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Lesson | Resources

Note: Lines that begin with > and words in ALL CAPS indicate instructions. All other lines indicate points to make, things to say, or questions to ask.

OT 34 Wandering in the Desert Part 2
Reference: Num. 11:4-35, 20:1-13, 21:4-9
Big Idea: Believe in Jesus to be saved.
Verse: Acts 16:31 - And they said ,"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

**Note: The resources to be used with this lesson are found in the corresponding Resource file.*

A. INTRODUCTION
Length: 5-10 min.

1. **DISCUSS FAVORITE FOOD:**
    a. What is your favorite food? (Various responses.)
        i. **> RECORD their answers on the board or a piece of paper.**
    b. How would you feel about it if you had to eat it every day, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
    c. You might complain about this after a while.
    d. How do people feel when we complain? (Various responses.)

2. **INTRODUCE THE STORY:**
    a. In today's story, the people of Israel start complaining about what they are eating.
    b. God was the one who gave them food.
    c. I wonder how he felt when they start complaining.
    d. Let's read the story together and find out!

B. LESSON, Length: 20-25 min.

Resources:
Meat Sign, Water Sign, Paper Quail

Materials:

Sheet protectors (two)	String	Blank t-shirt
Small stool (sturdy box)	Shepherd's staff (long stick)	Large rock
Spray water bottle	Stool to sit on	

Setup:

- Use the electrical tape to make a large letter "M" on the t-shirt.
- Put the Meat Sign and the Water Sign into separate sheet protectors.
- Tie a string through the holes on each end of the sheet protectors so that the signs may be worn around a child's neck.
- Fill the spray bottle with water.
- Set the larger stool near the center of the teaching area.

1. **INTRODUCE THE STORY:**
    a. Today's story is from the Book of Numbers.
    b. **> SHOW the children how to find the book of Numbers in your Bible.**
    c. It tells about a group of people called the Israelites.
    d. God made many special promises to the Israelites.
    e. One day, a long time after this story happens, Jesus, God's Son, was born.
    f. He was an Israelite.
    g. In today's story, they are wandering around in the wilderness.
    h. What is the wilderness like? (No homes or store, hard to find food, dangerous people and animals)
    i. But they weren't supposed to wander forever.
    j. God had promised them a good land to live in.
    k. Some people called this land "the promised land."
        i. **> HAVE the children repeat "the promised land" with you.**

2. **READ NUMBERS 11:4-6:**
    a. **> INSTRUCT the children to listen for the following word and...**
    b. **> DO the following motions as you read them.**
        i. Food - rub your belly
        ii. Cry - pretend to silently cry like a baby
        iii. Meat - pretend to eat a drumstick
            1. *4 Some people who were with them began to long for other food. Again the people of Israel began to cry out. They said, "We wish we had meat to eat... 6 But now we've lost all interest in eating. We never see anything but this manna!" (Num. 11:4 & 6, NIrV)*

3. **DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS VERSE:**
    a. It's hard to find food in the wilderness.
    b. So, God sent a special food from heaven for the Israelites to eat.

c. They called it manna and they ate it everyday.
d. But then they started complaining.
e. What did they want? (Meat!)
f. They complained to their leader, Moses
    i. **> SELECT a child to come up and represent Moses.**
    ii. **> GIVE them the "M" shirt to wear.**
    iii. **> HAND them a Shepherd's staff (or long stick).**
g. Let's complain like the Israelites for a minute.
    i. **> HAVE Moses stand in front of the children.**
    ii. **> LEAD the children in a "We want meat" chant for a minute.**
        1. **> ENCOURAGE the children to make their chanting tearful, just like the Israelites.**
h. This is the first problem Moses faced in our story today: meat.
    i. **> HANG the Meat Sign around Moses' neck.**
    ii. **> INSTRUCT Moses to sit on the stool.**
i. Moses, could you go and buy meat for the Israelites? Why or why not? (No, because they were in the wilderness.)
j. Moses, how do you feel after hearing these complaining people? (Sad, upset, angry, etc.)
k. Let's read what Moses did next.

