

God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26



Worship Theme:




God gives good gifts.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise God for giving good gifts and offer what they have back to God.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>Sing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Psalm 23" (track 20) • "There's Power in the Blood" (track 13) • "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 2) • "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 9) • "Give Thanks" (1 Chronicles 16:8) (track 17) 	<p>KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>Songs From FaithWeaver</i></p> <p>Classroom Supplies: CD player, poster board, Bible, marker, 2 boxes of snack crackers, gravel, timer, chalkboard, chalk, 1 gift bow per child</p> 

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p>2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p>God's Gift Clues Look for and discuss symbols of God's gifts to the Israelites.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: 2 sheets construction paper, marker, 3 gift bows</p>
	<p>Gifts for All People Play a game to identify things God has given them to appreciate their own special gifts from God.</p>	
	<p>*The Gift Box Game Play a game to anticipate getting a good gift.</p>	<p>Classroom Supplies: CD player, CD of praise music, 4 boxes, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, bow, 1 treat per child</p>

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* "Good Gifts?" Watch a DVD, and discuss what makes God's gifts good.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>Lesson Videos</i> DVD: "Good Gifts?" Classroom Supplies: TV, DVD player
	* God's Great Deal Open three different gifts, and compare them.	Classroom Supplies: 3 gift boxes, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, confetti, feather, 1 lollipop per child
	Alphabet Thanksgiving Thank God for things in alphabetical order to praise God for giving good gifts.	



Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Learn they can never outgive God.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	Give and Thank Prayer Offer themselves and their things to the Giver of Good Gifts.	
	"No Greater Gift" Sing this song as a prayer to give themselves in worship.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>Songs From FaithWeaver</i> : "No Greater Gift" (track 10) Classroom Supplies: CD player



* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

After three days in the desert without finding water, the Israelites came upon a spring. But the water was bitter and the people complained. Despite the grumbling of the people, God turned the bitter water sweet so they could drink it.

Approximately 30 days have passed since the Hebrew people left Egypt. Apparently the food they had brought with them had run out, and they began complaining. How quickly they had forgotten the oppression of the Egyptians! All they could think of was the food available back in Egypt. Even though they complained instead of trusting God and asking him for what they needed, God came through again. Here was another opportunity for the Israelites to learn to trust God.

We don't know exactly what "the glory of the Lord" was that the Israelites saw in the cloud, but it was a visible sign to them (perhaps like the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night mentioned in Exodus 13). God wanted the Israelites to know that he was still there, that he was aware of their need, and that he was going to provide for them.

When the manna appeared the first morning, the Hebrews' question, "What is it?" apparently caught on as its name because *manna* means "What is it?" Though some have suggested various possibilities for what manna was, nothing we know of today is a good match for the description given in Exodus 16:31: "It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey." Certainly this was a miraculous provision that God made for his people.

The miraculous nature of manna is further exhibited in what happened to it over the course of a Sabbath as opposed to a weekday. The Israelites were not to work on

the Sabbath, but to keep it as a day for worship. Gathering manna on the Sabbath would have been work, so God simply didn't make it appear. If anyone tried to keep manna from one weekday to the next, it would spoil. However, if anyone kept it from the morning before the Sabbath, it would stay good through the Sabbath. God provided just what his people needed, just when they needed it!

Devotion for Leaders

God is our provider! These are words to trust and embrace. Everything we have is from God, and he has provided a way for us to have a relationship with Jesus. The eternal gift of salvation is the greatest provision we could ever receive!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: What do you find yourself wanting more than anything? How often do you view this desire as a need? It is important to recognize the difference. God allowed the Hebrews to live as slaves for many years. When God decided they needed to leave Egypt, he provided the miraculous opportunity to do so.

Our greatest need is to honor and glorify God. Despite our wants and desires, we are fulfilled when living in God's will. Write down some specific circumstances in which you can glorify and honor God. Pray for the strength and awareness to do just that.

Why We Worship for Leaders

The Israelites didn't deserve good gifts. They whined and complained as they traveled to the Promised Land. Their commitment was often halfhearted. But God didn't give them what they deserved. He gave them good gifts to provide for their needs.

