



Tippy's Mouse House

Birds and Bread from Heaven

BIG IDEA: God gives me everything I need.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 16

KEY VERSE: "My God will meet all your needs." Philippians 4:19

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

One day while getting off of the bus in the 5th grade, my brother and I could tell that something was up. Our parents were already home and waiting for us halfway down the street. This wasn't normal. Why weren't they at work? When we asked what was up, they simply told us they had taken off work that day and had a "date day." We weren't buying it; something still seemed weird. As we approached the house and headed for the front door my mom corrected our course. "Hey, why don't you head this way," she said, directing us toward the back yard. "Your dad and I have something to show you." To my memory, I think my brother and I let out a "no way!" at the very same time. Our parents had given us a trampoline! This might seem like a small thing to a lot of people, but not to a 5th grade boy! We dropped our backpacks in the middle of the yard, and tore off toward the new toy. We jumped on that thing for years and had some of the most wonderful times. In fact, I even led a friend to Jesus on that trampoline. We had some amazing times, because of an amazing gift. And for that, I will always be thankful.

When I remember how my parents gave us such an amazing gift, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, "If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts..." (Matthew 7:11). Whether it's something that simply brings us joy (like the trampoline did for me) or something that meets one of our many needs, our God is a God that gives generously.

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GO! Contributor



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Tippy's Mouse House! Just as mice are prone to do, Tippy has tiptoed into the preschool room and scurried off with the Bible story pictures. Together, the preschoolers get to peek into Tippy's Mouse House and search for the pictures amongst all the other doodads Tippy has collected. It's a super sweet search that culminates in the discovery of God's provision and perfect love.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

Slide: show "Tippy's Mouse House" title graphic
Music: (optional) play upbeat music as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Note: As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome—smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one or two upbeat worship songs of your choosing and lead the kids in singing.

Music: play one or two upbeat worship songs

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. *(Clap on each number.)*
Digs a hole right under me. *(Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)*
Slowly I start sinking down. *(Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)*
Until I'm sitting on the ground. *(Sit down on ground or chair.)*

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello my preschool friends! Can you believe it—it happened again! *(Hold up picture of Tippy.)* Do you remember Tippy the Mouse? Tippy tiptoed into our room last night and took our Bible story pictures back to her mouse house. Now the pictures are all mixed up with the other doodads Tippy has collected. I need your help finding the pictures so we can tell today's Bible story.

During today's true Bible story, we're going to learn that **God gives me everything I need.** That's our Big Idea for the day. Can you say that with me? *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God gives me everything I need.** It's true: **God gives me everything I need.** In fact, that's what our memory verse tells us. Let me teach it to you.

"My God *(point up with both hands)* will meet *(clasp hands)* all *(make a circle in the air with your pointer finger)* your needs *(extend open palms like you're receiving something).*" Philippians 4:19 *(put palms together like you're holding a book).*

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Let's do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.)*

STORY TIME RULES

Wow—nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

TIPPY'S MOUSE HOUSE INTRO

Have you ever been hungry before? I mean *really* hungry? *(Children respond.)* What sound does your tummy make when you're really hungry? *(Some children will make sound.)* That's right—it makes a growling sound. Let's make the growling sound of a hungry tummy together. *(Make “grr” sound with children.)*

In today's true Bible story, there were a LOT of growling tummies. But God heard the people's tummies *and* their prayers, and then He did something incredible. If you're ready to hear that Bible story, let's tiptoe to Tippy's house and look for our missing Bible story pictures. Tiptoe with me to Tippy's Mouse house while we say the Tippy Tippy Tiptoe rhyme. Repeat this after me. *(Tiptoe in place with the children while quietly saying the following rhyme. Say one line at a time, then have the children repeat.)*

Video: (optional) play the “Tippy Rhyme” video

Tippy Tippy tiptoed into our church.
Scurried to our room for a mousy search.
Tippy took our pictures one by one.
Now begins the picture finding fun.

Great job! We're at Tippy's house now! Let's sit down as quiet as a mouse. *(Sit down with children.)* There's just one more thing we need to do before we look inside Tippy's mouse house and hear our Bible story. We need to get our Bible. Let's say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

Slide: show the “Birds and Bread from Heaven” slide

BIG BIBLE STORY—BIRDS AND BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Note: *Before the story begins, give each child a copy of “Tippy's Mouse House” along with a crayon. Encourage the children to keep their paper face down when they're not searching for a picture. Whenever you say, “Let's peek inside Tippy's house,” have the children flip the paper over, begin their search, and circle the picture once it's found. Have a copy for yourself and circle each object along with the children so you can show them where it is hidden if needed.*

In the Bible, in the Book of Exodus, there was a man named Moses who loved God very much.

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Moses helped the Israelites escape from a mean man named Pharaoh. There was one big problem, though.

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **cactus**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When the Israelites escaped from the mean Pharaoh, they had to pass through a very dry, very hot desert. There wasn't much food to eat in the desert and the people started getting really, *really* hungry. They said to Moses (*speak in whiny voice*), "Why did you bring us into the desert. We're going to die of hunger!"

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find an **ear**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) God said to Moses, "I have heard how unhappy my people are. Tell them, 'At night time, you will have meat to eat. And in the morning, I will give you bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **bird**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) That night, when the sun went down, the Israelites heard the sound of birds flapping on the ground. When they looked outside of their tents, they saw birds called quails. Not just one quail, or two quails. There were so many quails that they covered the ground—enough to feed ALL of the Israelites.

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a loaf of **bread**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) The next morning, when the Israelites woke up, the ground was covered with thin flakes of bread called "manna." Moses told the people, "Take as much manna as you need for the day, but don't save any for tomorrow. If you do, it will get rotten and stink."

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **happy face**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) The Israelites were so happy now. Every day, God gave them the food they needed for that day. The people ate manna in the morning and quail at night and they were never hungry again.

MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Lead the children in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, ask the children to sit down again.)

Music: play one worship song

In today's true Bible story, the Israelite people were hungry and their tummies said, "Grr!" But then God gave the people birds and bread to eat. Who remembers what the birds were called? (*Take answer.*) That's right—the birds were called quail. And who remembers what the bread was called? (*Take answer.*) You got it—the bread was called manna. God gave the Israelites what they needed and He gives us what we need too!

Let's think of some things we need for us to live. If you can think of something we need, raise your hand and squeak like a mouse. (*Call on children one at a time.*) Great answer! Does God give us [insert child's answer]? Yes! Yes He does! (*Continue taking answers and asking children if God gives us that thing.*)

God gives us food to eat and water to drink. He gives us mommies and daddies to take care of

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us. He gives us a church where we can learn about Jesus. **God gives us everything we need.**

TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Hey—that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

(Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.)

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God gives me everything I need.** On the count of 3, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" *(Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.)*

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2"

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God gives me everything I need.** *(Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.)*

Video: play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3"

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. *(Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.)*

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for giving us everything we need. *(Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)*

Dear God,
You give me everything I need.
Thank you for giving me my food.
Thank you for giving me my family.
And thank you for giving me Jesus.
Amen.