

Children's Message

Moses and Manna



Scripture: Exodus 16:1-35

Assumptions...

- I tend not to ask kids to respond to questions because you never know what they are going to say and I don't want to put kids in a place where they are going to be embarrassed. So, when I ask questions, I ask kids to think about it without answering. If you want to open it to the kids responding (you know your audience), feel free to do so.

Props - optional, but fun - squares of tissue paper maybe 1 or 2" ish - here's the thought - as you invite the kids to come forward, throw the tissue paper around the area. As kids come closer ask them to pick up enough pieces of paper so everyone in their family can have 2 or 3. Make sure you have enough tissue paper so kids can grab what they need. If you are social distancing - toss the paper around so that kids can keep their distance. If you don't use the tissue paper on the floor, you can use the adapted version

Option 1 with "tissue paper manna":

Invite the children to come forward. As they do, toss the tissue paper "manna" around. As the children arrive up front, invite them to pick up just enough "manna" so everyone in their family can have 2 or 3 pieces (adjust this as needed - if you have a bunch of kids and need to make it 1 piece, do that.) Once the kids have their "manna" invite them to sit down.

In today's story, Moses has led the Israelite people out of Egypt where they were slaves and into the desert. They were running out of food and complained to Moses. (in a great whiny voice) - Moses! We always had enough to eat in Egypt. Why did you bring us here? We are hungry and scared and we want to go back! So Moses and God had a conversation and God explained how there would be enough for the people to eat, but God gave very specific instructions. Every morning there would be flaky sweet wafers and quail on the ground. The people could take just what they needed every day and no more. Except on the day before the Sabbath when they were supposed to take enough for two days. If they didn't follow the directions, the next morning the food would spoil and smell really bad. It took a couple of days, but eventually the Israelites listened and followed the directions and always had enough food to eat.

Look at the manna in your hand. Did you take just enough? Did you take too much? Did you take too little? Take your manna with you and for each piece that you have, write a person, place, or thing that your family can pray for this week.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for stories in the Bible that teach us about how much you care about each one of us. We know you care about our needs, especially having food to eat. Help us to learn about hunger in our community and how we can take action. Guide us as we share your love and care with others. Amen.

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Option 2 without tissue paper "manna"

Invite the children to come forward and welcome them.

In today's story, Moses has led the Israelite people out of Egypt where they were slaves and into the desert. They were running out of food and complained to Moses. (in a great whiny voice) - Moses! We always had enough to eat in Egypt. Why did you bring us here? We are hungry and scared and we want to go back! So Moses and God had a conversation and God explained how there would be enough for the people to eat, but God gave very specific instructions. Every morning there would be flaky sweet wafers and quail on the ground. The people could take just what they needed every day and no more. Except on the day before the Sabbath when they were supposed to take enough for two days. If they didn't follow the directions, the next morning the food would spoil and smell really bad. It took a couple of days, but eventually the Israelites listened and followed the directions and always had enough food to eat.

Think of a time when you followed the directions. Maybe it was when you were baking cookies or building a Lego set. What would have happened if you didn't follow the directions? If you were building with Lego or blocks and you wanted to build a car but didn't follow the directions, you might end up with a car, or you could end up with a house! Or a _____. God asked Moses and the people to follow the directions so everyone would have just enough. Talk with your family about ways that you can live so you have just enough or can share your extras.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for stories in the Bible that teach us about how much you care about each one of us. We know you care about our needs, especially having food to eat. Help us to learn about hunger in our community and how we can take action. Guide us as we share your love and care with others. Amen.