God gives us good gifts, too. Like a loving father who cares for his children, God gives us what we need and more. His gifts help us through life and prepare us for eternity. They are carefully chosen for our ultimate good and perfection by the God who knows us better than we know ourselves. Let's praise and thank our generous God throughout the day.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!

- Use a black marker to print Psalm 23:5-6 on poster board.
- Empty one box of snack crackers, and set the crackers aside. Fill the box with gravel, and close it up.

"Good Gifts?"—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the *Lesson Videos* DVD to "Good Gifts?" Watch it at least once before the worship session so you'll be familiar with it.

God's Great Deal

- Put confetti in a gift box. In another gift box, put a feather. Leave the third box empty. Wrap all three boxes.
- Put the lollipops where they are out of sight but easy to reach.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.



1 Let's Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Fall 2015* as children arrive. Greet children by name. As children enter the room, place a bow on each head, and say, "You are a good gift from God!"

When you're ready to begin, welcome the children warmly.

Say

God is the greatest! God is more powerful than anyone or anything; God can conquer any problem. God is the wisest of all; God can answer any question. God is more generous than we can ever imagine; God gives us good gifts. Let's celebrate his greatness today!

Sing "Psalm 23."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Show children the Psalm 23:5-6 poster. Have the children read it aloud.



For additional worship songs each week, check out the *Sing & Praise* DVD included with your KidsOwn Worship kit!

Say God gives good gifts—everything we need. Psalm 23 compares God to a good shepherd who watches out for his sheep and provides for their needs. Let's see how many good things we can find in Psalm 23:5-6.

Have the children call out the good things they see in the passage. Use a marker to circle these gifts. Answers may include table, oil, cup, goodness, love, life, and house of the Lord.

Say All these things are gifts from God. God gives us food and water. God watches over us when we are in danger. God brings healing when we're injured or sick. God offers his goodness and love. Our very lives are a gift from him. When we die, we can live forever in heaven, God's home. That's the best gift of all!

God has everything we need. He may not give us everything we want when we want it, but he gives us what we need when we need it. God will never fail to do what is best for his children. God gives us power through Jesus. Let's sing "There's Power in the Blood."

Sing "There's Power in the Blood."



Track 13

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say God has all the power we need, and he gives good gifts because he cares for us! In Luke 12:24 (New Living Translation), Jesus said, "Look at the [birds]. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!"

In verse 28, Jesus says, "And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you."

Ask • If God cares for birds and flowers, how much do you think he cares for you? (A lot! God cares more than anything; God loves us so much he died for us.)

Sing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7).



Track 2

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Say God cares for you, and I do, too. Today I brought you a snack. You may pass it around and share.

Hand the box of gravel to someone in the front row. Let the child open the box and react. Pretend not to notice at first.

Say Go ahead. Take some for yourself, and pass it on. There should be plenty for everyone!

Listen to the children's reaction. Notice the problem.

Say Oh, no! I must have given you the wrong box. That's my gravel collection. Isn't it cool? Trade the box of gravel for the box that really has snack crackers.

ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully, as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

I would never really give you gravel for a snack! That could break your teeth. I care too much about you for that.

God cares too much about you for that, too. In Matthew 7:9-11, Jesus asks parents if they would give their children stones when they ask for bread. Of course their answer would be “No way!” Then he reminds the people that, even though they’re not perfect, they know how to give good things to their children. God is perfect, so we know he will give good gifts.

I care about you and want good things for you. But sometimes I make mistakes—like giving you gravel instead of crackers! God never makes mistakes. He cares for you more than anyone else ever could. God knows just what you need when you need it, and he gives good gifts because he cares for you.

Not only does God care for you, he loves you. And his love is great and everlasting. That means it lasts forever, no matter what. In fact, his great love is *one* of his good gifts. What a wonder! Let’s sing “His Great Love.”

Sing “His Great Love” (Romans 5:8).



Track 9

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Ask • What do you do when someone gives you a gift? (Say thank you; I get excited; I smile.)

Say When someone gives me a gift, I say, “Thank you.” But I could never thank God enough for all of his good gifts to me. I probably don’t even know about all of them, because I don’t always recognize God’s gifts right away. God is always watching for opportunities to give good gifts to the children he loves.

