

“Camp Wilderness” - LESSON 3

“Show Me The Way”

Main Focus:

God will guide you through the twists and turns of life.



Power Verse:

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’”

– Psalm 32:8



Whatchagaddaknow:

“If I Follow God, He Will Show Me The Way!”

LEADER’S INFO

In the wilderness, the children of Israel had no idea where they were going. All they knew was God told them He was going to lead them to the Promised Land. How would they get there? Which way should they go?

God didn’t leave them high and dry. In fact, God provided a very miraculous sign for them. He caused a giant pillar of cloud to appear during the day and a giant pillar of fire to appear at night. These pillars led the children of Israel along the path that they were supposed to go.

In this lesson, your kids will learn through the story of the pillars of cloud and fire that God will lead and guide us on our journey IF we allow Him. We can’t insist on navigating ourselves. After all, it’s HIS plan we want to accomplish. We must trust Him and follow where He leads.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Which Way Do I Go?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Ranger Rick”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Who Will You Listen To?”



Bible Story

“The Pillars Of Cloud And Fire”



Power Verse Video

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’”

– Psalm 32:8



Call To Action

“Show Me The Way”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God will guide you through the twists and turns of life.



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Whatchagaddaknow:

“If I Follow God, He Will Show Me The Way!”

Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow - Lesson 3 - Teaching” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow - Lesson 3 - Trigger” Video

Character Skit

- “Ranger Rick” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video

- “Who Will You Listen To?” Graphic

- Several Tables, Chairs, And Cones

- Two Blindfolds

Bible Story

- “Lesson 3 - Bible Story” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 - Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lesson 3 - Call To Action” Graphics

- A Backpack

- A Cell Phone

- A Compass

- A Map

- A Flashlight

- A Bible

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video

- “REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Craft Sticks

- Cotton Balls

- Orange, Red, And Yellow Tissue Paper

- Glue

- Two Bowls

- Plastic Spoons

- Two Blindfolds

- A Way To Keep Time

- Psalm 32:8 Print Piece

- Crayons, Pencils, Or Markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Which Way Do I Go?”

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“Who Will You Listen To?”

Bible Story

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Power Verse Video

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Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome back to our Camp Wilderness series where we’re learning how to trust God through every twist, turn, and trail of life.

Let me ask you something...Have you ever felt totally confused about what to do next? Maybe you opened a LEGO set with no instructions. Or maybe you tried to put together your science fair project with, like, one screw and a paperclip. Or maybe you got turned around at a big amusement park and had no idea which way to go. You just stop and think: “What now? Which way do I go?”

Feeling lost is the worst. To dive into this a little bit more, let’s check out today’s video!

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: It’s horrible when you feel lost. It’s especially tough when you feel not just lost in a place—but lost in a decision. Do I say yes or no? Should I try this, or wait? What do I do when I don’t know what to do?

Well, the good news is you don’t have to figure life out all on your own. Today’s lesson is all about what happens when you stop trying to figure it out by yourself and start following the One who already knows the way.

You’re going to learn from Moses and the Israelites how God always leads and guides us if we choose to follow Him! But, before we get into that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Ranger Rick” *(Dressed as a typical forest ranger, Ranger Rick is very confident in his ability to come in and save the day - even if it isn’t needed. He is very upbeat and animated, with lots of energy.)*

Rick: *(Enters holding a map upside down, scratching his head)* Hmm... Now which way...

Leader: Hey, Ranger Rick! What brings you here today?

Rick: *(Frantically waving the map)* I’m trying to figure out this map, but it seems to have more squiggles than answers!

Leader: Have you been using the GPS that we talked about last time?

Rick: *(Squinting at the map)* Ummm... No. *(Upset)* Ugh, I knew I shouldn’t have taken directions from that raccoon! I’m lost!

Leader: *(Grinning)* Well, what are you looking for on the map, Ranger Rick?

Rick: The best pathway to wisdom! *(Pauses)* Or maybe just the snack station? It has to be around there somewhere. I know I smelled Cheezits!

