



God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

God shows his love for children through many people in their lives. A hug from a parent and a kiss from a grandparent are just two ways God’s love comes into children’s lives. Your 5- and 6-year-olds can easily make the connection that love from people who care for them is a way that God’s love flows to them. Use this lesson to help kids understand that God uses people they see every day to show how much he cares for them.



► Bible Point


God always loves us.

Key Verse

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want” (Psalm 23:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will recognize some of the ways God shows his love for them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcoming Song</p> <p>Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p>	<p>CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Giver of Good Things</p> <p>Find hidden pictures of things they need.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, “Giving Game” cards</p> 	<p>Hide the “Giving Game” cards around the room. Make sure they’re located where kids will be able to find them, but not too easily.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo’s News</p> <p>Find out what paper cups have to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, paper cups</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Place the paper cups in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Rockin’ Water Splash</p> <p>See water come from a rock.</p>	<p>Bible, baking pan, rocks, water balloon, wooden skewer, action figure</p>	<p>Fill a water balloon $\frac{2}{3}$ full of water, and place it in a baking pan. Cover the balloon with rocks to create a mountain-like shape—be careful not to pop the balloon. Leave a small area accessible.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Water to Drink Paint pictures of rocks to make water appear.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers, paintbrushes, water, cups, blue drink mix	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Not Another Water Trick Understand how God’s miracle showed his love.</p>	water, one 6-inch piece of yarn per child, cups, salt, ice cubes	Use larger ice cubes. This will work best if the ice cubes aren’t melting before they stick to the yarn.
	<p>Center 3: “We’re So Thirsty” Relay Crawl across the room for water.</p>	1 cup of water per child, rocks	
	<p>Center 4: Loving Reflection Talk about how they see God’s love in their lives, and have a quiet time of reflection.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>“Love” Prayer Show acts of love as a form of prayer to God.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're So Glad"
(track 11), "Psalm 23"
(track 4)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song


 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "We're So Glad" (track 11 on the CD).

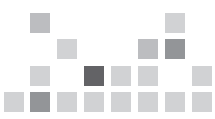
 **We're so glad you've come**
Into God's house today, (*shake hands with a friend*)
Into God's house today, (*high five a friend*)
Into God's house today. (*hug a friend*)
We're so glad you've come
Into God's house today. (*pat a friend on the back*)
We'll have fun, fun, fun! (*jump for each use of the word "fun"*)
(Repeat 2 times.)

Say: I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn about the way God loves and that
 ► **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.** Let's sing a song about ways God shows us love.
 Lead children in doing the motions and singing "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD).

 **The Lord is my shepherd.** (*walk in a circle, following one another*)
The Lord is my shepherd. (*walk in a circle, following one another*)
The Lord is my shepherd. (*walk in a circle, following one another*)
The Lord is my shepherd. (*walk in a circle, following one another*)
The Lord is my shepherd. (*walk in a circle, following one another*)

I shall not be in want. (*shake finger "no"*)
He makes me lie down in green pastures. (*pretend to sleep*)
He leads me beside quiet waters. (*ripple fingers as if making flowing water*)
He restores my soul. (*take a deep breath*)
He restores my soul. (*take a deep breath*)

He guides me in paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley (*raise arms to form a valley*)
Of the shadow of death,



I will fear no evil, for you are with me; *(give self a hug)*
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!

You prepare a table before me *(pretend to set the table)*
In the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; *(pretend to pour oil over your head)*
My cup overflows.
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me *(motion for someone to follow you)*
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd. *(walk in a circle, following one another)*
The Lord is my shepherd. *(walk in a circle, following one another)*
The Lord is my shepherd. *(walk in a circle, following one another)*
The Lord is my shepherd. *(walk in a circle, following one another)*

“Psalm 23” by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **When we come to church, we can learn about God and show love to our friends here. Today we’re going to learn that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. No matter what’s going on in our lives, we have God on our side all the time. God did something pretty amazing to provide for the Israelites when they were in the desert. Let’s find out more!**

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Giver of Good Things

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Psalm 23:1, says, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” This means God gives us everything we need no matter what’s going on in our lives. Let’s practice the Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the adapted Key Verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Play “Everything I Need” (track 9 on the CD). As the music plays, have kids search for cards that show something they need.



Giver of Good Things Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Everything I Need” (track 9)
- “Giving Game” cards

Giver of Good Things Easy Prep

Hide the “Giving Game” cards around the room. Make sure they’re located where kids will be able to find them, but not too easily.





Once kids have each found one card, have them sit in a circle on the floor. Say: **Take turns telling us a few words about the card you found. Explain how God's given that thing to you.** Allow several answers.

If there are more cards (there are 20 total) that haven't been found, let kids find the rest, helping them if necessary. Repeat the sharing experience for the remainder of the cards.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do these pictures show God loves you by giving you what you need?
- Tell about a time you needed love.