4. **READ NUMBERS 11:10-11 & 13 AND EXPLAIN THE MOTIONS:**
    a. Crying - pretend to silently cry like a baby4
    b. Why - make a pleading gesture with your hands to the sky
    c. Meat - pretend to eat a drumstick
        i. *10 Moses heard people from every family crying. They were sobbing at the entrances to their tents. The Lord burned with hot anger. So Moses became troubled. 11 He asked the Lord, "Why have you brought this trouble on me? Why aren't you pleased with me? Why have you loaded me down with the troubles of all of these people? 13 "Where can I get meat for all of these people? They keep crying out to me. They say, 'Give us meat to eat!' (Num. 11:10,11,13, NIrV)*

5. **DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS VERSE:**
    a. Moses wanted to know why God was letting the Israelites treat him so poorly.
    b. Moses didn't know what to do, so he did a good thing: he talked to God about it.
    c. Moses, what did you ask God? (Where can I get meat for all the people?)
    d. God listened to Moses and he was ready to answer.
    e. God was angry at the Israelites. Why do you think he was angry? (Various responses.)
    f. I'm going to read to you what God said.
    g. **> STAND up on the stool/box and READ the following in a booming voice.**
        i. Numbers 11:18-20a - "Tell the people, 'Set yourselves apart for tomorrow. At that time you will eat meat. The Lord heard you when you cried out. You said, "We wish we had meat to eat. We were better off in Egypt.' Now the Lord will give you meat. And you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one or two days. You will not eat it for just five, ten or 20 days. Instead, you will eat it for a whole month. You will eat it until it comes out of your nose. You will eat it until you hate it."
    h. Israelites, how do you feel after hearing that? (Various responses.)

6. **DISCUSS NUMBERS 11:31-32:**
    a. Here's what the Bible says happened next.
    b. The Lord sent out a wind.
        i. **> INSTRUCT the children to blow one great big breath together.**

c. It drove quail in from the Red Sea.
d. What are quail? (A small bird that tastes kind of like chicken.)
e. The wind from God brought them down all around the camp.
    i. **> THROW the paper quail over the children.**
f. They could be seen in every direction as far as a person could walk in a day.
g. The people went out all day and gathered quail.
    i. **> INSTRUCT the children to go and gather the quail. Make sure each child gets one.**
h. They gathered them all night and all the next day.

7. **DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THIS:**
    a. The Israelites complained and God sent them quail to eat.
    b. But how did God feel about this? (He was angry.)
    c. God was angry because the people had disobeyed and he decided to punish them.
    d. The Bible says he sent a plague among the people (ref. Num. 11:33)
    e. A plague is big punishment from God.
        i. **> HAVE the children repeat "A plague is a big punishment from God."**
    f. Sometimes in a plague, people got really sick or hurt or worse.
    g. When we are punished by our parents, they want us to learn our lesson.
    h. But the Israelites didn't learn their lesson.
    i. They kept on complaining.

8. **READ NUMBERS 20:2,4-5 AND EXPLAIN THE MOTIONS**
    a. Water - pretend to drink from a cup
    b. Why - shake your fists
        i. *2 The people didn't have any water. So they gathered together to oppose Moses and Aaron. 4 "Why did you bring the Lord's people into this desert? We and our livestock will die here. 5 Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Why did you bring us to this terrible place? It doesn't have any grain or figs. It doesn't have any grapes or pomegranates. There isn't even any water for us to drink!" (Numbers 20:2-5, NIrV)*

9. **DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS VERSES:**
    a. Israelites, what is your problem now? (They didn't have any water.)
    b. And who did the Israelites complain to about their problem? (Moses.)
    c. Moses, it looks like you have another problem on your hands.
        i. **> HANG the Water sign around Moses' neck.**
    d. Moses, where are you going to find water in the wilderness? (Various responses.)
    e. This is what the Bible Says.
    f. Moses and Aaron left the people. They went to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. There they fell with their faces to the ground. (Num. 20:6a)
        i. **> HAVE Moses lay face down on the ground.**
    g. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord spoke to Moses. (Num. 20:6b-7)
        i. **> STAND up on the stool / box.**
        ii. **> SPEAK the next part in a booming voice.**
    h. Get your wooden staff. You and your brother Aaron gather the people together. Then speak to that rock while everyone is watching. It will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community. Then they and their livestock can drink it. (Num. 20:8)
        i. **> STEP off the stool.**

10. **DISCUSS GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS:**
    a. Moses, what did God tell you to do? (Answers below.)
        i. Get his staff.
        ii. Bring the people together.
        iii. Speak to the rock.
    b. Moses, what will happen if you do that? (Water will come out of the rock.)
    c. Israelites, is it normal for water to come from a rock? (No.)
    d. If water comes from the rock, God would have to do it.
    e. Well, if were going to do this, we'll need a rock.
        i. **> SET the large rock in the center of the teaching area.**
    f. And we'll need some water.
        i. **> HAND the spray bottle (filled with water and set to the "Stream" setting) to a child.**
        ii. **> HAVE them crouch down next to the rock, a few feet away.**
    g. Let's read from the Bible and see what happened.