Let’s thank God for his good gifts. I’m going to give you two minutes to think of as many gifts from God as you can. I’ll make a mark for every gift you name. Let’s see how much we can thank God for!

Set the timer for two minutes. Let the children name all the gifts they can in that time. Make a mark on the chalkboard for each one. Tally the marks at the end of two minutes.

Say You remembered some important gifts. But you’ve only just begun. Every day we can find new gifts from God. Try to thank God every day for something you’ve never thanked him for. You’ll never run out of gifts because the Bible tells us God’s mercies are new every morning. Let’s sing “Give Thanks.”

Sing “Give Thanks” (1 Chronicles 16:8).



Track 17

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Pray God, we thank you and we praise your name. You give good gifts. We worship you now as our generous and loving God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Worship Leader Tip

Here’s a great way to include preschoolers in your worship session. As kids call out gifts from God, have preschoolers take turns making marks on the board.



2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 29-30

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.



Elementary Activities

* "Good Gifts?"

Say To help us learn more about the gifts God gives to us, let's watch this DVD.

Show the DVD segment titled "Good Gifts?"

This segment shows a child at a birthday party receiving an odd assortment of gifts.

After the segment, have the children turn to a partner and answer these questions. After each question, ask a few volunteers to share their discoveries.

- Ask**
- **What did you think about the gifts this boy got for his birthday?** (They were boring; I wouldn't want to get those gifts.)
 - **If today were your birthday, what would you like to receive as a gift?** (A new bike; an Xbox.)
 - **What makes some gifts good and other gifts not so good?** (Whether or not we need them; good gifts are the ones we really want.)
 - **What makes God's gifts good?** (They meet our needs; he gives them to us out of love.)
 - **What do you think God would have given to the boy in the DVD?** (A hug; better friends.)

Say When we receive gifts, we really hope that they're good gifts. The boy in this DVD was disappointed with what he got for his birthday. But we'll never be disappointed with the gifts God gives us. God's gifts are always good.

* God's Great Deal

Gather the children in front of you.

Say I have three gift boxes for you to open today. The gifts in the boxes will teach us a little more about our generous God. I am going to give the first gift to the youngest person in this room.

Determine which child is youngest. Let that child choose and open a gift. Read the response below that goes with that gift.

Let the oldest child in the group and the child whose birthday is closest to Christmas open the next two gifts. Read the responses that go with those gifts as the children choose them.

Say God gives good gifts. God gives gifts that his children need because he loves and cares about them. God hears their prayers. And God enjoys their happiness as they celebrate his goodness. We worship a generous and loving God.

ALLERGY ALERT

See "Let's Praise God!"



Worship Leader Tip

If you are including preschoolers in the "God's Great Deal" activity, note that lollipops can be a choking hazard for young children. Choose a different kind of individually wrapped candy instead.

Gift #1: The Empty Box

Say Oh no! The box is empty!

- Ask**
- How does it make you feel to find an empty box? (Sad; frustrated.)
 - If God gave you a present, what do you think you'd find in it? (Money; love; everything I need.)
 - How do you know God would not give an empty box? (God gives good gifts; God meets our needs.)

Say God gives good gifts. When the Israelites were hungry, they complained and asked for food.

Ask

- How do you think God felt about hearing all their grumbling? (Sad; angry.)

Say God didn't appreciate their grumbling, but he answered the people anyway. God promised he would send food. God gives good gifts—and he knows what his people need.

Gift #2: The Feather

Say It's a feather!

Ask

- What can we do with a feather? (Tickle people, feel how soft it is.)

Say We can tickle people with feathers and make them laugh. But the Israelites didn't feel like laughing in the desert. They were hungry. God kept his promise, though. He sent flocks of quail the very evening of his promise.

Gift #3: The Confetti

Say This box is full of confetti!

Ask

- What does confetti remind you of? (Celebrations; parties.)

Say Confetti makes me think of parties and parades. It also reminds me of manna. When the Israelites woke up the morning after God promised food, the ground was covered with manna for the Israelites to eat.

