

References

Numbers 20:1-13;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 411-421



Memory Verse

"Trust in the LORD
forever, for the LORD
... is the Rock eternal"
(Isaiah 26:4).

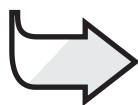


Objectives

The children will:
Know that we
worship God when we
trust Him.

Feel a desire to
trust God.

Respond by
asking God to help
them trust Him.



The Message

We worship God
when we trust Him.

Water From a Rock?

Monthly Theme

We worship the Creator.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Israelites arrive at the Desert of Zin, and again they have no water. They grumble and blame Moses and Aaron, who take the problem to God. God tells Moses to speak to a large rock and water will pour out. Moses is angry at the people for murmuring and instead of speaking, he strikes the rock twice with his staff. God tells Moses and Aaron that they will not lead the Israelites into the Promised Land because they did not honor Him before the people.

This is a lesson about worship.

Trusting God is an act of worship. Too often people try to solve their problems on their own, without taking them to God or following His guidance given through Scripture. They trust themselves more than they trust God. Those who trust God and His Word above their own ideas are happier and are honoring and worshipping God.

Teacher Enrichment

The rock that provided water for the Israelites in the wilderness represented Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). This incident took place at the end of the wilderness wandering, after 40 years in the desert. For many years the stream had gushed out near the place where they would camp. "Just before the Hebrew host reached Kadesh, the living stream ceased [flowing]. . . . It was the Lord's purpose again to test His people. . . ."

"They were now in sight of the hills of Canaan. A few days' march would bring them to the borders of the Promised Land" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 413, 414).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	<i>A. Falling</i> <i>B. Trust Walk</i>	none Bible, chairs, tables, etc., for an obstacle course; blindfolds for half of the group
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering basket, medium-sized rock rock, markers, sticky notes
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	"rock wall" made from garbage bags stuffed with newspaper, wading pool, brown plastic garbage bags, garden hose attached to a faucet or a jug of water, Bible-times costumes, rod or walking stick, six rocks Bible Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>A. Magnet Object Lesson</i> <i>B. Scenarios</i> <i>C. Trusting the "Rock"</i>	Bible, magnets and steel paper clips, none Bible, rock from offering basket
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Memory Verse on the Rock</i> <i>Closing</i>	Bible, large smooth rock for each child, permanent markers in bright colors empty basin or shallow pan, pitcher of water

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share an experience from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Falling

Ask for a volunteer to come up front. When he/she does ask, **If I ask you to fall straight back from a standing position, would you do it?** (If the child says yes, then ask him/her if that is something most people would do.) (Probably not.) **Why?** (They may be afraid of hurting themselves.) **If I told you there was someone willing to catch you, would you do it then?** (Yes) **What if I told you that the person who is going to catch you is a 2-year-old? Would you do it then?** (Probably not) **What if I told you that the person going to catch you was your parent or me? Would you do it then?** (Yes, maybe) **Would you like to try?** If the child decides to try, have him/her fall back and catch that child. After that, ask for others who might like to try. Give as many students as you are able a chance to try.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does it feel to fall backwards?** (Scary, OK, fun) **What makes it scary for some people?** (They are afraid they'll hurt themselves, they can't see what is behind them) **Who knows all about our lives, even the things that haven't happened yet?** (God) **So does it make sense to trust Him** (Yes) **Let's read this verse that tells us one good reason we should trust God.** Read aloud Jeremiah 29:11. **This verse encourages us to trust God. When we trust God, that is one way of worshipping Him. Our message reminds us of this.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible
- chairs and tables, etc., for an obstacle course
- blindfolds for half of the group

B. Trust Walk

Design an obstacle course or maze using chairs, tables, etc. Divide the class into pairs. Blindfold one of each pair and let the child attempt the obstacle course without help. After the child bumps into a few things, have the him or her start over, this time with the partner giving directions. Switch partners and repeat.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easier to walk the obstacle course by yourself or with your partner to help you? Was it easy to trust your partner to give you good directions? How is this like trusting God?** Read aloud Proverbs 3:5, 6. **How long should we**

trust in God? Read aloud Isaiah 26:4. **Trusting God is one way we worship Him. That is what our message tells us.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Songs

- "Trust and Obey" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 113)
- "Teach Me, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 110)
- "Trust in the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 111)
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize how someone trusted God.



Offering

Collect the offering in an offering basket with a medium-sized rock in the bottom. Say: **Our Bible story today is a "rock story" that teaches us always to trust God. We give our offerings to thank God for taking care of us. And we help God to help other people learn to trust Him.**

You Need:

- offering basket with medium-sized rock in bottom



Prayer

Have each child write or draw something for which to thank God. Have them come and stick their note to the rock, stand in a circle around the rock, and ask God to accept their thanks and praise and their trust in Him.

