

Moses Gets Water from a Rock

Supplies: Small rock, blank piece of paper, scissors

Scripture: Exodus 17:5-6

How many of you have ever played the game Rock, Paper Scissors? Here's how to play (demonstrate hand motions for rock, paper, and scissors)

Players all hold one hand out as a platform and hit it with their other fist while saying, "Rock, Paper, Scissors, Go!" On the fourth hit and the word, "go," players form either a rock, paper or scissors

This is how you know who wins: rock smashes scissors, paper covers a rock, and scissors cut paper

Let's play! You can all play against me and you can keep track of how many times you win. Ready? One to three go. (for the first round choose rock.)

I made a rock. If you made paper you win. If you made scissors, I win. If you made a rock, we tie. Play a couple more rounds.

The great thing about Rock, Paper, Scissors is that you can be a winner to matter what you choose from game to game. Today I have a real rock, paper and scissors with me. These items are all useful in their own way. (hold up each item as you talk about it). If you wanted to write a letter, rock or scissors wouldn't be much help. But a piece of paper would be, wouldn't it? If you wanted to cut some string, a rock or paper wouldn't help, but a pair of scissors would. If you were really thirsty and needed a drink of water, a piece of paper or a pair of scissors wouldn't be much help, but a rock might be exactly what you need.

Wait – what?

Some of you are looking at me like I'm crazy! Don't you think a rock would be helpful if you needed a drink of water? Let's vote.

Well, in our Bible lesson today, that's exactly what happened. A rock helped when people were thirsty.

What's it like when you feel very, very thirsty? Being thirsty is uncomfortable. It can give you a headache and make you dizzy. In fact, the human body has to have water every day, multiple times a day.

Let's find out what this has to do with our Bible Story . . .

Moses had led the God's People out of slavery into the desert. After they crossed the Red Sea, they were out wandering in the desert. In the burning bush, God had told Moses to take them out of Egypt to where? To the Promised Land. But the journey to the promised land was long and difficult. God's people were more and more thirsty, the situation was getting very serious, and they complained to Moses. So Moses went to his tent and fell on his knees before God. Moses came close to God and God came close to Moses.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders with you; take in your hand the staff and go. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink."

Moses did exactly what God told him to do. After he struck the rock, water began rushing from it—enough to quench the thirst of all the people and all their animals!

We can learn a lot from Moses. When you and I face an impossible situation, we can go to God and ask for His help. God can do impossible things.

- I wonder what part of the story you liked best
- I wonder what part of the story is most important
- I wonder what part of the story is about you, or where you see yourself in this story
- I wonder if there's any part of the story that we can leave out and still have all we need