Picking up manna may have been hard work for the Israelites. They had to pick up tiny morsels like this confetti, but they were hungry. Let's see how they felt.

Reach into the box, and act as if you are going to throw the confetti on the children. Then scatter the lollipops on the floor instead. When each child has a lollipop, have the children unwrap and enjoy the candy.

Ask

- How do you feel about picking up candy? (It's exciting; I love it.)

Say As the Israelites collected manna for breakfast, they probably felt like throwing a party! God kept his promise. He gave them a good gift.

Alphabet Thanksgiving

Sit with the children in a circle.

Say ▶ **We can thank God for good gifts from A to Z. God gives good gifts. I'm thankful for air to breathe!**

Have the child to your right say, "God gives good gifts. I'm thankful for [something that starts with B]." Continue around the circle. If you reach the end of the alphabet before every child has a turn, start over again with A.

Say ▶ **Wow! We've thanked God for things from A to Z, but I can still think of more things God gives! 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." When the Bible says, "No mind has conceived," it means no one can imagine. Wow! No matter what you imagine, you'll never be able to imagine all the wonderful gifts God is planning to give to you!**

Ask ▶

- **What is the greatest gift from God that you have received?** (My little brother; my best friend; making new friends when we moved.)
- **What is the greatest gift from God that you can imagine receiving?** (Never having to need anything; protection from bad things.)

Say ▶ **The gifts God plans to give are even greater than all of these! Our alphabet list will never be complete because God always has more gifts to give. He's preparing gifts now that we can't even imagine. Our God gives good gifts generously!**

3 Let's Pray!

The Offering

Say ▶ **As you prepare to give your offerings, there is something I want you to think about.**

Ask ▶

- **What do you do with money people give to you?** (Spend it; save it; buy cool things with it.)
- **What does God do with the money we give to him?** (Uses it to bring others to him; helps his church grow.)

Say ▶ **God doesn't really need money. He can make anything he wants or needs just by thinking about it! But God knows that his church needs money in order to do the things he wants it to do.**

Ask ▶

- **How does the church use God's money?** (To buy things to teach us; to help people grow closer to God.)

Say ▶ **We could give God everything we have—all our money, toys, books, cars, homes, even ourselves! But no matter how much we give to God, he always gives more back to us. We'll never outgive God.**

Pray; then take the offering.

(continued on page 31)

God Sends Quail and Manna

Exodus 16:1-26

Worship Theme:



God gives good gifts.

- Set up a CD or cassette player to play a CD or cassette of praise music.

Easy Prep for Leaders

God's Gift Clues—Draw simple pictures of manna and a quail on separate sheets of construction paper. Attach a gift bow to each picture. Hide the pictures in the room where the children can find them without moving any materials.

The Gift Box Game—

- Collect four boxes. Three of the boxes should nest in the largest box. Put the treats in the smallest box, wrap it, and place it inside the next size box. Wrap that box. Place it in the next size box. Wrap the box. Place it in the largest box. Wrap that box, and place a bow on top.

Preschool Leader Tip

To make the pictures more interesting, glue frosted-flakes cereal to one sheet of paper to represent manna. Cut or trace a picture of a quail from a wildlife magazine and glue it to a second sheet of paper. Young children enjoy learning through all five senses. Your creativity will add more interest and fun to the activity.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Let Theo call out the categories during "Gifts for All People."
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



God's Gift Clues

Gather the children around you.

Say God gave good gifts to his people, the Israelites. After he led them out of Egypt, the people became hungry.

Ask • What do you do when you're hungry?

Say The Israelites began to complain. God wasn't happy that the people complained. He wanted them to believe he would take care of them. But God loved the Israelites. He gave them good gifts of food to eat. Hold up a gift bow.

There are two pictures hidden in this room. The pictures have gift bows—like this one—attached to them. Find the gift bows, and you will discover what God gave the people to eat.

Give the children time to find the pictures. Set the pictures where all of the children can see them. Look at the picture of the manna.

Ask • What does this remind you of?

