



Tippy's Mouse House

Clean Water in the Desert

BIG IDEA: God gives me everything I need.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 15:22-27

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

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

When I was in high school, my friends and I ventured downtown for a concert one Friday night. Since I'd gotten my license only a few months earlier, the half an hour drive felt to me like a road trip, full of adventure and the sweet sense of freedom. The sound of the radio was blaring in my speakers as we sped down the highway. I was in the middle of belting out a solo when I realized that I had missed the exit into the city.

To my horror, we continued on, into one of the most dangerous neighborhoods not just in the city, but in the country. We ended up turning around in the parking lot of a strip club, of all places, as we searched desperately for road signs that would get us back on course.

That was many years ago, but I still remember the sick feeling in my stomach like it was yesterday.

If I'm being honest, that's not the only time I've gotten off track and ended up somewhere I didn't want to be. More often than I'd like to admit, I've willfully ignored the directions laid out in God's Word. I've chosen to go my own way, rather than to follow Him obediently. I've allowed myself to be distracted by lesser things. I've rejected the very guidance designed to protect and keep me.

Nevertheless, just as He did with the Israelites, God calls me back to Him. He beckons me to remember His perfect law for my life. He calls me to remember that I am chosen and special to Him. He reminds me of the multitude of ways that He has cared and provided for me. And to no surprise, the more I remember His promises and provisions of the past, the more I trust Him with my life in the future.

It's not uncommon to feel "off track" sometimes. If that's you, take some time to remember the many ways God has cared for you in the past. Then praise God that no matter how far off course we stray, there is always a way back.

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2.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



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! I'm so glad you're at church today because it happened again! *(Hold up picture of Tippy.)* This is Tippy the Mouse. Tippy tiptoed into our room last night and took our Bible story pictures back to her mouse house. 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).*

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

2.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



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

Before we get started looking for our missing Bible story pictures, I just need to do one thing. You see, I’m really thirsty and I need a drink of water. *(Pick up clear cup or bottle of dirty water.)* Yuck! Look at this dirty water. Would you want to drink dirty water like this? *(Children respond.)* Me either. I’ll bet it tastes terrible!

You know what, this dirty water reminds me of today’s true Bible story. It’s about some people who were *really* thirsty, but the water they found tasted *really* bad! If you’re ready to hear the Bible story, let’s tiptoe to Tippy’s house and look for our missing Bible story pictures. Tiptoe with me 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! 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 out. 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 “Clean Water in the Desert” slide

BIG BIBLE STORY—CLEAN WATER IN THE DESERT

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

2.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a picture of the **sun**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When Moses and the Israelites escaped from the mean Pharaoh, they had to pass through a very dry, very hot desert. Let's count to three together. (*Count with children to three.*) After three days of walking in the dry, hot desert, Moses and the Israelites were very, very thirsty, but they couldn't find water anywhere. Can you show me what you look like when you're really thirsty? (*Children make a thirsty face.*)

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **glass of water**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) Finally, Moses and the Israelites found some water in a place called Marah. They were so excited. They ran to the water, fell to their knees, and began slurping up the water. Let's pretend to slurp up water from our hands. (*Slurp with children.*) There was just one problem.

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **mad face**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When the people drank the water, it was bitter and tasted really, really bad! The water was so bad that they couldn't even drink it. Now the people were starting to get mad at Moses. They said to him, "What are we supposed to drink?" Moses didn't know what to do, so he prayed to God and asked Him for help.

Let's peek inside Tippy's house and see if we can find a **stick**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) When God heard Moses' prayer, He showed Moses a stick. Moses picked up the stick and threw it into the dirty water. Let's pretend like we're throwing the stick into the water. (*Pretend with children.*) As soon as the stick hit the water, God made the water clean enough to drink. It was a miracle—something only God can do!

Let's peek inside Tippy's house one more time and see if we can find a **palm tree**. (*Give the children a moment to find the missing picture.*) After the Israelites drank the clean water, God led them to a new place with a whole bunch of palm trees and springs of fresh, clean water. Thanks to God, Moses and the Israelites now had a nice place to camp with lots and lots of water to drink.

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 our true Bible story for today, the Israelites were very thirsty. But then God gave them clean water to drink. God gave the Israelites what they needed and He gives us what we need too! Let's see if we can spy some things that God gives us.

I spy with my little eye someone wearing a [insert color] shirt. (*Children spy a child with that color shirt.*) Great job—it's our friend [insert name]. Does God give us friends? (*Children respond.*) Yes He does!

I spy with my little eye, a [insert color] pair of shoes. (*Children spy the shoes.*) You did it! Does God give us shoes and clothes to wear? (*Children respond.*) Yes He does!

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I spy with my little eye, a bottle of clean water. *(Ahead of time, place a clean bottle of water in the back of the room. Provide the children help if needed.)* You got it! Does God give us water to drink? *(Walk to water as children respond.)* Yes He does! *(Drink water.)* Ahh—finally some delicious water for me to drink!

God gives us friends to play with. He gives us clothes to wear. He gives us water to drink. And best of all, 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 water.
Thank you for giving me my friends.
And thank you for giving me Jesus.
Amen.