11. **ACT OUT NUMBERS 20:9-11:**
    a. So Moses took the wooden staff from the tent. He did just as the Lord had commanded him. (Num. 20:9)
        i. **> HAVE Moses to stand up and show his staff to the people.**
    b. He and Aaron gathered the people together in front of the rock. (Num. 20:10)
    c. Moses said to them...
        i. **> HAVE Moses stand up on the small stool /box.**
        ii. **> INSTRUCT him to REPEAT the next two lines**
    d. "Listen, you who refuse to obey!" (Num. 20:10)
    e. "Do we have to bring water out of this rock for you?" (Num. 20:10)
        i. **> INSTRUCT Moses to step down from the stool.**
    f. Then Moses raised his arm. He hit the rock twice with his staff. (Num. 20:11)
        i. **> INSTRUCT Moses to strike the rock with the staff twice.**
    g. Water poured out. (Num. 20:11)
        i. **> INSTRUCT the child with the squirt bottle to hold it near the rock and begin squirting water onto the children.**
        ii. **> STOP them after a few squirts**
        iii. **> ASK them to return to their seats**
        iv. **> ASK Moses to sit back on the stool.**
    h. And the people and their livestock drank it. (Num. 20:11)

12. **DISCUSS WHAT MOSES DID:**
    a. Moses, what did you do? (Hit the rock.)
    b. What did God tell you to do? (Just speak to the rock.)
    c. Moses disobeyed God.
    d. Still, God made water for the Israelites.
    e. But do you think God was happy with Moses? Why or why not? (Various responses.)
    f. Let me read you what God said to Moses.
        i. **> STAND on the small stool / box.**
        ii. **> READ the next part in a booming voice.**
    g. You did not trust in me enough to honor me. You did not honor me as the holy God in front of the people of Israel. So you will not bring this community into the land I am giving them. (Num. 20:12)
    h. Because Moses disobeyed God, God decided to punish Moses.

i. He said that Moses couldn't go into the special promised land.
j. Moses, how do you feel about your punishment from God? (Various responses.)
    i. **> INVITE Moses to rejoin the children.**

13. **DISCUSS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR SIN:**
    a. Who in today's story was punished by God? (The Israelites, Moses)
    b. What was the Israelites' punishment? (A plague.)
    c. What is Moses' punishment? (Can't go into the promised land.)
    d. Why were they punished? (They disobeyed God by complaining or not following his directions.)
    e. God punishes people who disobey him.
    f. This is like when your mom or dad punishes you when you disobey them.
    g. Sin is a special word the Bible used for disobeying God.
    h. Sin is disobeying God.
        i. **> HAVE the children repeat "Sin is disobeying God" with you.**
    i. Let's see what the Bible says about what we get when we sin.

14. **READ ROMANS 6:23a AND EXPLAIN THE MOTIONS:**
    a. Sin - two thumbs down
    b. Death - stick out your tongue and roll your eyes
        i. *When you sin, the pay you get is death. (Romans 6:23a, NIrV)*

15. **DISCUSS THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN:**
    a. So, what is the punishment (or pay) for sin? (Death.)
    b. Is death a good thing or a bad thing? (A bad thing!)
    c. Do you want to pay that punishment? (Of course not!)
    d. It looks like we're in big trouble like Moses and the Israelites!
    e. I wonder if God can save us like he gave the Israelites water and meat.
    f. I only read half of that verse from before.
    g. Let me read the whole thing and see if there is any good news.

16. **READ ROMANS 6:23a AND EXPLAIN THE MOTIONS:**
    a. Sin - two thumbs down
    b. Death - stick out your tongue and roll your eyes
    c. Gift - cup your hands together and gesture away
    d. Jesus - make a cross with your forearms
        i. *When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done. (Romans 6:23a, NIrV)*

17. **DISCUSS WHAT JESUS DID FOR US:**
    a. What gift did God give us? (Eternal life.)
    b. Eternal life means life that never ends.
    c. God gave us the gift of eternal life.
    d. He sent his Son, Jesus, to pay our punishment for sin.
    e. Listen to this Bible verse:
    f. Romans 5:8 - But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, [Jesus] Christ died for us.
    g. Jesus died for my sins and for your sins and for the sin of everybody.
    h. And because God is so great and strong, Jesus came back alive again three days later!

