderness, and it was amazing! The water came out of rocks! Having water in the wilderness allowed the people to keep going, knowing God would provide for them.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, loaf of bread, water, napkins, cups

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Make copies of the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) for each child.

Tip: Be sure to check for any allergies before sharing food with children.

- Gather the children together in a circle.
- Give each child a small piece of bread and a cup of water.

SAY: God provided the Israelites with food and water. Let's have a special snack to help us remember that God provides for us, too.

- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Repeat after me: "God, thank you for providing for our needs. Help us to trust you and ask for help when we need it. Amen."

- Send the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 10 Matching for Manna

Color the squares and cut them out. Use the squares to play a matching game to collect all the manna.

