



<p>3. God's holiness (Numbers 20:8-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Talk through a scenario where a friend complains that they don't have any shoes. You give them a pair of yours, but instead of saying thank you, they complain they don't have a hat, so you give them yours. Instead of saying thank you they complain that they don't have enough shirts.... Etc. How would you feel about that person? How would you be tempted to react?</i></li> <li>➤ God is not like us! He is described in the bible as being "holy". That means he is not just a different version of us, he is completely different. In particular, he never reacts in even a slightly sinful way. What he does is always good and right.</li> <li>➤ Relate back to "Getting Started" activity. God is not even on the same line as us! He is not just a better version of us. He is completely different. The best version of us would still have sinful thoughts, even though we might manage to control it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:9-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What did Moses do? How is that different to what God commanded him?</i></li> <li>➤ Moses didn't trust God's way of providing water. Instead he decided he could do things differently. He presumed it didn't matter if he didn't do it exactly the way God had commanded him.</li> <li>➤ Remember that the Israelites had not heard God's instruction to Moses. All they knew about God's response, was through what Moses said and did.</li> <li>• <i>Q: Based on Moses' actions and words, what would the Israelites think of God?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: How is that different to what God actually said to Moses?</i></li> <li>➤ Moses was representing God to the people. Because of how Moses acted, he risked the whole nation of Israel getting a wrong view of God. They could have thought God was frustrated and resentful, instead of merciful and generous.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:12-13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What punishment does God give to Moses and Aaron?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: What reason does he give for the punishment?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: How did God show that he was holy, even despite Moses' actions?</i></li> <li>➤ God acted differently to how any of us would act. Despite the Israelites complaining, and Moses' disobedience, he still mercifully and abundantly provided water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sometimes we are tempted to try and fit God into our way of thinking, instead of accepting God as the way he has revealed himself in the bible.</li> <li>➤ Talk through examples, e.g. he forgives anyone who repents, even those we don't like. Or that we need him to save us, we can't save ourselves.</li> <li>➤ Each time we try to fit God into what we want, rather than what he really is, we diminish his holiness in our minds. And then we won't worship and honour him the way we should.</li> <li>➤ It is also important that we are faithful in how we represent God to others, even if we are mocked for believing certain things. Because the consequence is not just for us but also for others, who may never find out the truth of who God is.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God is kind even when we don't deserve it.
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Numbers 20:1-13
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Numbers 20; 27:12-14 Deuteronomy 32:48-52; Psalm 106:32-33.</b> The Israelites have lost out on entering the promised land because of their lack of trust in God, shown by their lack of obedience. They continue in their old ways, however. The very next crisis they face results in the same response of complaining and wanting to return to Egypt. God demonstrates remarkable patience and forbearance; his response to the complaint is to provide abundant water. The contrast between God and the Israelites could not be more stark. Numbers 20:13 summarises the incident as the time when Israel quarrelled with God, and God proved he was holy. God's holiness is at the heart of what is at stake in this incident. Moses' punishment, at first sight might seem harsh. But the reason given is that Moses "did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy" (see also Deuteronomy 32:48-52). Moses presumed to put his own spin on God's command, and thus didn't faithfully portray God for who he was. Through his words, ("must we...") God comes across as sharing Moses' petulance and frustration. As a result, Moses risked the people seeing a distorted view of God. It was necessary to show Moses and the Israelites that it matters how we view God. We don't get to decide what God is like. He is holy, and we must submit to this, and make sure we are faithful in how we portray him to others.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is kind all the time, even when we don't deserve it.</p> <p><b>Prepare for "Getting Started":</b> Make a face on a stick with a smiley face on one side and an angry face on the other. Make another face on a stick with a smiley face on both sides. Have a picture of a desert to use in the story.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	<p>Show the puppet with the smiley face. Talk about how sometimes we behave well, but sometimes we behave badly (turn the stick around to show the angry face). Everyone is like this. But God is different. God is always good (show the stick with the smiley face on both sides). No matter what happens. Today we are going to learn about a time where we see that people are sometimes bad, but God is always good.</p>
