


## LESSON 6: GOD MAKES BITTER WATER GOOD

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 Exodus 15:22-27

10/06/2019

### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Exodus 15:22-27
- In This Passage: After the Israelites escape Egypt, they travel in the desert for three days without finding water. When they finally find some, it tastes bitter. They complain and doubt God's plan, but God shows Moses a piece of wood to throw in the water. The wood makes the water good to drink! Even though they don't deserve God's goodness, God shows grace.
- Bible Point: God shows grace...
- Application: ...so we show grace.
- Summary Verse: "The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love" (Psalm 103:8).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God shows grace.* Grace is a lot easier to accept than to extend. Most kids have no problem believing that God loves and forgives them, even when they don't deserve it. But when other people are acting hard to love and forgive, passing on God's grace can be challenging! Help kids truly immerse themselves in how amazing God's grace for them is, so that they can't help but let it overflow to others.
- Think About: How has God shown you grace? What good things has he given you that you don't deserve?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would help kids understand the depth of his grace.

#### Quick Tip

- Sometimes misbehavior can be a result of a traumatic experience. The trauma response can inhibit kids' ability to regulate their emotions, behavior, and attention. This can show up as withdrawal, aggression, or disruptiveness. If you have a child who's acting out, don't assume they're doing it intentionally. Show grace. Seek to learn more about their situation. Your compassion and listening ear can make a big difference.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers make gifts for the leader, get exercise as they travel, and try a drink.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- salty snack, such as crackers or pretzels (several per child)
- bottles of seltzer water (about 3 ounces per child)
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- Crystal Light On-the-Go packets (1 for every 10 kids) (fruit punch is a great flavor for kids)



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers take sips of a sweet drink as they pray.

#### Supplies

- sweet drink (enough for each child to have a few sips)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## Supplies

- Bible

## Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have children shake hands with four friends using the back of their hands.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say “happy birthday” in the voices of their favorite cartoon characters.
- Collect the offering.

## Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll find out that God shows grace. That means he gives us something good that we don't deserve. In the Bible, we'll hear how God's friends were whining and complaining. They didn't deserve anything good, but God gave them something good. He made some water taste better so his friends could drink it. That reminds me of sauces and dressings that can sometimes make our food yummier. Things like ranch dressing, ketchup, and jelly change the taste of potatoes, bread, and other foods we eat.**

## Share

- Say: **If I were to choose which I like best out of ranch dressing, ketchup, and jelly, I would choose...** Share which of the three condiments you prefer, and explain why. Maybe you like ranch best because you can use it on a variety of things like salad or french fries. Or maybe you like ketchup because it goes along with your favorite meat.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share which of the three condiments (ranch, ketchup, or jelly) they'd pick first to eat. Have them share what they'd eat the condiment with. They can also share other condiments they like instead.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

## Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **We add sauces, jellies, and dressings to our foods to make them taste better. Today we'll read in the Bible about how God made some yucky water taste better. God did it to show grace to his friends. The Bible tells all about how God shows grace to us, too. And it shows us how we can share his grace. Let's learn more about that as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God for showing grace.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- salty snack, such as crackers or pretzels (several per child)
- bottles of seltzer water (about 3 ounces per child)
- 3-ounce disposable cups (1 per child)
- Crystal Light On-the-Go packets (1 for every 10 kids) (fruit punch is a great flavor for kids)

**Make Gifts for the Leader**

Begin by acting like you're not having a great day. Really ham it up by making it sound as if it's a terrible day. Share three to five things about your fictional bad day. You might say that you couldn't sleep last night, your shower was cold, someone ate all your favorite cereal, you had a flat tire, and you stepped in mud on the way into the church.

Ask kids to make pictures for you to cheer you up. Give them markers and paper, and allow them to work for a few minutes.

When kids begin to hand you their pictures, thank them, but remain focused on your bad day. For example, you might say in a sad tone, "Thanks for making this picture. It's nice, but I'm still having a terrible day."

After all the children have given you their pictures and you've continued to complain about your day, gather the children and make sure you have their full attention.

Change your composure and voice to a positive tone, and say: **Friends, thank you for all the wonderful pictures you made for me! I was pretending just now—I'm not really having a terrible day. I was showing you how some people in the Bible acted.**

**Act and Exercise**

Say: **In our Bible story, it says God's friends were complaining a lot. God had just freed them from living in a terrible place. God brought them to a new place where they could have a better life. And they thanked God at first, but then they started complaining again. And they complained, and they complained, and they complained—kind of like I just did with all my complaining.**

**God's friends were traveling through the desert.** Have the children stand, and lead them around the room a couple of times to pretend they're traveling.

Say: **You might need some energy because we have to travel even more.** Give each child a few pretzels or crackers to eat. Then lead kids in pretending to travel, but this time make the traveling more vigorous. Have them hop over "logs," "climb a mountain" using both their arms and legs, and run from "big animals."