Say God called this food *manna*, which means "What is it?" God put it all around the camp for the Israelites to pick up and eat. It was flaky, kind

of like cereal. Tell a friend sitting next to you about your favorite kind of cereal. Encourage the children to tell each other about the cereals they like best. Allow about one minute for sharing.

Point to the picture of the quail.

Say This is a wild bird that is good to eat. It's called a quail.

Ask • What kind of food does this remind you of?

Say In the evening after God promised to send meat, a flock of quail came and settled in the Israelite camp. The Israelites caught the quail and had meat to eat for dinner. It was a special meal. Tell your friend about your favorite special meal. Allow the children a moment to talk to each other again.

For as long as the Israelites were in the desert, God gave them manna to eat. God gave good gifts to his people—quail and manna. These good gifts helped the people to know that God would keep his promises to them. God gives you food to eat, too, like the cereal and special meals you told your friend about. God's gifts are always good.

Gifts for All People

Have the children stand in the center of the room.

Say God loves each of us, and he made each of us different. Everything we are and everything we have is a gift from God. Let's play a game to discover some of the good gifts God has given us.

As you lead the game, point to the side of the room that you want the children to move to.

Say If you have dark hair, move to this side of the room. If you have light hair, move to that side of the room.

Give the children time to move to the sides of the room you indicated.

Say Our hair is a gift from God. It protects our

heads and helps us stay warm. Let's thank God for the good gift of hair! On the count of three, say, "Thank you, God, for my good hair!"

Count to three, and help the children cheer.

Repeat the game using such categories as eye color (light or dark), family size (brothers and sisters, no brothers and sisters), home (house or apartment); clothes (colors). When you finish the game, gather the children.

Say God gives good gifts. He gives us different gifts, but he loves us all the same. All of God's gifts are good. On the count of three, let's thank God again by saying, "Thank you, God, for your good gifts!"

Count to three, and let the children cheer.

* The Gift Box Game

Have the children sit in a circle. Give the wrapped boxes to one child.

Say I have another treat for you today. Let's play a game to find out what it is. When I start the music, pass the box around the circle. When I stop the music, we'll see who's holding the box.

Play the CD, and let the children pass the box. Stop the music whenever you please.

Ask

- What do you think is in the box?
- Why do you think I would give you [whatever the children named]?

Let the child holding the box open the first box. Let the children react to finding another box inside. Play the game again.

Ask

- What would you do if I put spiders in the box?
- What do you think you will find in the box this time?

Let the child holding the box open it. Let the children react to finding another box inside. Play the game again.

Ask

- Why do you think I wouldn't put spiders in the box?
- What will you do if the box is empty?

Let the child holding the box open it. Let the children react to finding yet another box inside. Play the game one more time, but don't let the children know it's the last time.

Ask

- What do you think I put in that box?

Let the child open the box and give the treats to everyone.

Say I would never give you something as scary as spiders, because I love you too much for that. I would never give you an empty box instead of a promised treat. I gave you a good gift because I care for you.

Ask

- Why does God give good gifts?

Say God loves us too much to give us anything harmful or bad. God shows his care by giving us the things we need, just as he promised he would. God gives good gifts because he loves us. Let the children enjoy the treats you've provided.

ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully, as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

(continued from page 28)

Give and Thank Prayer

Have the children stand.

Say God gives good gifts. We can never outgive God, but we can offer what we have back to him. This is one way to show our thankfulness to the Giver of Good Gifts. Repeat the following poem after me. Then name things you'd like to give back to God.

Have the children repeat each line after you:

Lord, you give good gifts to us.

We want to give some, too.

You've given us so very much—

Here's what we give to you:

Let the children speak out to name things they want to offer to God as they think of these things. Include your offerings among theirs.

Pray Thank you, God—the Giver of Good Gifts. Your gifts are perfect, just what we need. Thank you for accepting our gifts, as small as they are compared to yours. We worship and praise you, our Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

"No Greater Gift"

Say God is good, and he gives good gifts. Let's thank him in song for being so good to us. Let's sing "No Greater Gift."

Sing "No Greater Gift."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



Say Close your eyes and bow your heads.

Pray Thank you for loving us always, Lord. Thank you for giving perfect gifts. We worship and love you, our generous God. In Jesus' name, amen.