<p><b>Finding Out</b>          1. Another crisis and more complaining (Numbers 20:1-5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recap: The Israelites had finally made it to their new home</li> <li>➤ Q: <i>What was their new home like? What were the people like that lived there? How did the Israelites respond? What was the result?</i></li> <li>➤ The Israelites missed out on having a new home because they didn't trust God to be with them, so they chose not to obey him.</li> <li>➤ Instead, they had to go back into the desert.</li> <li>➤ Q: <i>What is a desert like? Can you find much water? (Show a picture of a desert)</i></li> <li>➤ Soon, the Israelites ran out of water to drink.</li> <li>➤ Q: <i>How do you think the people were feeling with no water to drink?</i></li> <li>➤ Q: <i>What do you think they said to God?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:2-5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Q: <i>Does that remind you of what they have done in the past?</i></li> <li>➤ Q: <i>What should the Israelites have said to God?</i></li> </ul>

<p>2. God again shows mercy (Numbers 20:6-7)</p> <p>3. God's holiness (Numbers 20:8-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They could have said, "We know that you are big and strong. You have been with us and given us everything we need in the past. Please give us water now"</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: How do you think God felt about his people complaining, again!</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Q: What would you say to the people if you were God?</i></li> <li>➤ God didn't say any of those things. He didn't tell the people they couldn't be friends with him anymore. Instead this is what he said</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God is very kind. Even when his people were behaving very badly, he still was kind to them and gave them what they needed.</li> <li>➤ <i>Talk through a scenario where a friend complains that they don't have any shoes. You give them a pair of yours, but instead of saying thank you, they complain they don't have a hat, so you give them yours. Instead of saying thank you they complain that the don't have enough shirts.... Etc. How would you feel about that person? How would you be tempted to react?</i></li> <li>➤ God is not like us! He is described in the bible as being "holy". That means he is different to us. Unlike us, he always does what is good and right.</li> <li>➤ Use the faces on sticks to relate back to the "Getting Started" activity.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ So, Moses gathered all the people together in front of the rock.</li> <li>➤ Describe the situation – everyone waiting to see what would happen.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:9-11a</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Q: Is that what God had told Moses to do? What had God told Moses to do?</i></li> <li>➤ Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses hit the rock.</li> <li>➤ He didn't obey God. Maybe he thought, "I don't think speaking to the rock is going to work, I'd better hit it instead. My way is better than God's way".</li> <li>➤ God's way is always the best way. If he says to do something, then that is always the best thing to do, even if we don't understand.</li> <li>➤ <i>Q: What do you think happened after Moses disobeyed and hit the rock? Do you think any water came out?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:11b</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It did! Even though Moses had disobeyed God, God was still kind and made a big flood of water come out of the rock!</li> <li>➤ Moses and God's people had all behaved badly. But God was still kind and gave them what they needed.</li> <li>➤ But that didn't mean that Moses wasn't punished. Because he had disobeyed God and thought he knew better, he wasn't allowed to go into the promised land. He missed out, like the other Israelites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sometimes we are tempted to think that God is just like us. But God is not like us. He never gets frustrated. He never hurts people because he has been hurt. God is always good and kind.</li> <li>• <i>Q: How does knowing that God is always good, and kind help you to trust him? How does it help you to obey, even when it is hard?</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: What do you want to say to God?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

## Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God is kind even when we don't deserve it.
