

WILDERNESS LESSONS

Numbers 20, 21

Lesson Memory Verse: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: **That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life**" (John 3: 14-15). (Grades 1 and 2 memorize the portion printed in bold.)

Lesson Aim: To teach the children that they can be sure they will be saved by trusting in Jesus Christ.

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

KEY (for Attention): A little girl was talking to her Sunday school teacher one day about going to Heaven. The teacher asked the little girl how she knew that she was going to Heaven and the little girl said, "Why, by being good." The teacher said, "Well, how good is good?" The little girl thought for a moment and said, "Well, real good." The teacher again said, "What is real good?" The little girl thought again and said, "Real, real, real good." The Sunday school teacher then asked her, "Are you real, real, real good?" She said, "No, not really. But if I cannot get to Heaven by being good, how can I get there?" Her teacher said, "All you have to do is hate your sins, ask Jesus to save you from your sins and believe He will do it; then you will be sure to go to Heaven." The teacher told the little girl the truth. God does not want anyone to be kept out of heaven. He will let anyone into Heaven that trusts in His Son, Jesus Christ.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse says that God has promised us eternal life if we "believe" in Jesus Christ, God's only Son. To "believe" means to trust. If we put our trust in Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, we will not "perish." What does it mean to "perish?" Yes, it means we die and go to Hell. By trusting in Jesus we will not be lost and go to Hell.

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.

Today's lesson is going to show us how God saved the people from death when they put their faith in Him.

I. The Rock (20:1-13).

A. Israel's Squawk (20: 1-5)

1. The people complained as they had many times before.
2. This time they squawked because they had no water.
3. They blamed Moses for their troubles instead of blaming themselves for their sins.

B. God's Solution (20:6-8)

1. God told Moses to speak to a certain rock with his rod in his hand.
2. God promised that water would come out of the rock.
3. The people gathered around to watch him bring water out of the rock.
4. God would give enough water to satisfy everyone.

C. Moses' Sin (20: 9-11)

1. Moses scolded the people before he struck the rock.
2. Then Moses struck the rock with his rod like he had done at an earlier time (cf. Ex 17:5-7).
3. Moses was told to speak to the rock. By hitting the rock, Moses disobeyed God.
4. God gave the people water, but He was displeased with Moses.

Note to teachers: You may want to explain to students in grades 5-6 how the rock was a type [picture] of Christ. This picture was ruined by Moses' sin. The first time the rock was struck with Moses' rod it was a picture of Jesus when He was beaten and crucified on the cross to give us salvation—the water of life. The second time the rock was supposed to be spoken to because it was a picture of Jesus Who would give us what we needed as believers, if we simply spoke to Him and asked Him for it. The rock was not to be struck more than once, because Jesus was not to die more than once. Moses disobeyed God and ruined that picture of God's Son. By hitting the rock twice, the picture made it look like Jesus would die twice.

D. Moses' Spanking (20:12-13)

1. Moses was spanked by God as a father would spank his son – Heb 12:6-7.
2. God told Moses that he would not lead the people into the Promised Land.
3. This was a crushing blow to Moses, but that was a just punishment for his disobedience.

WE: If we have sinned, God will make it clear to us how we sinned as we read the Bible or hear it preached and taught in church. He will discipline us when we disobey Him, so that we do not do it again. He wants us to be like His Son, Jesus Christ. We must not complain and blame others for the discipline that God gives to us. We need to accept our punishment and ask God for forgiveness.

II. The Brass Serpent (21:5-9)

A. Sin (21:5)

1. The people sinned again by complaining against God and Moses.
2. They complained because they had no bread and water.
3. They disliked the manna that God gave them every day.

B. Serpents (21:6)

1. God sent poisonous snakes into the camp of Israel, because they complained.
2. The serpents bit the people.

C. Suffering/Death (21:6)

1. Many people died when they were bitten by the serpents and others were about to die.
2. The result of their complaining was suffering and death.

D. Sorrow (21:7)

1. The people admitted that they had sinned against God and against Moses.
2. They wanted God to take away the awful serpents.
3. They begged Moses to pray for them and he did.

E. Salvation (21:8-9)

1. God answered Moses' prayer.
2. God told Moses to make a brass serpent like the ones biting the people and put it on a pole.
3. Moses told the people bitten by the serpents to look at the brass serpent and they would live.
4. The people that looked at the brass serpent were saved from death.

Note to teachers: You may want to explain to the older students in more detail how Jesus' death on the cross was pictured by the serpent on the pole – John 3 14-16.

WE: We can sin by complaining, some by stealing, some by lying, and some by swearing. There are many different ways to sin, but the Bible tells us that all have sinned (Rom 3:23). Sin has a way of hurting us every time. We cannot sin and escape God's punishment. Our sin brings suffering and death (Rom 6:23). This death is in the Lake of Fire (Rev 30 21:8). There is only one way to get rid of our sin and that is to admit that we have done it and ask God to forgive us and save us. We must look to Jesus Who died on the cross, just as the people in the wilderness looked to the serpent on the pole. When we look to Jesus, we will be saved to live forever. This is what our memory verse tells us. Pray to the Lord, trust Him now and He will save you and give you eternal life.

BE (for Action): Have you ever looked to Jesus and asked Him to save you from your sins? If so, when did you do that? Joining a church or going to Sunday School is not enough. When you look to Jesus to save you, you must hate your sins, love Jesus for dying on the cross, ask Him to save you and believe that He will do it. If anyone needs to be saved or has doubts about his or her salvation, please stay after class and talk to me about it. Today is a good day to be saved; tomorrow may be too late.