Leader: *(Smiling)* Both sound important, but maybe you should focus on one journey at a time?

Rick: Nonsense! I must gather knowledge from all corners of the wilderness! Like how a squirrel gathers nuts, but more... uh, philosophical!

Leader: *(Chuckling)* Or perhaps more confusing? If you know so much, how could you be lost?

Rick: *(Sighing)* Well, sometimes I get too busy thinking about the big questions, like, “Why do mushrooms look like umbrellas?” instead of just following the trail!

Leader: *(Nodding)* That’s understandable! Big questions can distract us from the simple things around us.

Rick: Like how to boil water in a snowstorm?

Leader: How about something simpler? Like trusting that God has a path laid out for you!

Rick: *(Confused)* God has a path for me? That is awesome! Is it shaped like a hot dog? I still haven’t found that snack station...

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: *(Laughs)* No, Ranger Rick! It doesn't have to do with snacks. It's about trusting Him to guide you where you need to go. In our lesson today, we are learning all about this! Learning to trust and follow God allows us to do some amazing things for Him!

Rick: *(Scratching his head)* So I should just close my eyes, spin around three times, and hope for the best?

Leader: That sounds fun, but no. You should start by praying and asking for His direction.

Rick: So, when I feel lost, I can ask God for help, just like asking a raccoon for directions?

Leader: Yes, but with God, you'll always find your way!

Rick: I will trust God and let Him guide me! Right after I find that snack station!

Leader: Why not pray on your way there? Maybe God will show you where the nearest one is!

Rick: *(Gasps)* You're a genius! I am Ranger Rick, guardian of the wilderness! Always follow God's direction!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Who Will You Listen To?”

Items Needed For Game:

Several tables, chairs, and cones; two blindfolds

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to participate in this game. One person from each team will be the “caller,” and one will be the “listener.” Blindfold both of the “listeners,” and place them at the starting line. Place the “callers” at the finish line. Set up an obstacle course with the chairs and tables.

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How To Play:

When you say, “Go!”, the “callers” are to start calling out directions for the “listeners” to follow. Their goal is to give the correct directions and help the “listeners” get to the finish line quickly. However, the crowd is allowed to yell out directions as well. The crowd can yell out either correct directions OR incorrect directions. The “listeners” have to try to decipher which voice to listen to and obey. The first “listener” to cross the finish line wins for their team!



Bible Story

“The Pillars Of Cloud And Fire”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in *Exodus 13*; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in Exodus chapter 13. Moses and the Israelites had left Egypt because God had set them free from slavery. Millions of Israelites followed Moses because he told them God had promised them a new land. This “Promised Land” was going to be where the Israelites would live and establish a nation. Pretty cool promise, huh?

So, the Israelites went out into the wilderness (*show pic*) on their way to the Promised Land. There was one problem. They had no idea WHERE this Promised Land was. Can you imagine that? Millions of people wandering in the wilderness with no idea where they are going is not a great thing at all.

What do you think they did? Did they just wander around wondering where to go? No, not at all. After all, God was the one who promised that He had a home for them. So, God was the one who was going to show them the way.

(*show pic*) Moses and the Israelites looked and saw a giant pillar of cloud in the distance. God had provided the pillar of cloud so that the Israelites could follow it during the day. The pillar of cloud led them in the direction that they were to go, and they followed (*show pic*). Isn’t that cool?

Just in case you were thinking, “Well, that’s great for during the day. What about at night? What if they wanted to travel at night? After all, you can’t see a pillar of cloud when it is dark outside.” That is true, and God knew that also. That’s why God also provided a pillar of fire (*show pic*) for them to follow when it was night.

God didn’t leave the Israelites to wander around wondering which way to go. When they were in need of direction, God provided it for them. He provided a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. When God gives us an assignment, He always shows the way.

That’s what you are going to learn all about in your lesson today! You are going to learn how God provides guidance and direction when we need it. He never wants us to be lost. We can trust Him to show us the way!