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Numbers 20:1-13
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Read Numbers 20; 27:12-14 Deuteronomy 32:48-52; Psalm 106:32-33.</b> The Israelites have lost out on entering the promised land because of their lack of trust in God, shown by their lack of obedience. They continue in their old ways, however. The very next crisis they face results in the same response of complaining and wanting to return to Egypt. God demonstrates remarkable patience and forbearance; his response to the complaint is to provide abundant water. The contrast between God and the Israelites could not be more stark. Numbers 20:13 summarises the incident as the time when Israel quarrelled with God, and God proved he was holy. God's holiness is at the heart of what is at stake in this incident. Moses' punishment, at first sight might seem harsh. But the reason given is that Moses "did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy" (see also Deuteronomy 32:48-52). Moses presumed to put his own spin on God's command, and thus didn't faithfully portray God for who he was. Through his words, ("must we...") God comes across as sharing Moses' petulance and frustration. As a result, Moses risked the people seeing a distorted view of God. It was necessary to show Moses and the Israelites that it matters how we view God. We don't get to decide what God is like. He is holy, and we must submit to this, and make sure we are faithful in how we portray him to others.</p> <p><b>Take home message:</b> God is kind all the time, even when we don't deserve it.</p> <p><b>Prepare for "Getting Started":</b> Make a face on a stick with a smiley face on one side and an angry face on the other. Make another face on a stick with a smiley face on both sides. Have a picture of a desert to use in the story.</p>
<b>Getting Started</b>	Show the puppet with the smiley face. Talk about how sometimes we behave well, but sometimes we behave badly (turn the stick around to show the angry face). Everyone is like this. But God is different. God is always good (show the stick with the smiley face on both sides). No matter what happens. Today we are going to learn about a time where we see that people are sometimes bad, but God is always good.
<b>Finding Out</b> 1. Another crisis and more complaining (Numbers 20:1-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recap: God's people had finally made it to their new home</li> <li>• Q: <i>What did they find in their new home? What were the people like that lived there? Were God's people brave, or did they say it was too hard?</i></li> <li>➤ God's people missed out on having a new home because they didn't trust God.</li> <li>➤ Instead, they had to go back into the desert.</li> <li>• Q: <i>How much water is there in a desert? (Show a picture of a desert)</i></li> <li>➤ There is not very much water in the desert, just lots of sand! Soon, they ran out of water to drink.</li> <li>• Q: <i>How do you think the people were feeling with no water to drink?</i></li> <li>• Q: <i>Who do you think could have provided water for them?</i></li> <li>➤ God had rescued them. He had made sure they had plenty of food to eat. And he had been with them and looked after them. Of course, he could give them water!</li> <li>• Q: <i>Do you think God's people asked God to give them water?</i></li> <li>➤ No! Instead, this is what they said</li> </ul>

<p>2. God again shows mercy (Numbers 20:6-7)</p>	<p><b>Read Numbers 20:3-5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Was that a good way to behave?</i></li> <li>➤ They should have trusted that God could give them water.</li> <li>• <i>Q: How do you think God felt about his people complaining, again!</i></li> <li>• <i>Q: What would you say to the people if you were God?</i></li> <li>➤ God didn't say any of those things. He didn't tell the people they couldn't be friends with him anymore. Instead he said he would give them lots of water!</li> <li>➤ God is very kind. Even when his people were behaving very badly, he still was kind to them and gave them what they needed.</li> <li>➤ God told Moses to go and talk to a rock and tell the rock to give them water!</li> <li>• <i>Q: Do you think that would work for you?</i></li> <li>➤ What a strange thing to do! But God is so big and powerful, that he can even talk to rocks and they obey him and make water floods of water come out.</li> </ul>
<p>3. God's holiness (Numbers 20:8-13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ So, Moses gathered all the people together in front of the rock.</li> <li>➤ Describe the situation – everyone waiting to see what would happen.</li> </ul> <p><b>Read Numbers 20:10b-11a</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: Is that what God had told Moses to do? What had God told Moses to do?</i></li> <li>➤ Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses hit the rock.</li> <li>➤ He didn't obey God. Maybe he thought, "I don't think speaking to the rock is going to work, I'd better hit it instead. My way is better than God's way".</li> <li>➤ God's way is always the best way. If he says to do something, then that is always the best thing to do.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What do you think happened after Moses disobeyed and hit the rock? Do you think any water came out?</i></li> <li>➤ It did! Even though Moses had disobeyed God, God was still kind and made a big flood of water come out of the rock!</li> <li>➤ Moses and God's people had all behaved badly. But God was still kind and gave them what they needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>So What?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Talk about a situation where someone is unkind. E.g. not sharing toys or ruining a drawing/colouring. What do we do in that situation?</li> <li>➤ God is not like us. He never gets frustrated. He never hurts people because he has been hurt. God is always good and kind.</li> <li>• <i>Q: What do you want to say to God?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Memory Verse</b></p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>