

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

## Sunday Morning

Study 7

*G is for Grace*

# G is for Grace

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To introduce the concept of grace to the students using the story of God bringing forth water from the rock in the wilderness.

## Key Verses

Exodus 17:1-7—Main Teaching Passage

Psalm 89:26

Romans 5:8

Ephesians 2:8

**Memory Verse** Ephesians 2:8 (February Memory Verse)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"

## Hook

Take a rock or other solid object and a plastic cup. Tell the students that you are thirsty and would like someone to pour you a drink from out of the rock. As the students discover that this is impossible, tell them that God gave thirsty people water to drink from a rock in today's story.

Ask the students, "What kind of people do you think God would do this miracle for? Good people who were doing the right thing, or bad people?" Inform them that this miracle was actually done for a group of whiners and complainers who didn't deserve it. When God does something for people who don't deserve it, that's called grace, which we will learn about today.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In the book of Exodus, God's people the Israelites were journeying through the wilderness on their way to Mount Sinai to worship God. While on their journey, the people of Israel completely ran out of water and had nothing to drink. They were desperate and scared, and they started to get angry and complain to their leader, Moses. They said that it was Moses' fault that they were out in the desert in the first place, and that they were going to die of thirst because Moses had brought them out into the wilderness. Moses then turned to the Lord and asked for help, afraid that his own people might get so angry that they would hurt him.

God then showed an incredible kindness to the Israelites and to Moses. He declared, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." The Israelites were shown an incredible miracle from God. He opened up a rock and made enough water pour out of it to allow every single one of the Israelites to drink until they were satisfied. Even though the Israelites didn't believe that God was going to provide for them, He blessed them with water to drink because He loved them.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

The Israelites in Sinai groaned, moaned, and complained. In fact, Exodus 7:7 says that they didn't even believe that God was with them. In their hearts, they were saying that God was being mean to them by allowing them to be thirsty and not have any water. When I think about the people that I want to do nice things for, it is most definitely not people with this kind of attitude. In spite of this, God still did an incredible miracle for them. He asked Moses to strike a large boulder with his staff, and when he did, water burst forth. God gave the Israelites exactly what they needed, life-giving water, from out of a rock.

When someone receives a blessing that they don't deserve, that's called grace. The Bible teaches us that God is full of grace, which we see in stories like the one we read today. The Israelites didn't deserve water from the rock, but God still gave it to them. He was gracious to the Israelites then, and He shows grace to us today. The greatest act of grace that God has performed for us was taking our place on the cross.

Today's story is actually a lot like what Jesus did on the cross. We were just like the Israelites, lost in our sins, complaining and miserable, but God didn't abandon us. Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still sinners,

# LOOK (Continued)

Christ died for us.” We didn’t deserve to be saved, but because of God’s great love toward us, just as He gave the Israelites a rock to strike for water, He gave us a different kind of Rock, His Son (Psalm 89:26). Like the rock in our story, Jesus was “struck” for us so that we could have our sins forgiven. Because of what He did, we will be with Him forever in heaven. What incredible grace the Lord shows us!

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the kids what grace is. How did God show it to the Israelites in today’s story? How does He show it to us?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for showing us incredible grace by sending His Son Jesus Christ. Thank Him that we are saved not by anything that we do, but only through the completed work of Jesus.

**Parent Question:** What is grace and how does God show it to us?

# FURTHER STUDY

## David Guzik on Exodus 17

### A. Water from the rock.

#### 1. (1-4) The congregation of Israel contends with Moses.

Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but *there was* no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

a. **According to the commandment of the LORD...but there was no water for the people to drink:** Israel did exactly what God commanded, following the pillar of cloud and fire; yet there was no water to drink. They were in the will of God but in a difficult time. It is possible to be completely in the will of God yet also in a season of great problems.

i. "Thirst is the more eager appetite, so they are more eager and earnest for water than they were for bread." (Trapp)

ii. Cole on **to kill....our livestock with thirst:** "Who but a cattleman would have worried about his stock dying of thirst, if he were already dying of thirst himself? Here speaks the true Israelite farmer."

iii. **Set out on their journey:** "In Numbers 33:12-14 it is said, that when the Israelites came from *Sin* they encamped in *Dophkah*, and next in *Alush*, after which they came to *Rephidim*. Here, therefore, *two stations* are omitted, probably because nothing of moment took place at either." (Clarke)

b. **Therefore the people contended with Moses:** The people of Israel had a real problem - there was **no water for the people to drink**. This was not an imaginary problem and the people were right to be concerned. Yet when the people then **contended with Moses**, they did not respond with spiritual thinking or actions.