Call To Action “Show Me The Way”

Materials Needed:

The “Lesson 3 - Call To Action” graphics; a backpack; a cell phone; a compass; a map; a flashlight; the Bible

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Lesson 3 - Call To Action - Title”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Have you ever been lost? Maybe you got lost in the grocery store while your mom was shopping. Even worse, maybe you got lost while your family was out camping. How scary is it to be lost in the woods? Pretty scary, huh? *(perhaps share a story of a time when you were lost)*

If you were lost, there are probably several things you would REALLY want to have with you, right? *(hold up a cell phone)* It would be awesome to have a cell phone if you are lost, right? You could call for help or use the GPS to find your way out. But, what if there were no cell phone service? *(hold up the compass)* Then, you would probably want a compass, right? The compass could guide you in the right direction. Or, even better *(hold up the map)* a map would give you the EXACT route you needed to go. But, what if it was at night? What would be helpful if you had to find your way at night? *(hold up the flashlight)* A flashlight would light the way for you to get to safety, huh? These are ALL great things to have when you are lost in the wilderness.

The Israelites didn’t have ANY of these things, did they? They were in the wilderness in an area they had never been before. They were heading to a land that was promised by God, but were not sure where to go or what to do. What did God provide for them? *(allow response)* That’s right! God provided a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night to lead and guide the Israelites in the wilderness. We can learn a lot from this Bible Story...

Sometimes, I Don’t Know What To Do *(slide)*



We all can identify with the Israelites at times. There are moments in our lives when we just are not sure what to do. We feel lost. We don’t know what the next step is for us to take.

You may feel like God wants you to do something big in your school, but you just don’t know where to start. Perhaps you just moved to a new neighborhood and want to make new friends that love God and will lead you closer to Him, but you just don’t know anyone at all. You don’t know what to do.

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Call To Action (Continued)

It can be a very lonely feeling when you feel lost and don't know what to do. You can feel like you are all alone in these “wilderness moments.” It can be very confusing when you KNOW God has a plan for you, but you just don't how to do it. You don't even know where to start. I have good news for you. When feeling lost, it's important to remember...

I Am Not Alone (slide)



You are not alone – even if you feel alone. If you feel alone, forgotten, lost and afraid, God is still with you. He is on your side. God is with you. “But, I don't feel like He is with me. I feel alone.” Your feelings do not change the facts.

- God knows where you are.
- You are not alone.
- You can trust Him.

You may not see the way out of this “wilderness” – you may feel so lost, but God is not lost. He knows the way. He's got the answer. Alone? Never. God is with you. Not only that...

God Will Lead Me Where He Wants Me To Go (slide)



God will lead you. Now, He probably isn't going to send a giant cloud or a big ball of fire to guide you along the way, but He definitely will guide you and lead you where He wants you to go. All you have to do is pray and ask Him. His Holy Spirit will speak to your heart. He will guide you with His peace. He will guide you with (*hold up the Bible*) His Word. God will never leave you wandering in the wilderness.

Trust God. Follow Him. Obey Him. He will show you the way!

ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray for the children who feel like they are in a “wilderness” situation. Pray that God will speak to their hearts through His Holy Spirit. Pray that He will speak to them exactly what to do as He shows them the way.



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “If I Follow God, He Will Show Me The Way!”

2. What did God send to guide the Israelites during the day?

Answer: A Pillar of Cloud

3. What was the pillar made of at night?

Answer: Fire

4. Did the Israelites have to figure out how to get to the Promised Land on their own?

Answer: No

5. What country did the Israelites leave behind?

Answer: Egypt

6. According to our lesson today, “Sometimes, I _____ What To Do.”

Answer: Don’t Know

7. According to our lesson today, “I Am Not _____.”

Answer: Alone

8. According to our lesson today, “God Will _____ Me Where He Wants Me To Go.”

Answer: Lead

9. True or False: Every afternoon, the pillar spit out a frog.

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 32:8