Say: **It's good to know God loves us and gives us everything we need. With each way God takes care of us, we can remember that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. Let's hear how God loved and took care of his people in the Bible.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! What have you been up to this week?

Theo: I decided to learn a new trick called stacking. I'm not super good yet, but I want to learn so bad! Check out the Surprise Box to see what I mean.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the paper cups around the circle so everyone can see them up close.)

Theo: I saw this video on my mom's phone where people were stacking cups all fast and amazing. It made me want to learn to do that so I can show my mom and let her know I love her. Want to see me try?

(Pause for kids to respond to Theo. Then have Theo do his best to stack the cups but knock them over.)

Teacher: Theo, I think if you keep trying, you'll get better. I'd bet the people you saw on your mom's phone took a long time to learn their new skill. There are lots of ways to use paper cups! These paper cups are a clue about what we'll be learning from the Bible today. Does anyone have any ideas?

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
paper cups

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the paper cups in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.



(Pause for kids to answer your question. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Teacher: We'll be learning about a time Moses and the Israelites were very thirsty and needed a drink, but there was no water anywhere. God did something amazing and took care of his thirsty people in the desert.

Theo: Wow! God must've loved his people a lot.

Teacher: Yes, he did. And ► **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US**, too.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls. I have to go practice my cup-stacking skills!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you wanted to impress someone the way Theo wanted to impress his mom.
- What do you think is the best way to show people that you love them?
- Which people in your life help you remember that God loves you? Explain.

Say: Theo helped us find out about today's Bible passage. God did some big things to show the Israelites that he loved them. He did everything possible to show them he loved them so much that he would do impossible things to care for them. ► **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US**, and we can trust him to be there for us in everything we face.

Bible Time: Rockin' Water Splash

What You'll Do ■■■■

Set the baking pan with the rocks and balloon in the middle of your group. Sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Exodus 17:1-7, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Last week we learned that God provided food for the Israelites and that God gives us what we need. The Bible tells us that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.**

Before you read the passage summary below to the children, explain that they'll hear the words "The Israelites said..." Each time they hear these words, they'll respond by saying, "We're so thirsty." Practice this a few times before you begin reading.

Say: **The Israelites had been traveling a long time. They were hot and tired and very cranky. They were also very thirsty because the place where they were camping didn't have any water. At all.**

All day the Israelites said...(children respond). **They got angry at Moses, and the Israelites said...**(children respond).



Bible Time: Rockin' Water Splash Supplies

- Bible
- baking pan
- rocks
- water balloon
- wooden skewer
- action figure

Bible Time: Rockin' Water Splash Easy Prep

Fill a water balloon $\frac{2}{3}$ full of water, and place it in a baking pan. Cover the balloon with rocks to create a mountain-like shape—be careful not to pop the balloon. Leave a small area accessible.

! BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.



Say: **Moses felt bad and didn't know what to do. He asked the Israelites, "Why are you so angry with me?" But the people wanted to be grumpy. *The Israelites said...*** (children respond).

So Moses asked God, "What can I do for these people? I'm afraid they might hurt me if I don't give them something to drink." Choose a willing child to hold the wooden skewer. This child will be Moses. Have the other kids tell "Moses" they're thirsty.

Say: **God heard when *the Israelites said...*** (children respond). **God told Moses to take his walking stick and hit the rock in front of him. So Moses did what God told him to do.** Ask Moses to poke the rock pile with the wooden skewer. Help Moses poke through the rocks if that's difficult. Say: **When Moses hit the rock, lots of water came out of the rock!**

The Israelites were thankful because God gave them water that came out of the rocks. God gave the Israelites everything they needed because he loved them.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What surprised you about "Moses" poking the rock today?**
- **Describe what it's like to be really thirsty.**
- **What was your reaction the last time someone gave you water when you were really thirsty?**
- **Explain whether that reaction is like or unlike your reaction to God's love for you.**

Say: **The pile of rocks that we had sure had a lot of water in them. God made the rock in the Bible give enough water for all of the Israelites to have enough to drink. That's a lot of water! God showed his love and care for the Israelites by giving them water when they needed it. ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US and cares for us, too! We can be thankful and follow God's directions for us when God shows us his love. We can love God, too.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.



CENTER 1:

Water to Drink

What You'll Do

Say: **God made water come out of a rock just to show his love for his people. He could have led them to a lake, but instead he did something amazing and reminded them that he was taking care of them. Let's paint some delicious water for the Israelites to help us remember what God did.**

Distribute the My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Then give kids paintbrushes and small cups containing ½ teaspoon of blue powdered-drink mix and 1 teaspoon of water. Encourage the children to paint water onto the rocks on their pages. As the children paint, say: **The Israelites didn't seem to remember that God loved them. They whined and complained about being thirsty. God did something amazing to provide for their needs. God loved the Israelites very much, and ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, too.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think of the Israelites' complaining?
- Tell about the last time you complained about something.
- What's one thing you can do instead of complaining next time?