You Need:

- rock
- markers
- sticky notes

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- garbage bags stuffed with newspaper
- wading pool
- brown plastic garbage bags
- jug of water or a garden hose attached to a faucet
- Bible-times costumes
- rod or walking stick
- six rocks

Experiencing the Story

Special Effects: Find a way for water to unexpectedly pour out when Moses hits the “rock.” You might set up the wading pool on the floor and add garbage bags stuffed with newspaper to form a rock wall. Cover all with brown plastic garbage bags. Arrange ahead to have someone who is concealed among the “rocks” pour a jug of water. (Options:) Go outside for the story where a hose is more easily set up or concealed. Or tell the story around a sandbox. The water could come from a concealed bottle. At the appropriate time, have Moses hit the “rock” with the walking stick.

Costumes: Dress the children in Bible-times costumes.

Characters: Moses, Aaron, the people (use the whole class)

Instruct the children as follows:

When you say: **The students:**

Water	Make a pouring action.
Complain/grumble/mumble	Say: “I’m thirsty” in an unhappy voice.

Read or tell the story.

The Israelite people were out of **water**—again (*pouring action*). So they started **complaining** (*I’m thirsty*) to Moses—again. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this desert?” they **grumbled** (*I’m thirsty*). “There’s nothing good to eat here, and there’s no **water** [*pouring action*] to drink!” They didn’t **mumble** (*I’m thirsty*) about this once or

twice but over and over, their voices growing louder and louder.

How many times had Moses heard that? In fact, the people had **complained** (*I’m thirsty*) about having no **water** (*pouring action*) 40 years before. At that time God had told Moses to strike the rock and **water** (*pouring action*) had gushed out. Gallons and gallons of **water** (*pouring action*). And it kept pouring out from the rock as long as the people were there.

So here they were again with a **water** (*pouring action*) problem. The people, instead of trusting God to care for their needs, **grumbled** and **complained** (*I’m thirsty*). And Moses, as he always did when he had a problem, turned to God for help. God told Moses to take his staff—his walking stick—call his brother Aaron, and gather all the people together.

“Speak to that rock before their eyes,” God said, “and it will pour out its **water**” (Numbers 20:8) (*pouring action*).

Moses had been patient for a long, long time. But after 40 years of listening to the Israelites **grumble** (*I’m thirsty*), he was fed up. He was angry. He was tired. He was probably hot and thirsty too. Whatever the reason, he forgot how patient God had been with him all the years of his life. He forgot how *forgiving* and *gentle* and *caring* God had been.

“Listen, you rebels, must we bring you **water** (*pouring action*) out of this rock?” Moses yelled at the people. Then he raised his arm and hit the rock twice with his staff. Sure enough, **water** (*pouring action*) gushed out. The people were happy. They rushed forward to reach the **water** (*pouring action*).

But almost immediately God gently spoke to Moses. “Moses, you did not trust Me. Not even enough to honor Me as

holy in the sight of the Israelites,” God said. “You will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

And immediately Moses realized what he had done. He had forgotten to trust God, just as the people had. He had forgotten God’s saving grace—His patience, love, and forgiveness. Moses had even forgotten for a moment that it was God who sent the **water** (*pouring action*) and that he was only God’s helper.

After 40 years of struggle and waiting, Moses and Aaron would not enter the Promised Land and enjoy its rest. We have learned that we worship God when we honor Him, when we obey Him, and when we praise Him. God also wants us to remember that we worship Him when we trust Him.

Debriefing

In a basket, place six smooth rocks, each with a different number written on it, each number representing a question below. Have the children select a rock and say the number. The children listen to the question for their number and call on someone to answer it or answer it themselves.

1. Why were the people grumbling?
2. Had God ever let any of the people die of thirst?
3. If God always cared for the people, why were they grumbling?
4. How did the people make Moses feel with their grumbling?
5. Why was Moses not allowed to go into the Promised Land?
6. What happened when Moses struck the rock?

Answer Key: 1. There was no water. 2. No. 3. They forgot how good God was to them; they did not trust Him. 4. They made Moses angry. 5. Because he did not trust God; he did not honor God before the people; he disobeyed God. 6. Water flowed out.

Ask: **How do you feel when you remember to trust God?** (peaceful, happy, not afraid, etc.) **Let’s say the message together:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

Memory Verse

Read aloud Isaiah 26:4. (**“Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD . . . is the Rock eternal.”**) Then learn the verse by playing Scripture Echoes.

You repeat words and phrases from the verses and the children echo you. (“Trust [*trust*] in the Lord [*in the Lord*] forever [*forever*], for the Lord [*for the Lord*] . . . is the Rock eternal [*is the Rock eternal*].”)

