

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 - Lesson 16
Moses Striking the Rock (Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-12)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. We can overcome our temptations only by looking to the Lord for help.
- B. When our focus in studying the Word is to find out how to apply it to our lives, the Lord can show us what it means.
- C. There must be no pride and self-confidence mixed with our trust in the Lord and reception of instruction from Him.
- D. Basic correspondences:
 - 1. Rock = Fundamental truth
 - 2. Water = Truth in a form adapted to our daily use
 - 3. Moses = Divine law

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Last week we learned how the children of Israel were led out of Egypt and across the Red Sea to safety and freedom from the Egyptians.
 - 2. Do you remember what it was that led them by day and by night? (Pillar of cloud and pillar of fire)
 - 3. And what miracle did the Lord perform in order that the Israelites could cross the Red Sea? (Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the waters were divided so the Israelites could cross on dry land.)
 - 4. What happened to the Egyptians who were pursuing them on horses and in chariots? (The water came back and covered them, so they all drowned.)
 - 5. What did the Lord feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (Quail and manna)
 - 6. This week we will hear about another problem the children of Israel faced two different times during their journey through the wilderness, and about two different ways that Moses dealt with the problem.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:1-12

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. When the children of Israel came to Rephidim and later to Kadesh, what did they complain about? (No water to drink)
2. What did the Lord tell Moses to do the first time? (Strike the rock with his rod)
3. What happened when Moses did this? (Water came out of the rock.)
4. The second time, what did the Lord tell him to do? (Speak to the rock)
5. But what did Moses do instead? (Struck the rock)
6. Did he acknowledge that the Lord was the One doing the miracle, or did he take the credit for it himself this time? (He took the credit.)
7. Because of this error, what was Moses told that he would not be allowed to do? (Moses would not be allowed to lead the children of Israel into the promised land of Canaan.)

D. Further ideas: Taking Credit for Good

1. The second time water was brought out from a rock, Moses took credit for the miracle. Do we sometimes take credit for and feel proud of ourselves when we do something good? We might think we're pretty great. But it is the Lord's truth we are obeying, and it is the Lord Who gives us the ability to do good things. So getting puffed up with pride for doing anything good is not giving credit to the Lord. Certainly we can feel a warm satisfaction in doing what is right and making others happy, but we must realize that it is the Lord Who inspires us to do any good thing.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "The Word," LORI'S SONGS III, Side 2, 9th song
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," Hymnal #245
3. "Kol asher dibber Y'HOWAH," Hymnal #246 (Hebrew version of #245)

B. Activities

C. Project: MOSES STRIKING THE ROCK

1. Make Moses out of a clothespin, pipe cleaner, and fabric. Use a toothpick for the rod in his hand. Give him a base of plasticine (or a clothespin stand) to make him stand up. Use a real rock set in clay to hold it still, and show the water coming out of the rock using blue play dough or plasticine. Set up the scene in a shoebox, tissue box, or on a styrofoam meat tray.

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IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustration(s) of Moses striking the rock and water coming forth.
- B. Photocopy drawings of this story that the children can color when they finish their project or take home.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 2, "At Rephidim," (Exodus 17), pp. 110-123
- B. Sower Notes, Vol. I, "Passage Refused" (Numbers 20), pp. 327-335.