



HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT ONE: God Rescued His People

Lesson 10: Water from a Rock

CONTENT:

1. The Israelites reached a place where there was no water. They forgot all that God had done for them and quarrelled with Moses and with God. Moses prayed and God told him what to do.
2. Moses assembled the people at the rock at Horeb and struck the rock with his stick. Water gushed out and the people's thirst was quenched. But Moses knew that God was not pleased with the people. He called the place Meribah, which means 'quarrel'.
-  3. We should never forget all that God has done for us, or quarrel with him. Instead, we should ask him for what we need and trust him.
4. When Jesus met a Samaritan woman near a well he asked her for a drink of water, and then offered her 'living water'. The woman became happy and ran and told the people of her town about Jesus. They too came to believe in him.
-  5. The living water Jesus promised is the Holy Spirit. He is God. He came into us at Baptism. He keeps our souls alive and happy, just as water keeps our bodies healthy.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Share the story of the Woman at the Well and ask your family if they know what the living water is.

REFERENCES: Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-13; John 4:1-42. CCC 694; 2119

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- Last week we talked about bread. Today we'll talk about water. Can you remember a time when you were very, very thirsty and longed for water? What did you feel? [*Hot, dry mouth, headache, restless, upset.*]
[Ask the students to drink a little water from their bottles.]
- How do you feel when you drink water, especially after being thirsty? [*Fresh, peaceful, comfortable, happy.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Last time we saw how God looked after the Israelites as they travelled with Moses through the desert. What did he send them? [*Manna and quails.*]

The people kept walking and walking through the desert. Every night they would stop and put up their tents to rest. They would collect quails in the evening and manna in the morning and then carry on with their journey.

But after some weeks they came to a place where there was no water. The people looked all over, but there was no sign of water... no plants, no pools, no streams. (Of course there were no taps or pipes like we have.) The people became hot and thirsty and upset. What do you think they did?

[Let the students suggest]

No, they didn't say, "God, please help us!" Instead those foolish people forgot all that God had done for them. They began to grumble and complain. They took rocks in their hands and went to quarrel with Moses. They shouted at him, "Why did you bring us here to this useless place? It would have been better if we had died in Egypt!"

Moses said, “Why are you quarrelling with me? Don’t you remember all that God has done for us? He has worked such great miracles for us, and can he not take care of us now?”

But the people wouldn’t listen. They kept shouting and grumbling.

Then Moses and Aaron went to the special tent where they used to pray to God. They fell down on the ground and prayed. Suddenly there was a bright light in the tent and the Lord spoke to them.

He told Moses, “Take your stick and go to the rock at Horeb. Tell all the people to come there. Then strike the rock with the stick. I will be there in front of you.”

Moses trusted God. He called all the people together and they went to the rock of Horeb. He said, “Listen, you quarrellers! Shall I bring water out of this rock for you?”

Then he lifted his stick and struck the rock. The people looked with big eyes as the rock broke open and water started pouring out. Every one began to cheer and run to the stream. They washed their faces and drank the cool, clean water. The women filled their water pots and the children splashed in the water. Once again they saw that God was really with them and was taking care of them.

But Moses was not feeling so happy. He knew that God was disappointed with his people, because they had quarrelled with him and had not trusted him. So Moses named that place Meribah. Can you guess what Meribah means?... It means ‘Quarrel’. *[Write the word on the blackboard]*

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Is God loving and kind, or mean to us? *[Loving and kind!]*
- Then why do we stop trusting him? When do we quarrel with him? *[When things go wrong]*
- Have you ever grumbled and become angry with God? Can you tell me some times when you do?

[Let the students suggest specific situations E.g.]

- If it starts raining just when you want to go out to play.
- If you get a lot of homework.
- If you get sick, or hurt.

- Is it right to grumble and fight with God? What do you think he would like us to do instead?
[We should remember all that God has done for us. We should just ask God for what we need and trust him.]

[On a blank sheet of paper, (the back of handout 8 could be used) the students draw a line to divide the page into two.

On the top half they write the caption: THANK YOU LORD FOR... and draw all the things God has done for them, provided for them.

On the bottom half they write LORD, PLEASE WILL YOU...

and write what they need. They draw a picture to illustrate this request.

E.g. If they have asked that their mother gets healed, they draw her standing up, looking happy and well.]



NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we saw how the people quarrelled with God. Why did they do that? *[Because there was no water in the place.]*
- What should they have done? *[They should have asked God for what they needed and trusted him.]*
- Did God give them water? How? *[He told Moses to strike the rock with his stick, and water came out of the rock.]*
- What did Moses call that place? *[Meribah]* What does it mean? *[Quarrel]*

Today I'll tell you another true story from the Bible. It is also about water.

One day, Jesus was sitting next to a well. The sun was hot, because it was the middle of the day. Jesus was tired and thirsty. Just then, a woman came to the well with her water pot on her head.

Jesus called out to her and said, "Woman, please give me a drink of water."

The woman was very surprised. She looked at Jesus and thought, "This man is a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How come he's asking me for water? Jews don't talk to us or eat with us!" But she threw her pot into the well and pulled it up with water. She poured some for Jesus.

Then Jesus said something even more surprising. He said, "If you knew who I am, and what God wants to give you, you would ask me for water, and I would give you living water."

The woman looked all round. She couldn't see any water pot or bucket. She said, "Sir, the well is deep, and you have no bucket. How are you going to get the water out?"

Jesus smiled and shook his head. "I'm not talking about this water. I'm talking about very special water. It is living water. Once you drink it, it will become a spring inside you and will give you life forever and ever."

Now the woman began to realise that Jesus was not just an ordinary man. She said, "Give me this living water!"

At that moment something happened to her inside. She didn't know what had happened, but suddenly she felt different... happy and full of life. She forgot all about her water-pot and ran back home. She called out to everyone she saw on the way, "Come quickly! There is a man sitting at the well. I think he is a man from God!"

The people looked at the woman. She looked like a different person. She never used to look so happy and free. They all went running to the well.

After they met Jesus they liked him so much that they invited him to stay in their town for some days. They told the woman, "Now we know for ourselves that Jesus is not just an ordinary man. He is the Saviour of the world!"

- I wonder if any of you have guessed what the living water was. Did Jesus have a bottle with him? How did he give the water to her? And what happened to the woman after she got the living water? *[The living water is the Holy Spirit. He is God. God is three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit entered the woman she became happy. She also wanted to share Jesus with others. She became like a new person.]*

[Give out handouts and read the written matter. Fill in the missing words: QUARREL, HOLY SPIRIT, GOD, BAPTISM, SOULS, BODIES.]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Divide the class into two and let them plan and enact the two stories: Water from the Rock; the Woman at the Well.]

Home assignment: Read handout at home. Share the story of the Woman at the Well and ask your family if they know what the living water is.