



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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GO! Contributor



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

WATERCOLOR

Supplies: Paper (1 piece per child), watercolor paints, paint brushes (1 per child), clear cup of water (1)

Directions: Give each child a piece of paper and a paint brush. Tell them to paint a picture of something that God gives them. If they need help, tell them to think about family, friends, or food. As the children are painting, ask them about their picture. Over time, the water in the cup will turn darker and dirtier in color. When finished, draw attention to the cup of dirty water.

Say: Look at this water. It's so dirty looking now. Would you want to drink this water? (*Children respond.*) Me neither! In today's true Bible story, God's people are *very* thirsty, but the only water they can find is dirty like this water. We'll find out what happens in a little bit and learn that **God gives me everything I need.**

Question: Have you ever been *really* thirsty? What does that feel like?

☆ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

STOP MOUSE (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, we learned that **God gives me everything I need.** We're going to play a game that helps us remember that.

Directions: Tell the children to pretend to be Tippy the Mouse. Have all the little mice line up against one wall. Tell them they have to slowly tiptoe across the room to the opposite wall like Tippy, but they can only move when you (the cat) isn't looking. Begin meandering around the playing area, sometimes facing away from the mice and sometimes facing toward them. If you see one of the children move, point to them and say, "Stop mouse!" When a mouse is caught, they must take three steps backward while saying the Big Idea: "**God gives me everything I need.**" When all of the mice have reached the opposite wall, have everyone say the Big Idea together. If time and interest allow, play multiple rounds. When finished, ask the question below.

Question: What is something special that God has given you?

2.3 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



STICKY WATER (Application Activity)

Supplies: Blue poster board (1 piece per group), craft sticks (1 per child), “My Needs” pictures (1 set per group)

Say: In today’s true Bible story, Moses threw a stick in the dirty water and God turned the water clean. We’re going to pretend to be like Moses and think about some things that God gives us.

Directions: Place the blue poster board on the floor. Spread out the “My Needs” pictures on top of the poster board. Give each child a craft stick and have them stand about 6 feet from the poster board. Tell the children to pretend the blue poster board is water. One at a time, have the children throw their stick at the water. Look to see which picture it came closest to (clothes for example), then ask the children, “Does God give us clothes to wear?” Then lead the group in saying, **“Yes! God gives me everything I need!”**

Question: Is there something you or your family needs right now? Do you think God will give you that thing?

TIPPY AND FRIENDS (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Dice (1 per group)

Today’s Bible verse:

“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*).

Directions: Practice the Bible verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, tell the children they’re going to say the Bible verse while pretending to be Tippy the Mouse or one of her friends. Allow the children to take turns rolling the dice, then recite the Bible verse while performing the corresponding animal action below.

Animal Actions:

1. Tiptoe like Tippy the Mouse.
2. Hop around like Freddy the Frog.
3. Swim in a circle like Franny Fish.
4. Slither on the ground like Jake the Snake.
5. Run in place like Jasmin the Jaguar.
6. Choose your own animal movement.

TIPTOE LIKE TIPPY (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible story pictures (1 set per group)

Directions: Tell the children they get to pretend to be Tippy the Mouse and tiptoe around the room in search of the Bible story pictures. Have them close and cover their eyes while you hide the Bible story pictures around the room. (They are the same pictures from the Large Group storytelling time.) When finished, have the children open their eyes and tiptoe around the room in search of the pictures. Give clues if needed. After finding the pictures, the children can tiptoe back to you in the “Mouse House.” Finally, have the children place the pictures in the order of the story, then ask them to use each picture to recount what happened in the story.

2.3 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



GOD GIVES ME CLOTHES (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of their favorite shirt or dress. When finished, have the children show their picture and tell about it.

Say: Today we learned that **God gives me everything I need.** God gives us clothes to wear. Let's say a prayer to God and thank Him for giving us the clothes in our pictures.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking God for giving us clothes to wear and for giving us everything we need.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: If you were one of the thirsty Israelites, would you have drunk the yucky water? Why or why not?

Question: How does this story make you feel about God?