Say: **It makes God sad when we whine and complain like the Israelites did, but ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. We can make God happy when we treat each other nicely and are thankful to God for the ways he shows us love. God provides for our needs, gives us our families, and helps us each day. We can show him love, too.**

CENTER 2:

Not Another Water Trick

What You'll Do

Say: **God did impossible things with lots of water to take care of his people. To help you remember the impossible things God did with water, we're going to do something really unusual with water, too.**

Gather kids around a table. Distribute a cup of water and a piece of yarn to each child. Help kids each put ice in their water. Say: **Try to pick up the ice cubes using your yarn.** Allow a few minutes for kids to try to tie the yarn to their ice cubes.

Set the salt in the middle of the table. Say: **Set the end of your piece of yarn on top of the ice cube.** Demonstrate how to generously sprinkle salt on top of the ice cube and



Center 1: Water to Drink Supplies

My Bible Playground washable markers
paintbrushes
water
cups
blue drink mix

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 1: Water to Drink Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Center 2: Not Another Water Trick Supplies

water
one 6-inch piece of yarn per child
cups
salt
ice cubes

Center 2: Not Another Water Trick Easy Prep

Use larger ice cubes. This will work best if the ice cubes aren't melting before they stick to the yarn.



Center 3: “We’re So Thirsty” Relay Supplies

1 cup of water per child
rocks

yarn. Say: **Count to eight, and then lift the yarn and ice out of the water together.** Make sure kids don’t submerge the ice cubes but just rest the yarn gently on top of the cubes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to try to pick up the ice in different ways?
- Tell about a time you needed help to do something.
- How does God’s love help you when you can’t do things on your own?

Say: **The salt helped the ice cubes stick to the yarn. The salt was like God. ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US and gives us what we need. God gave the thirsty (and whiny) Israelites water to drink, and he’ll help us because he loves us, too. We can trust God’s love for us and know that he’ll be with us all the time.**

■ CENTER 3:

“We’re So Thirsty” Relay

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s do a relay to remind us about God’s love for us. God made water come out of a dry old rock for the Israelites, and he’ll take care of us, too.**

Have the children form two lines. Set cups of water on the opposite side of the room from the two teams. Explain that the kids will pretend to be the thirsty Israelites and will crawl on their bellies to the cups of water. After each child drinks, he or she will shout “Thank you, God!” and walk joyfully back to join the entire group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to get to the water?
- How do you know God loves you even if things are difficult?

Say: **When you drink water, you can remember that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US and gives us everything we need. God cares for us by providing everything we need. We can thank God for all the amazing ways he takes care of us, just like the Israelites were able to thank God for meeting their needs.**

CENTER 4:

Loving Reflection

What You'll Do

Say: **God did miraculous things to take care of the Israelites, and he is still taking care of us today. Take some time to think about the ways God takes care of you. Maybe you notice that your home is warm and safe or that you have good food to eat each day, or maybe you're thankful for the love of your family. Take a few minutes to quietly talk to God and thank him for those things.**

Create a quiet, reflective atmosphere. Dim the lights in the room, and ask kids to find a quiet space to be alone. Say: **Think about areas of your life in which God has provided for you. Take a few minutes to think about those areas of your life and thank God for how he's provided for your needs.** Play "The Heart of the Matter" (track 24 on the CD), and allow time for kids to pray.

After about 30 seconds, pause the CD and say: **God provides for your needs because he loves you. God made our entire big world, and he loves you so much that he knows how many hairs you have on your head. Find a partner, and talk about the ways God loves you.** Play the CD again, and allow the song to finish.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be thankful for things you don't normally think about?
- What are you most thankful for?
- Tell some ways others help you see God's love.

Say: **God loves each of you, and he takes care of your needs. No matter what's going on in your life, you can be sure that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, just as he loved the Israelites and took care of their needs. We can be thankful and show God our love in return for the love he shows us.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.



Center 4: Loving Reflection Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "The Heart of the Matter" (track 24)

Daily Challenges Supplies

- My Bible Playground
- washable markers



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives throughout the week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice having a thankful heart.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Write a note to your grandma and grandpa, and tell them that you love them and that God loves you.**
2. **Play with dolls or action figures, and act out ways God shows his love for you every day.**
3. **Help your mom or dad make dinner for your family. When your family eats, remind them that God gives you the food you eat because he loves each of you.**

Say: **If you want to write a note, circle choice number 1. If you want to play with dolls or action figures, circle choice number 2. If you want to help make dinner, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Love” Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids stand in a circle and follow the motions as you read the following prayer.

Pray: **Dear God,**

Thank you for loving us. *(have kids give themselves a hug)*

You give us good things. *(pretend to open a present)*

We're glad you love us, and we love you, too. *(reach hands into the middle of the circle and say “We love God!” as they raise their hands together)*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.