c. **Why do you tempt the LORD?** The people focused their complaint against Moses, but Moses understood that their problem was with the LORD.

i. When we have a problem it is much easier to blame someone than to think through the problem carefully and spiritually. In this situation Israel could have thought, "We are in a desert; it's not surprising there isn't much water here. We need to look to God to meet this need." Instead they blamed Moses and did nothing to *help* the problem.

d. **So Moses cried out to the LORD:** The lack of water wasn't Moses' fault. Yet as the leader of Israel, he had to lead them to the answer - and crying out to the LORD was the right way to lead them to the solution.

i. Moses knew the people were unfair to him (**What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to**

**stone me!**). But he still had to lead while under the pressure of unfair attack, and he did the right thing in turning to God in prayer.

ii. "One of Moses' most characteristic and praiseworthy traits was that he took his difficulties to the Lord." (Kaiser)

2. (5-6) God tells Moses how water will be provided.

And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

a. **Take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river:** God directed Moses to get out **before the people**, to bring other leaders with him (**take with you some of the elders of Israel**), and to use what God had used before. This gave confidence to Moses, because he saw God use that same **rod** to do great miracles before.

i. Moses couldn't pick up that rod without remembering the power of God. The confidence he received by picking up the rod was confidence in God, not in himself.

b. **Behold, I will stand before you there:** One of the great themes of this journey from Egypt to Canaan was that *God was with them*. He was with them each step of the way, and here again He would show His presence to Moses and to Israel.

i. "If God had not stood upon the rock, in vain had Moses struck it. Means must be used, but God only depended upon for success." (Trapp)

c. **You shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it:** Moses was commanded, in the presence of the LORD, to strike the rock with his rod, and water would gush forth to satisfy the thirst of God's people.

i. *This was a remarkable miracle.* Moses (and everyone else) knew that water does not normally come from rocks in such a way.

ii. *This was a generous miracle.* "Here again the divine patience appears, for Jehovah uttered no word of reproach, but in spite of their impatient unbelief provided water out of the rock for them." (Morgan)

iii. *This was a meaningful miracle.* In striking the rock, Moses acted out a drama that perhaps he didn't understand. In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Paul wrote of Israel in the Exodus: *they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.* We don't know if this **rock** followed Israel just as Paul described, but we do know that when Jesus was struck, living water flowed out for all to receive. "Herein a type of Christ, 'stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted' (Isaiah 53:4; 1 Corinthians 10:4)." (Trapp)

iv. Jesus was struck with the rod of Moses - the curse of the law - and from Him flowed water to satisfy our spiritual thirst. As the old hymn says:

*Let the water and the blood  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save me from its wrath and power.*

3. (7) Moses names the place as a rebuke to the children of Israel.

So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

a. **So he called the name of the place:** Moses did what God told him to do and water came from the rock. This was a great miracle of God's provision and a rebuke to unbelieving and rebellious Israel.

i. We don't know exactly how God provided water from this rock. Perhaps there was an artesian spring that God caused to burst forth when Moses struck the rock. Perhaps it was a completely unique miracle.

b. **He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah:** God remembered the way Israel tested Him at Massah and Meribah, recalling it in several passages.

- Deuteronomy 6:16: *You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah*
- Deuteronomy 9:22: *at...Massah...you provoked the LORD to wrath*
- Deuteronomy 33:8: *Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah*

c. **They tempted the LORD, saying "Is the LORD among us or not?"** God dramatically said, *I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb* (Exodus 17:6), saying that He was and would be present with Israel. Yet they still wondered, **Is the LORD among us or not?**

i. This attitude among the Israelites was their great sin. In this time of difficulty, the children of Israel - directly or indirectly - doubted the loving presence and care of God among them. "Under the stress of an immediate lack, these people doubted the one fact of which they had overwhelming evidence." (Morgan)

ii. Later, when Israel remembered God's provision in the wilderness at the Feast of Tabernacles, they had a specific ceremony where they recalled this miracle of water from a rock. In that exact context, Jesus said: *If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* (John 7:37-38)

iii. **The living water Jesus spoke of was the Holy Spirit (John 7:39); it is no less of a miracle for God to bring the love and power of the Holy Spirit out of our hearts than it is to bring water out of a rock - our hearts can be just as hard.**