MOSES IN MARAH

SCRIPTURE OF FOCUS

Exodus 15:22-27

MEMORY VERSE

“I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart” - Psalm 138:1

AIM

The children will know that we worship God when we praise Him. Feel joyful when they praise God. Respond by joyfully praising God.

NEEDED

Jug of lemon water (enough lemon to make it a little sour), small paper cups or cups, another jug or bowl with sugar in the bottom (enough to make lemonade) cloud cut-out, empty bowl or bucket, wooden spoon, Bible

LESSON

Hello, people. My name is Moses. Thank you for joining us on our journey to the Promised Land. [Raise the cloud you are holding.] The cloud of God’s presence is moving. [Move a couple steps.] Come along with us; God’s cloud will show the way. [Walk around the room; check to be sure the children are following you.] [Continue walking around your room or walk around the house or the garden. On the way back, talk about how thirsty you feel and how much you need water after three days in the desert. Ask if anyone has any water left. Make the walk last long enough so that the children are getting thirsty. When you are within sight of your room again, gather the children around and continue the story.]

Look across the desert there. [Point toward your room.] That is Marah. See it way in the distance? I heard that there is a spring of water at Marah. So, keep up your courage, we will soon have water to drink. I herded sheep here in the wilderness for 40 years when I was a young man. I remember Marah. [As you enter the room, say:] There, just as I expected, the pool of Marah. Water! [Encourage the children to come over and get a drink. Give out the cups with the lemon water in them. The children will soon sputter and complain.] What’s the matter? You want water; well, here it is. Drink up. [Encourage everyone to get their water. Then take some yourself.] Oh, wait a minute! I can’t drink that! What is the matter with the water? [Taste the water again.] It’s sour. Was your water sour? Is that why you cannot drink it? Some of you are getting angry, I see. Don’t be mad at me. Trust God.

Remember just three days ago the Lord worked a miracle at the Red Sea. What happened? [He made a path through the sea.] So, don’t you think He can find some good water in the dry desert? Listen, when you are in need, don’t grumble. Go to the Lord. Tell Him the problem and see what He will do.
[Pause and close your eyes. Nod your head a couple of times.] Amen. God says to throw a stick into the water. Do you see any wood around here? [See if someone will point out the wooden spoon.] Yes, here is a wooden spoon. Let's pour some water, the same kind as you have in your cups, into this big bowl. [Pour lemon water from the jug into an empty bowl with sugar at the bottom. Use sugar that will be almost invisible in the bowl.]

Now let's use—our stick wooden spoon—to stir the water. [Stir the water so that all the sugar is dissolved.] Now the water in your cups does not taste good so let's, pour that out and try some of this water. [Children pour out their water. Serve them some of the new water. Drink some yourself and talk about how good it now tastes.]

Remember always what happened here today. In just a short time God turned our sadness and thirst and tiredness into joy. When we think we might die of thirst, God gives us water to drink. He saves us and makes us happy again. He is always giving us new reasons to praise Him. What a wonderful God!

Have the children sit down. As the children drink their water, ask: How did you feel when you saw that you were going to get some water to drink? (happy, relieved, excited) What did you think when you took a taste of it? (disappointed, upset) Then how did you feel when you got the other water? (happier than the first time, joyful) Read aloud Isaiah 12:3. How does God give you joy? (when He meets our needs, by saving us from sin, when He solves our problems, when we go out in nature and learn about His creatures, etc.) Have you praised God today for all the joy He brings into your life? Let's say a prayer now to thank and praise Him.

CRAFT

Send us a picture of your pictures and also of the sour water faces 😊
What shall we drink?

Ex 15:22

Bitterness...The Waters of Marah