Bible Study

Say: **Let’s look in our Bibles and find some other verses about trusting God.** Adult helpers assist as needed. All children find and read the same verse. Large class: Form groups of five or six. Have the verses read aloud:

Psalms 56:3 Psalm 62:8 Proverbs 3:5
Isaiah 12:2 Isaiah 26:3

Debriefing

Ask: **How do we know that we can trust God?** (He has promised to be with us. He has shown His care for others. We have read about His care for people in the Bible. We have experienced His care, or someone in our family has.) **What do you think about knowing that God watches over you, and you can trust Him in every situation?** (good, positive, glad, grateful, happy, etc.) **Trusting God is another way of worshipping Him, and that’s what our message teaches us. Let’s say it together:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

You Need:

• Bible

You Need:

• Bibles

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bible
- magnets
- steel paper clips

A. Magnet Object Lesson

Make a chain with steel paper clips and stick one end to one of the magnets. Take another magnet and tell the children you want to move the magnet with the paper clip chain behind it. Put the magnets in the position where they will repel instead of sticking. Ask the children to give you suggestions, then do it the right way.

Debriefing

Ask: If you have been disobedient, do you want to be near the one you disobeyed? Does obedience to God make you want to be in His presence, giving Him worship? Read aloud Proverbs 3:5, 6.

If we have a close relationship with God, it is easier to trust in Him. How do we develop that close relationship with God? Allow discussion time. Let's remember our message:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

B. Scenarios

Ask the children to role-play or discuss the following two scenarios:

1. You want to learn the words to a new song. You read them over once and decide to practice it tomorrow. A week goes by before you remember about the song. You sing it through once and then you go out to play. Two weeks later you read all the words to the song all the way through once; then you talk to your friend on the telephone. The next day you tell a friend you want to sing the song along with her, but you can't remember the words!

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think went wrong?** (You did not concentrate on learning the song.)

What do you think would have worked? (To keep singing it until you learn it.)

What do you think would happen if we communicated with God only once in a while? (We would not know Him well, and probably wouldn't learn to trust Him.)

2. Your grandparents ask you to go with them to run some errands and visit their friend who is sick. You don't really want to go, so you make up a story about something you need to do. You find out later that they knew you made up the story.

Debriefing

Ask: **How will you feel next time you see your grandparents if neither of you mention it?** (embarrassed, don't want to talk, etc.) **If you are very close to your grandparents and used to talking about things with them, will it be easier to talk about it?** (Yes.) **How would you feel about talking with God when you've done something wrong if you don't feel close to Him?** (would not trust Him, would not want to talk to Him)

Say: **Trust is important in all our relationships, but especially in our relationship with God. Trusting God is one way we worship Him. Let's say our message together.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

C. Trusting the “Rock”

Have the children sit in a circle. Read aloud Isaiah 26:4. Take the rock out of the offering basket and pass it around the circle.

As each child receives the rock, invite him/her to tell something for which they trust God (for example, “I trust God to give me food”).

Debriefing

Ask: **What does it take to trust**

someone? (good past experiences with that person) **What makes us sure we can trust God?** (The Bible tells many stories that show we can trust God; our personal experiences, etc.) **How will you trust God this week? When and where will you trust Him? Can you trust Him in every situation? Let’s say our message together.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE TRUST HIM.

You Need:

- Bible
- rock from offering basket

4

Sharing the Lesson

Memory Verse on the Rock

Supply a large, smooth rock and a brightly colored marker for each child. Have each child write the memory verse on a rock. (Adult helpers assist as needed.)

If there is room, encourage the children to decorate their rocks. The children can take their rocks home and show them to their family. Later they may want to give them to someone for a gift. Tell them to tell that person the memory verse (Isaiah 26:4) as the rock is given away. Also, say that this gift is to remind the one receiving it to trust in the Rock (Jesus).

You Need:

- Bible
- large, smooth rock for each child
- permanent markers in bright colors

Debriefing

Ask: **What does the memory verse mean when it refers to the Lord as “the Rock eternal”?** (God is strong; He doesn’t change; He can support us, etc.) **How does having God as your rock make you feel?** (happy, confident, etc.) **When you feel worried about something, what will you do?** (Speak to the Rock [God] and ask Him to help you.)

Closing

Invite each child to come to you and pour a little water in the basin while they name a blessing they have received from God. When each child has had a turn, have the children stand in a circle while you thank God for pouring out His blessings on them. Ask God to help the children continue to trust Him to furnish His blessings every day.

You Need:

- empty basin or shallow pan
- pitcher of water

Water From a Rock?

References

Numbers 20:1-13;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 411-421

Memory Verse

"Trust in the LORD
forever, for the LORD
... is the Rock
eternal"
(Isaiah 26:4).

The Message

We worship God
when we trust Him.