18. **DISCUSS HOW WE CAN BE SAVED:**
    a. God saved the Israelites from starving by sending them quail and manna.
    b. God saved the Israelites from dying of thirst by making water come out of a rock.
    c. God saved everybody from sin by sending his Son, Jesus, to die for us.
    d. Listen to what they Bible says we must do to be saved by Jesus:
    e. Romans 10:9 - Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord [King]." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.
    f. To be saved from your punishment for sin, you need to...
    g. Make Jesus your king...
        i. **> PRETEND to put a crown on your head**
    h. And believe in your heart...
        i. **> TAP your hand on your heart**
    i. That Jesus died and rose again.
        i. **> BEND over forward and back up.**

19. **INTRODUCE THE BIG IDEA:**
    a. Today's big idea is "Believe in Jesus to be saved."
    b. **> REPEAT the big idea with the children several times and DO the following motions:**
        i. Believe: hold your hands together and put an earnest look on your face
        ii. Jesus: make a cross with your arms
        iii. Saved: make the baseball "safe" sign with your arms

C. APPLICATION ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Resources:	**Materials:**
Application Activity Pictures	Marker

1. **REVIEW THE STORY AND BIG IDEA:**
    a. What are some things the Israelites were saved from in today's story? (Food in the desert, water from a rock)
    b. What is today's big idea? (Believe in Jesus to be saved.)
    c. You may wonder how Jesus saves us.
    d. The best place to learn about God is the Bible, so let's start reading!

2. **DISCUSS GOD'S PERFECTION:**
    a. The Bible tells us that God is the King of the Universe. (ref. Rev. 19:6)
        i. **> PLACE the White Crown Picture on the table.**
    b. **> READ Matthew 5:48 from your Bible.**
        i. *Matt. 5:48 - So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (NIrV)*
    c. What did this verse teach us about God? (He's perfect.)
        i. **> WRITE the word "Perfect" in the middle of the Crown.**
    d. Not only is God perfect, he told us to be perfect, too.
    e. Let's see what the Bible says about us being perfect.

3. **DISCUSS OUR SINFULNESS:**
    a. What does the word "sin" mean? (Disobeying God's rules.)
        i. **> PLACE the Grey People Picture on the Table.**
    b. **> READ Romans 3:23 from your Bible.**
        i. *Rom. 3:23 - Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. (NIrV)*
    c. Who has sinned? (Everyone!)
    d. Are we perfect like God told us to be? (No)
        i. **> WRITE "Everyone's sinned" on the picture of the People.**

4. **DISCUSS THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN:**
    a. What does it mean to be punished? (It's what happens to you when you do something wrong.)
    b. **> READ Romans 6:23a from your Bible.**
        i. *Rom. 6:23a - When you sin, the pay you get is death. (NIrV)*
    c. What is the pay (or punishment) for sinning? (Death.)
        i. **> PLACE the Black Skull Picture on the table.**
    d. Remember, how many people have sinned? (Everyone)
        i. **> POINT to the picture of the criminal.**
    e. So, what is everyone's punishment? (Death.)
        i. **> WRITE the word "Death" in the middle of the skull.**

5. **DISCUSS JESUS' DEATH:**
    a. Let's find out what Jesus did to save us.
    b. **> READ 1 Cor. 15:3b-4a from your Bible.**
        i. *1 Cor 15:3b-4a - Christ [Jesus] died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. (NIrV)*

c. What did Jesus do? (He died for our sins.)
    i. **> PLACE the Red Cross Picture on the table.**
d. Jesus is God's Son. He's God in a human body.
e. Since Jesus is God, he was perfect.
f. But he knew that our punishment for sin is death.
g. To save us, Jesus died on a cross.
h. He died to pay the punishment for our sins.
i. Three days later, Jesus came back to life.
j. The Bible says if we believe that Jesus is God and believe that he died for our sins and rose again, we'll be saved.
    i. **> WRITE the word "Believe" on the picture.**
k. Just like our big idea says, to be saved, believe in Jesus.

