



Provider – Lesson 3

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is Provider

Heart Response: Trust him

Memory Verse: Exodus 14:13a NLT

But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God has a plan for his people.
2. God provides for his people.
3. God knows exactly what we need.
4. God wants us to trust him and not be afraid.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Over the next four weeks we are going to be teaching about Moses and how God protected, called, used, and empowered Moses to accomplish a very important task—bringing his people, the Israelites, out of slavery in Egypt and into the land God wanted them to live. If you read through Exodus, you will see that Moses was just a man like us, but he was called to a task that in his own power, he would never have been able to accomplish. Moses was not perfect. He murdered a man, was a fugitive for over forty years, married someone outside his faith, was afraid to do what God asked him to do, he had a problem with speaking, and was not initially accepted by the people he was sent to help. It is only through God’s power that Moses was successful in his assignment. Even though he did finally bring the Israelites into the Promised Land, it was not without many setbacks. Each of us, if we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior, has been called to accomplish something that in our own power, we would not be able to do. Most of us will at some point react in similar ways to Moses. We will be afraid, rebellious, insecure, and prideful. Through the life of Moses, God is teaching us that only by trusting him, depending on him and stepping out in faith will we be able to do anything valuable in his kingdom. He will provide the strength, the

words, and the power to do the work he has for us to do.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Crossing the Red Sea

Supplies:

Piece of rope (approximately 5 feet long) (1 per bin)

Pick two helpers to hold the rope across an open space in the room about one foot from the floor. Have the other children line up on one side of the rope. Tell the children the rope is a great big sea of water. Ask them how they would get to the other side of the sea. Have them try to go under it. They can crawl or crab walk under. Have them try to go over it pretending to swim across. Then have the children with the rope take a step or two towards each other so that the rope drops down and touches the floor. Have the children walk

across the rope to the other side. Ask them which was easier. Sometimes God asks us to do difficult things, but he always provides what we need to do them. We will learn about how God provided a way for his people to go across a great big sea.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies:

Bible

Lesson picture: parting the Red Sea (1 per bin)

Let's review our memory verse. "But Moses told the people, 'Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today.'" Exodus 14:13. Now, let's say that verse together. "But Moses told the people, 'Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today.'" Exodus 14:13.

Does anyone remember who our lessons have been about the last two weeks? (Allow time for the children to answer.) Yes, our lessons have been about Moses. Last week we learned how God called Moses to go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and ask him to let his people, the Israelites, go. Moses made many excuses, but he finally said "yes" to God and went to Egypt.

When Moses goes to Pharaoh, Pharaoh does not want to let the Israelites go. They are his slaves and they do many things to help the Egyptian people. Finally after God sends many plagues (bad things) on the Egyptians, Pharaoh tells them they can go. When the Israelites leave

Egypt, God leads them by a pillar of cloud in the daytime and a pillar of fire at nighttime. This is to let God's people know that he is with them and will lead and protect them. After a while, Pharaoh remembers all that the Israelites had done in Egypt to help him and the Egyptian people. He is sorry about losing his slaves. He decides to go after them and bring them back to Egypt.

God leads his people to an area near the Red Sea. Pharaoh calls up his army and takes off after the Israelites with all his horses and chariots with captains over every one of them. When God's people see Pharaoh's army coming, they become very afraid! Moses encourages the people to trust God's plan for them. God tells Moses he will fight for his people. Moses tells the people "Do not be afraid. Stand firm. The Lord will save you today."

Then Moses leads the people toward the Red Sea. God tells Moses to lift up his rod (pretend to lift up a rod in one hand and then reach out with your other like Moses would have) and stretch out his hand over the sea. Do you know what God does next? God causes the sea to divide. God's people cross over the sea on dry ground! Wow, how amazing that must have been to see the Red Sea back up on both sides to make a clear dry path! (Show picture of the parting of the Red Sea.)

After that, God goes behind his people and causes a cloud of darkness to come over the Egyptian army, but gives light to the Israelites. This gives God's people time to pass through the sea. When they cross, God lets Pharaoh's army, including all the chariots and horses, follow his people into the sea. Then God causes the Egyptian army to have trouble with their chariots—the wheels begin to come off and they get very confused. Again, God tells Moses to stretch out his rod over the sea, and God causes the Red Sea to flow over the Egyptian army, horses, and chariots. So God saves his people from the Egyptians.

God provided a way for his people to escape Egypt. He knew what they needed and he saved

them. God also provides for us, so we can trust him and not be afraid.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Lord, thank you for this lesson about how you used Moses. Help us grow to trust you more. Thank you for providing all that we need. Amen.

Part the Red Sea

Supplies:

1/4 piece of brown construction paper (1 per child)
 1/2 sheet blue construction paper (1 per child)
 Moses cutout (1 per child)
 Craft stick (1 per child)
 Fish stickers (3 per child)
 Glue sticks

Have the children glue the brown paper to the middle part of the blue paper so they can still fold the blue paper (water) down and over the “land.” Give the children fish stickers to place on the sea. Have them glue Moses onto a craft stick. Now they can have Moses divide the Red Sea. Remind them that God gave Moses the power to part the Red Sea, which would be impossible for man to do on their own. God provided a way across.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn’t matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children’s hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- What does God use during the day and at night to show his people he is leading them?** (A cloud during the day and a cloud of fire by night.)
- What does God tell Moses to do to get across the Red Sea?** (Raise his staff and hold out his hand over the sea to part the water.)
- Who saves the Israelites from Pharaoh’s army?** (God.)
- What happens to Pharaoh’s army?** (God causes the Red Sea to flow over them.)
- How does knowing that God provides help us?** (We can trust him at all times and not be afraid.)

Pillar Walk

Supplies:

Cloud cutout on a ruler or paint stirrer (1 per bin)
 Flashlight (1 per bin)

Have the children go on a walk around the room following the “pillar of cloud.” When you make it around the room (if the room permits), turn off the lights and say it is night and God will go before us as a pillar of fire (the flashlight) so we can make it safely around the room. When you are finished sit in a circle and read from the bible Exodus 13:21–22. Talk to them about how God was their guide and he wants to be our guide, too. Spend a few minutes sharing and praying with the children about how God can be our guide every day.