*Have you ever run out of water?
Imagine how thirsty you would be! You'd
probably be upset and cranky.*

*Years ago God told Moses to lead the
Israelites out of Egypt. Moses did, but they
had a water problem. This is how it hap-
pened.*

The Israelites were out of water—again. So they started complaining to Moses—again. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this desert?" they grumbled. "There's nothing good to eat here. And there's no water to drink!" They didn't mumble about this just once or twice. Again and again they complained, their voices growing louder and louder.

How many times had Moses heard that? In fact, the people had complained about having no water 40 years earlier. At that time God had told Moses to strike the rock, and water had gushed out. Gallons and gallons of water had poured out, and it kept pouring out from the rock as long as the people were there.

So here they were again without water. Instead of trusting God to care for their needs, they grumbled and complained. And Moses, as he always did, turned to God for help. God told Moses to take his staff—his walking stick—

and call his brother, Aaron. Then they were to gather all the people together.

"Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water," God said. (See Numbers 20:6-8.)

Moses had been patient for a long, long time. But after 40 years of listening to the Israelites grumble, he'd had enough. He was angry. He was tired of their grumbling and complaining. Once more they were showing that they did not trust God. Moses was so irritated that he forgot that it was God who had caused all the miracles to happen. God had caused the water to flow out of the rock 40 years before. Only God could cause it to flow again. But Moses forgot. He felt he was the one who would make the water come from the rock.

"Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Moses yelled at the people. But he didn't speak to the rock as God had commanded. He raised his arm and hit the rock twice with his staff. And God made the water gush out.

Moses may have felt quite pleased with himself for a moment. He'd probably wanted to yell at the people for a long time. And it may have felt good to hit that rock. But Moses had given the impression that the power to make the water flow had come from him and Aaron. So God was dishonored. If Moses had obeyed, it would have reminded the people that although Moses was their leader, he got all his instructions from God.

Then God spoke again in His calm, gentle voice. "Moses, you did not trust Me. Not even enough to honor Me as holy in the sight of the Israelites," God said. "Because of that, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

Immediately Moses realized what he had done. He, too, had forgotten to trust God. He had forgotten for a moment who was really leading Israel.



For 40 years Moses and Aaron had struggled in the wilderness. For 40 years they had led God's people. But Moses and Aaron could not go into the Promised Land. The Israelites had to learn that whoever their leader was, that person had to trust God completely and obey all of God's instructions.

God wants us to honor and worship Him. He wants us to trust Him. He wants us to know that He will be with us every day. We worship Him when we do as He asks. And we worship Him when we trust His leading.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- God created a waterfall when He provided water from the rock. If possible, sit near a waterfall and read the Bible lesson with your family. Find and read Isaiah 26:4 together.
- Ask everyone to tell about a time they were discouraged. Did they trust God to help them? What happened? Ask God to help you trust Him more.

Sunday

- Read together Numbers 20:1-13. With the help of a family member, search the Internet or a book to find out why water is so important. List at least five things that your body uses water for. Find or draw pictures of someone without enough water to drink and someone who's had enough.
- Cut some rock shapes from cards or heavy paper. Print a word of the memory verse on each "rock." (Get help, if you need it.) Scramble the "rocks," then put them in order and read the verse to your family.

Monday

- Discuss these questions in family worship: In what situation might you grumble? If you don't like something, what should you do? Read the following verses together: James 5:9; Psalm 142:1, 2; Psalm 37:7; Matthew 18:15; Proverbs 24:6.
- Arrange your memory verse "rocks." Read the memory verse aloud five times.

Tuesday

- In worship today, ask everyone to remember the last time they were angry. Have them tell what they did. Discuss: Why did Moses suffer so greatly because of his anger? (Read Numbers 20:12 together.)

- Put your memory verse rock cards in order, then say the verse for your family.

Wednesday

- At family worship, make a list of people you trust most, starting with the most at the top. Which of the people on the list are closer to you? Does trusting help you be closer to someone? Read and discuss Proverbs 16:20 together.
- Say your memory verse to your family.

Thursday

- During worship, find Kadesh on a Bible map. Have someone find its distance from Canaan. Measure this distance from your house to a town nearby.
- Tell your family this week's Bible story in your own words. What lessons did you learn from this story?
- Read Proverbs 3:5 together. Then sing "Trust in the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 111).
- Show the memory verse rock you made in Sabbath School. Recite the memory verse to the person you show it to.

Friday

- During family worship, play "leading the blind." Before worship starts, help set up an obstacle course somewhere inside or outside your home. When worship starts, blindfold half of your family members. Ask the others to be helpers. Each "helper" will lead the blindfolded partner through the obstacle course. Ask, "Did you trust your 'helper'? What Helper can you trust most?" Read Psalm 118:6, 7 together. Ask your family to repeat the verse with you.
- Show the memory verse rock you made in Sabbath School last week. Give each person a rock to hold. Then ask them to tell one way they can trust in God.