6. **REVIEW:**
    a. **> POINT to each of the pictures and...**
    b. **> ASK the children to SAY what each picture represents.**

D. VERSE ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Verse: Acts 16:31 - And they said ,“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

Resources:	**Materials:**
Verse Cards	Poster Putty, long table, empty soda cans (12), squirt gun or spray bottle

Setup:

- Write the verse on a chalk or marker board.
- Set the long table at one end of the room.
- Attach each Verse Card to a soda can using the putty and place them in order in a line on the table
- If you are using a spray bottle, turn the nozzle so that it is a tight stream.

1. **INTRODUCE THE VERSE AND ACTIVITY:**
    a. **> READ through the verse as a group.**
    b. What is today’s big idea? (Believe in Jesus to be saved.)
    c. This verse says the same thing as our big idea.
    d. To be saved from sin and death, we need to believe in Jesus.
    e. As we learn this verse, you’ll be knocking over these cans using water.
    f. Where in today’s story was there squirting water? (When God made water come from the rock)

2. **REPEAT THE FOLLOWING:**
    a. **> HAND the squirt gun/bottle to a child and have them STAND about five feet from the cans.**
    b. **> INSTRUCT them to SQUIRT one of the cans until it falls over or off the table.**
    c. **> ERASE the words attached to the can from the board and REPLACE them with a line.**
    d. **> READ through the verse as a group.**
    e. **> CONTINUE the above process until all the cans are gone from the table.**
    f. **> IF you wish, INTRODUCE the motions below for the following words when they are erased:**
        i. They said - move your hand like a puppet
        ii. Believe - fold your hands in front of you as if pleading
        iii. Lord Jesus - make a cross with your forearms
        iv. You - point to another person
        v. Saved - make the baseball “Safe!” sign

E. REVIEW ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.

Materials:

Markers	Paper airplanes (one for each kid)	Yarn

Setup:

1. Fold the paper airplanes ahead of time. Here's instructions for a basic one: http://www.amazingpaperairplanes.com/Basic_Dart.html
2. Use the yarn to make one large loop, about five feet in diameter.
3. Place the yarn circles on the floor at one end of the room, the smaller circle in the center of the larger one.

1. **INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY:**
    - **a.** In today's story, what animal came flying in for the people to eat? (Quail.)
    - **b.** We don't have real quail with us, but we can make our own.
        - **i. > HOLD up a paper airplane.**
        - **ii. > HAND one to each child.**
        - **iii. > GIVE them about 2-3 minutes to decorate their plane like a bird.**
    - **c.** We'll try to throw our quail into the big circle over there.
    - **d.** Whoever is closest will pick who answers a question about today's story.

2. **DO THE ACTIVITY:**
    - **a. > HAVE the children STAND against the opposite wall from the circle and then...**
    - **b. > THROW their quail towards the circle.**
    - **c. > IDENTIFY the winner and...**
    - **d. > HAVE the pick a child to answer a question from below, preferably someone who hasn't answered one yet.**

Questions // Answers

1. What did Israelites want to eat instead of manna? // Meat
2. How did God feel about their complaining? // Angry
3. What meat did God send to the Israelites? // Quail
4. What was their punishment for complaining and not trusting God? // Plague
5. What else did the Israelites complain about needing? // Water
6. What did God tell Moses to do to find water? // Speak to a rock and God would make water come
7. What did Moses do with the rock and what happened? // Hit it with a stick and water came out
8. What was Moses' punishment for not listening to God? // Can't go to the promised land
9. What punishment are we supposed to get for sin? // Death, being apart from God
10. How did God save us from that punishment? // His Son, Jesus, died for us
11. What is today's big idea? // Believe in Jesus to be saved.
12. What is today's Bible verse? // Acts 16:31 - And they said ,"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

Parent Email Information
To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

OT 34 Wandering in the Desert Part 2

Reference: Num. 11:4-35, 20:1-13, 21:4-9

Big Idea: Believe in Jesus to be saved.

Verse: Acts 16:31 - And they said ,"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

Motions For the Big Idea:
Believe: hold your hands together and put an earnest look on your face
Jesus: make a cross with your arms
Saved: make the baseball "safe" sign with your arms

Motions For the Verse:
They said - move your hand like a puppet
Believe - fold your hands in front of you as if pleading
Lord Jesus - make a cross with your forearms
You - point to another person
Saved - make the baseball "Safe!" sign

Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. What did Israelites want to eat instead of manna? // Meat
2. How did God feel about their complaining? // Angry
3. What meat did God send to the Israelites? // Quail
4. What was their punishment for complaining and not trusting God? // Plague
5. What else did the Israelites complain about needing? // Water
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