When children begin to get tired, have them sit. Say: **God's friends traveled for three long days! And there was no water in the desert, so they were getting really thirsty. They complained a lot about that. We sometimes complain, too, don't we?**

Share some preschool-friendly things you have complained about. For example, maybe you complained about a vegetable your parents made you eat, about not getting to watch your favorite TV show, or about having to do your chores.

Ask: • **What does your mom or dad do when you complain a lot?** Children might say that Mom and Dad become mad or sad when kids complain a lot. They might also say that they have to go home or go to their rooms or a toy is taken away.

**Taste a Drink**

Say: **God's friends were complaining so much! And when they did find a beautiful place with water, they tasted it, but it was yucky. I bet you all are thirsty right now from all that traveling and exercise you did.**

Pour a small sip of seltzer water into a cup for each child. Wait for the children's reactions. Say: **Oh! Our water is kind of like the water God's friends tried. I guess we can't drink that. But the Bible says God's friends asked God for help with the water. And God showed grace to his friends. They had been complaining so much, but instead of being annoyed or angry with them, God helped them! He gave them something good when they didn't deserve it. That's what I mean when I say God showed grace.**

Here's how God helped them: God asked his friend Moses to pick up a stick. Hold up a Crystal Light On-the-Go packet. God said, "Throw the stick in the water to make it good to drink." Empty a Crystal Light packet into the bottle of seltzer water (one packet for every 20 ounces), replace the lid, and gently mix.

Say: **After Moses tossed the stick into the yucky water, God changed the water. Then the water was good to drink! Let's see if our sticks made our water tasty.** Give each child about 2 ounces of seltzer mixed with flavoring. Invite kids to talk about how the water tastes now.

### **Talk About It**

Say: **The water was yucky, but when we added the stick, it made our water yummy. In the Bible, the water was yucky, too, but when Moses added the stick, God made the water good. God showed grace when he helped his friends. His friends complained and complained, but God still gave them something good.**

**God shows grace to us, too. Sometimes we're grumpy, but God still gives us good things.**

Share about a time you were grumpy. Then invite children to share about a time they were grumpy if they want to.

Say: **Sometimes we make choices we know are wrong, but God still forgives us and takes care of us. That's another way God shows grace.**

Share about a time you made a choice you knew was wrong when you were a child. Maybe you sneaked a piece of candy without asking your parents, or maybe you did something unkind to a friend, brother, or sister.

Say: **Think of a time you did something you knew was wrong.** Pause and allow about 20 seconds of silence.

Say: **God forgives you for what you did that was wrong. God shows grace to us all the time, and we can show grace to others, too. We can be kind and helpful to others, even when they don't deserve it. Let's think of some ways we can show grace.**

Share the following scenarios, and encourage children to think of ways they could show grace. At first you may have to prompt ideas, but after a couple of examples, children will likely begin to think of ideas.

- A friend grabs a toy from your hands. (To show grace, you might let the friend play with it and not try to grab it back.)
- Your brother says something mean to you. (To show grace, you might say something nice back to him.)
- A friend won't share a snack with you. (To show grace, you might share your snack with her.)
- Your mom or dad is grumpy. (To show grace, you say nice things or help with the chores.)

Say: **We can show grace because God shows grace to us. God always gives us good things. He always gives us what's best for us, even when we don't deserve it.**



### Supplies

- sweet drink (enough for each child to have a few sips)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

### Drink a Sweet Drink

Say: **God did something amazing in the Bible story we read today. God showed grace when he helped his friends. They were very grumpy and didn't really deserve help, but God gave them what they needed anyway. He made some water safe to drink.**

Give each child a small cup with only a sip of the sweet drink, and tell kids not to drink it yet.

Share about something sweet God does for you. For example, you might share how God brings you peace when you read the Bible. You might also share how God makes you feel joy when you sing to him.

Ask: • **What's something sweet God does for you?** Help children think of ideas, if needed. They might share how they feel safe when they remember that God's with them at night or that God gave them a mommy or daddy whom they love.

Say: **God gives us so much, and every time God gives us something, he's showing us grace. God loves us and wants to take care of us, even when we don't deserve it. God showed grace to his friends in the Bible when he gave them something to drink, and he shows grace to us. Let's thank God for taking care of us and giving us grace.**

Lead children to say "Thank you, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

### Continue Sipping and Praying

Say: **God's grace never runs out.** Have adult and teen helpers add more of the sweet drink to each child's cup. **We can make bad choices, but God will love us and forgive us. Let's thank God for forgiving us.**

Lead children to say "Thank you, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

Say: **Because of God's unending grace and love, we can show grace and love to others, too.**

**Let's ask God to help us share God's grace with others by being kind to all those around us.**

Lead children to say "Help me show grace, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

Say: **This week, remember that God has such a big love for you, and he can help you show grace and love to others, too.** Invite kids to come back to church next week.