

MIRACLES IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 15:22 - 17:16

Lesson Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Lesson Aim: To teach the children that it is God who supplies us with all the things that we need, so we should thank Him for doing this.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY - HE - SEE - WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Tommy was so excited that he could not stand still. He kept hopping from one foot to the other. The Geraldts were coming to the orphanage to take him to their home. He had waited a long time for a mom and dad of his very own, and today he would have them.

The Geraldts took Tommy home that afternoon, and he knew right away that he would be happy. The Geraldts were kind and friendly, but the best part was when Mr. Gerald said at the supper table, "Let us bow our heads and thank God for all He has given us." After thanking God for the good food and clothes and good job, he said, "Thank you, God, for giving us Tommy to be our son. Amen."

Before crawling into his cozy new bed that night, Tommy knelt down by his bed like he had always done since he had asked Jesus to be his Savior, and he prayed, "Thank you, God, for taking care of me, and giving me parents that love You as much as I do. Amen."

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse, Phil 4:19, tells us why every boy and girl should be thankful to God. (Read memory verse.) Can someone tell me what "supply" means? (To give, provide for, or take care of.) What are some of your needs? (Food, clothing, homes, etc.) What is the difference between something we "need" and something we "want?" (A "need" is something that is necessary to have, but a "want" is not necessary.) Can you tell me from this verse why you should be thankful? (Because God will give us the things we really need.) Since God has promised to supply your needs, do you trust Him enough to thank Him before the supply is given?

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

Our lesson today tells us about some people who should have been thankful for the way God took care of them, but who did not act very thankful.

We learned last week that God led the Israelites away from the wicked Egyptians and made it possible for them to escape, but God still needed to take care of them. Even after you ask Jesus into your heart to save you from Satan, you still need to ask God to take care of you. The nation of Israel was safe from the Egyptians on the other side of the Red Sea, but do you think all of their problems were over? No, Israel still had problems. God sent these problems to teach them a very important lesson. They were not to grumble, but to be thankful to God for supplying all that they needed to solve each problem.

I. God Provides Healing (Ex 15:22-27)

A. Israel's Need

The first problem that the nation of Israel faced was bitter water. It had been three days since they had crossed the Red Sea and they were very thirsty. Moses led the people to some water, but it was very bitter. It was so bitter that the people could not drink it.

WE: What might we do if we are very thirsty and we are given a glass of lemonade that does not have any sugar in it? We might want to grumble and complain, but I hope we would be kind and thankful to the person who gave us something to drink.

However, the people of Israel did grumble and complain. God was ready to heal the water and make it good if they would simply ask Him to do it. But not only did the water need to be healed of bitterness and made sweet, so did they need to be healed of grumbling and be made sweet. God could do that, too!

B. God's Supply

When Moses talked to God, God showed him a tree and told him to throw it into the water. When Moses did this, the water was made sweet and the people could drink it; their thirst was satisfied. The water was healed because Moses obeyed God. God loves to help His people when they have a need and He will hear their prayer when they ask for His help and will supply their need.

WE: We, too, need to learn to ask God for the things that we need. If you have not asked Jesus to save you and give you victory over your sins, you need to ask Him to do that before you ask Him for anything else. You can talk to God just like you would talk to your parents, but when you do talk to God, be very respectful. He is very important. God will take care of your need just like He took care of Moses' need. God used a tree to heal the bitter water and God used another tree to take away our sins. What tree did God use (1 Pet 2:24)? Yes, God saves us from our sins by His Son's death on the cross so we do not go to Hell. He also wants to save us from practicing the sins that we were doing before He saved us. He wants to save us from grumbling and saying bad things to others and from lying. He wants to save us from all of our sins.

II. God Provides Food (Ex 16:1-36)

A. Israel's Need

God had given the Israelites water, but soon they needed food. They were hungry, but they did not ask God to give them food. Instead, they grumbled and wished they had the food that they ate in Egypt. Do you think this made God happy? (Let the students answer, then ask, "Why?" Direct them back to the memory verse for the answer.) The Israelites should have prayed for food and thanked Him for taking care of them.

WE: It is not easy to thank God when we do not get everything we want, but we must always remember to thank God for the things that He does give us. He knows what is best for us.

B. God's Supply

When the Israelites complained, God was kind to them and sent them some good birds to eat. In the evening He sent quail for them to eat. In the morning God provided a special food from heaven. The people called it manna. This word meant, "What is it?" It, too, was very good.

God sent this special bread from heaven to feed them, but He also sent it to test them. He wanted to see if they would obey His rules for collecting this manna bread. God told Moses that the people were to gather only enough manna to last them for one day. Some people did not obey God. They gathered enough for several days. The next morning, the extra manna was full of worms and had a bad smell. They should have obeyed God. However, on the sixth day they were to gather twice as much, because there would be no manna on the seventh day. That was a holy day on which they were not to work. Some people did not listen to God, and they tried to find manna on the seventh day (the Sabbath Day).

WE: As God supplied the Israelites with much good food, so He will supply us with enough food for each day. We should give God thanks for giving us food. That is why we pray before we eat our meals.

III. God Provides Water (Ex 17:1-7)

A. Israel's Need

God had the Israelites travel farther into the wilderness. Again, they became very thirsty. Did they learn their lesson and ask God to give them water? No. They grumbled and got so angry with Moses that he thought they would kill him for leading them out into the wilderness.

WE: This was bad, but do we always learn our lessons the first time? No, probably not. We should know God will supply our needs, yet we still grumble like the Israelites.

B. God's Supply

God again supplied their needs. He told Moses to go to a large rock and strike it with his staff. When Moses did that, water gushed out of the rock so that all the people had plenty to drink. God caused the water to come out of the rock when Moses obeyed Him.

WE: This is the same God who will give us water and everything else that we need when we obey Him.

IV. God Provides Protection (Ex 17:8-16)

A. Israel's Need

As the Israelites moved through the wilderness, they met another nation that was their enemy. They were the Amalekites. Moses had Joshua choose out men to be in his army, but his army was much smaller than the army of Amalek. It looked like Israel would be destroyed by this enemy nation. Could anyone protect and help Israel? Yes, God would protect and help them; He is the only One who could do it.

WE: God is the only One Who can really protect and help us, as well. We should ask Him to keep us safe as we travel and as we play at home or at school. He will watch over us. We must not forget to thank Him for taking care of us.

B. God's Supply

Moses went up on the hill where he could see the battle below him. As long as Moses could hold the staff of God out over the battlefield, Joshua would have the victory. But when his arms would get tired and the staff would fall down, the Amalekites would win. Two men, Aaron and Hur, helped Moses. Moses sat on a rock, and the two men stood on each side of him and held up his arms. The Israelites won the battle, not because of the staff, but because they trusted God and His promise to supply their needs to protect them.

WE: We must depend on God to supply our needs to protect us, too. He will if we trust Him.

BE (for Action): The Israelites faced some big problems. First, they could not drink the water because it was too bitter, then they needed food, and once again they needed water. Then a large army came to destroy them. It was easy for them to grumble and complain, and so they did. But that was the wrong way to act. What should they have done? They should have asked God to take care of them. When they did this, He supplied their needs. God wants us to ask Him to supply our needs, too. He wants to supply our needs, but He is waiting for us to ask Him to do it. He does not promise to give us all the things that we want, but He will supply the things that we need. Please do not complain, but learn to ask God to supply your needs.