

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



MIRACLES IN THE WILDERNESS

📖 Exodus 15:1-6,25; Exodus 16:3-8,19-20, 27-30; Exodus 17:6 The people demand food

🎯 Aim: To see how God helped Moses

In today's session we see the wonderful way that God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness. Despite their moaning and complaining, God gave them food and water and reminded them of the importance of rest. We will also think about places in the world where water is difficult to come by and spend time praying for children who walk long distances to collect it.

Each child will need:

- A blue water droplet-shaped paper cut-out
- Pens/pencils
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- A device that counts steps, eg phone, smartwatch or pedometer
- A timer (optional)
- To create a water prayer display (optional) – see Pray It

Start It

🗣 Say: Today's session is all about water. Listen carefully to the clip and see if you can guess what is happening.

Video

Guess the sound water sounds quiz by Guess the Sound (4:29)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsQds6TjROU

Each sound is played and then the answer is revealed. The timings below show the period when the sound is played. These timings should enable you to stop the clip at the appropriate point for the children to guess the sound. It doesn't matter if they don't get the answers spot on, as some of them are tricky. The aim is to recognise that there are many different water sounds we hear in this country.

0:08-0:14	Water pouring
0:22-0:30	Water drop
0:39-0:45	Whisking water
0:54-1:00	Rain water
1:10-1:16	Sea waves
1:25-1:31	Fountain water
1:41-1:46	Splashing
1:55-2:02	Toilet flush
2:12-2:18	Forest water fountain
2:27-3:33	Gargling

2:43-2:49	Drinking water
2:58-3:05	Canoe lake paddling (well done if they guess this one!)
3:14-3:20	Heavy rain on a lake
3:29-3:36	Swimming in a lake
3:45-3:51	Submarine sonar
4:01-4:06	Sinking in the sea

Sing It

Say: Let's share our memory verse together that reminds us that God is always with us.

Memory verse

'You will only need to remain calm. The Lord will fight for you.'

— (Exodus 14:14 *ICB*)

Say: Today's song reminds us of the way God led Moses and his people through the wilderness.

'God will guide us' HLA Wilderness Escape VBS by Lifetree Kids (2:34)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQUNBTTdSd4

Tell It

Ask: Can you remember what happened to the Israelites in our last session?

Say: After spending years as slaves in Egypt, God had set them free. To celebrate, Moses and the Israelites sang together. It's quite a long song, but here are a few verses.

Read:

'Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

"I will sing to the Lord

because he is worthy of great honour.

He has thrown the horse and its rider

into the sea.

The Lord gives me strength and makes me sing.

He has saved me.

He is my God,

and I will praise him.

He is the God of my ancestors,

and I will honour him.

The Lord is a great warrior.

The Lord is his name.

The chariots and soldiers of the king of Egypt

he has thrown into the sea.

The king's best officers

are drowned in the Red Sea.

The deep waters covered them.

They sank to the bottom like a rock.

Your right hand, Lord,

is amazingly strong.

Lord, your right hand

broke the enemy into pieces."

— (Exodus 15:1-6 *ICB*)

Say: God looked after the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness. Despite all the celebrations it didn't take long for the Israelites to start complaining about how hungry they were. Let's recap what we discovered last session and see how God provided food for the people.

Video

God provided manna by The Gospel Project – uploaded by Jesus City (2:59)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLZTILOfJ1U

Watch: 0:00 to 1:44. 'The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, the whole time they were in the wilderness.'

Discuss:

- What were the Israelites complaining about? Where did they say they would rather be?
- How do you think Moses felt when he heard the people complaining again?
- What food did God provide for the Israelites, and what were the rules about eating it?
- What does 'manna' mean?
- In what ways did the Israelites break God's rules? Why do you think they did this?

Say: God had provided the Israelites with food, but now they started to complain about something else.

Watch: 1:44 to 2:59.

Discuss:

- What were the Israelites complaining to Moses about now? What had they forgotten?
- What did God tell Moses to do? What happened?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw this miracle?

Say: God provided the people with food and water to keep them strong and safe.

Ask: What other thing did he insist that they do once a week?

Read:

'On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather food, but they couldn't find any. Then the Lord said to Moses, "How long will all you people refuse to obey my commands and teachings? Look, the Lord has made the Sabbath a day of rest for all of you. So on the sixth day he will give you enough food for two days. But on the Sabbath each of you must stay where you are. Do not leave your house." So the people rested on the Sabbath.'

— (Exodus 16:27-30 ICB)

Ask:

- What three things did God provide for the people?
- How are these three things important to our health and wellbeing today?

Action It

Discuss

Ask the children if they like to drink water. Discuss their answers. Some might only like to drink it with ice, others might like to add juice to it, or some might not like drinking water at all. For those who do not like drinking water, would they give it a try if they had nothing else to drink? Talk about how easy it is for people in this country to access water compared to other places across the globe.

Say: On 12 August it is International Youth Day, and young people across the globe will be raising awareness of issues that impact their age group. In our Bible story today the Israelites struggled to find water. Many children across the world have to walk long distances to find water for their families to drink.

To get an idea of how far they have to walk, we are going to have a go ourselves. For this activity, you will need a phone, smartwatch or pedometer to count steps. Explain to the children that they are going to walk one kilometre together. They can either do this on the spot or walk around the room. On average, it takes an adult roughly 1,200 to 1,500 steps to walk one kilometre. As the group leader, you can decide how many steps the group needs to complete, and monitor it using your phone, smartwatch or pedometer.

Children who are unable to complete the walking part of this activity can time how long it takes for the group to walk one kilometre. They can then calculate how long it would take to collect water that is 10km and 50km away and share their findings with the group.

Watch the clip below and discuss some of the issues raised. Compare the distance they walked to some of the distances mentioned in the clip and the quality of the water many children have to drink at the end of their journey.

Video

How far would you walk to find clean drinking water? by UNICEF (1:57)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRXmG1nBKIA

Pray It

Water prayers

Provide an opportunity for the children to pray for those in the world who struggle to find clean and safe water. Give each child a water droplet-shaped piece of blue paper. On each water droplet the children can write their own prayer.

If you have an appropriate space you could turn the water droplets into a display, placing a large silver tap at the top of the display board. The children's prayers could be displayed in a communal area at church, with additional water droplets provided for the wider church to write their prayers.

Alternatively, the children could take their water droplet prayer home to pray each day over the coming week.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

AUGUST
SESSION 02

MIRACLES IN THE WILDERNESS

📖 Exodus 15:1-6,25; Exodus 16:3-8,19-20, 27-30; Exodus 17:6 The people demand food

🎯 Aim: To see how God helped Moses

FOR ME



Rest

In this week's story we discovered how much importance God places on rest.

During this week, try and find regular times to be quiet, be still and rest with God.

TOGETHER



Walk

In this week's session we discovered that children in Somalia often have to walk 10 kilometres to access water. This is around 6.2 miles and 12,000 steps.

Arrange a walk with the people at home to cover the same distance many children must travel to find water. When the walk is over, discuss together what it must feel like to have to do that walk every day.



Song for the week

'God will guide us' HLA Wilderness
Escape VBS by Lifetree Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQUNBTTdSd4



Memory verse

'You will only need to remain calm.
The Lord will fight for you.'

— (Exodus 14:14 ICB)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

