

# Agua Viva / Living Water

## Noah built an Ark

Day one

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God uses water to teach us about obedience
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Genesis 6:11-22 (optional: Genesis 7:11-12, 8:6-13, 9:8-16)
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"Noah did everything just as God commanded him." <i>Genesis 6:22 (NIV)</i>

### Objective Preparation

The young people will know about the love and mercy of God,

- Pray asking the Lord to give you wisdom, understanding and the right words to teach the lesson. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who will be listening.
- Read *Genesis 6:9-22, 7:1-24, 8:1:22 and 9:8-16*, so you may have a better perspective of what happened before and after the flood. Also a better perspective of God's mercy and how much He dislikes sin.
- Read and study your lesson in *Genesis 6:9-22, 7:1, 4, 5, 10, 17, 18 and 23*.
- Read the cultural and Biblical background.
- Don't forget to have your Bible with you so that the young people can see it and know that what they are about to hear comes from the Word of God.

### Material

- Practice the lesson so you can measure the length of the class.
- Pictures to illustrate today's lesson.
- Have a paper ark made out of cardstock. Bring small toy animals to the class or cut out animal pictures from magazines. Draw and cut paper characters to play the part of Noah and his family.
- Or have ready a scale model ark with a green base to simulate grass or maybe brown to simulate dirt. Use small toy animals or paper cutouts as well as illustrations of Noah, his wife, his children and their families. Be sure these cutouts or drawings are supported so they can stand up on their own on the model ark.
- Confetti or small pieces of paper to simulate rain.
- Color paper.
- Pictures of contemporary big ships and also a picture of an ark.
- Pictures of different types of animals.
- White sheets of paper.
- Colors and pencils.
- A photocopy for each student of the questionnaire added at the end of this lesson. (optional)

### ***Biblical and cultural background.***

*First, think and consider the fact that we are talking about the first book of the Bible: Genesis. Genesis means "origin" or "beginning". It's the book that narrates the beginning of everything. Genesis proclaims the only and eternal God, creator of all that exists. This book establishes from the beginning the relationship God had with man. Man had been created by Him and had been trusted to rule the earth. God wanted goodness and happiness for men, but also wanted obedience and loyalty. Genesis also talks about the origin of sin and about suffering when one prefers to do his/her will instead of God's will. Genesis also tells us how God acts in history with the purpose of redeeming man.*

*You will discover in Genesis chapters 6:9-11, 7 and 8, that the earth was no longer the perfect paradise that God had created. Soon humanity had forgotten God and there was only evil in their hearts and the intention of doing wrong. But there was a man named Noah, whose name in Hebrew means "rest", who worshiped God with his family. The Bible says that Noah was a righteous man, blameless, perfect in his generations that lived according to God's will. When the Bible says that Noah was perfect in his generations, not only is it referring to his descendents (Shem, Ham and Japheth), we must consider Noah's ancestry: Noah's father -Lamech, Noah's grandfather Methuselah, and his great grandfather Enoch who walked with God and was taken away by God (Genesis 5:24). Noah is a descendant of Seth, son of Adam. When Enoch was born to Seth, "Men began to call on the name of the Lord" (Genesis 4:26).*

*God is faithful and keeps His promises. But He also punishes sin because He is just and Noah's story is a clear example of it.*

### ***Introduction***

- Greet the group. Let the young people know how happy you are to be there with them. Make them feel welcome and happy to be learning about God.
- Meanwhile hand out nametags to the students and write their names on a list.
- Invite one of the students to give thanks to God for the opportunity of being together and also ask God to give them understanding and open up their hearts and minds so they may understand God's teaching for the day.
- Practice the memory verse: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." Genesis 6:22.

### ***Studying the Bible passage***

- Ask the students: Do you know what an ark is?
- Show the students a picture of an ark and ask: How many animals do you think would fit inside an ark, including the birds? (Some books say that there were 45,000 animals inside the ark)
- Say "Noah did everything as God commanded him." Ask: Do you always obey your parents and your teachers?
- Is it hard for you to work with others in a team? Why?
- When you obey, do you do it with a good cheerful attitude or are you angry?
- Have you noticed how your parents feel when you disobey? Sadness or happiness?

- *Imagine God asks you to build an ark like the one in the picture. Would you do it or would you complain saying: it's too hard?*
- *Ask the students to open up their Bibles and look up the following passages: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:1, 4, 5, 10, 17, 18 y 23, so they can follow along with the story.*
- *While asking questions give each student a white sheet of paper and a pencil. Ask the kids to place the paper horizontally and write their names on the lower right corner of the page and the title: "Noah's ark" at the bottom center of the page.*
- *Tell the students: let's learn about Noah.*

*The Bible tells the story of a man called Noah. Noah had never seen a boat, or a ship or an ark, for the place where he lived was a very dry place and they knew nothing about ships or boats. However God told Noah to build an ark. Would he? Why did God ask him to build an ark? How long would it take Noah and his family to build an ark?*

*The Bible says that Noah was a good man; he was righteous and perfect in his generations, he walked with God and always obeyed Him. Among the people of his time, only he and his family lived according to God's will. Noah's family was his wife, his three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives. (If you're able make some paper characters and make them stand with play dough. Show and stand the characters as you mention them.)*

*In those days the people had become corrupt and the earth was full of violence due to the wickedness of men. People only did and thought bad things. God was sad and told Noah: "I've decided to wipe out men for the earth is full evil and violence. I will destroy the earth with all the people in it. Build an ark with cypress wood; there will be rooms in the ark and you will caulk the ark (cover all the crevices between the wood boards) with brie from the inside and from the outside (brie is a black, sticky liquid that is obtained from petroleum). The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for the ark and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.*

*Tell the students to draw the ark on the paper they were given while you read the instructions, given to Noah, from the Bible. Explain the ark measurements and invite children to write the measurements on their drawing as if they were engineers working on a project. Let the students know that you will only read the instructions twice. After reading the instructions the second time give students about three minutes to finish their drawing. Ask one or two students to pick up the papers. The students should have written the title and their names as was instructed, if they didn't they may not do so. When all papers have been picked up, continue with the lesson.*

*God told Noah the measurements and the material that he had to use to build the ark and **Noah did just as God commanded him.** God told Noah he would send strong and constant rain that would flood the earth and destroy all living things under heaven. All that existed on earth would die. God was sad because men had chosen to do evil instead of God's will. God decided to wipe out everyone except Noah and his family who lived according to God's will.*

God made a pact with Noah. A pact is an agreement between two groups. God told Noah: "Go inside the ark with your wife, your sons and daughters-in-law, take in with you a male and female of each animal type of the world so they may live as well as you". Two animals of each type will go into the ark: birds, tamed animals, beast, critters, etc. (Ask children to say animal names of each type.)

God also told Noah to gather food and store it inside the ark. That way Noah and the animals would have food to eat. **Noah did everything just as God commanded him.**

Many years went by before Noah and his family were able to finish the ark, and during that time people made fun of Noah. People didn't believe the possibility of a flood as Noah was telling them (1 Peter 3:20) because their hearts were full of evil and were not repentant of their sins (Noah was an example of the opposite because he obeyed by faith, as we can read in Hebrews 11:7).

When Noah finished the ark, he did what God had told him to do and he got in the ark with his family, for he obeyed God and did his will. God also told Noah to take the animals that had been gathered into the ark (add animals to the picture) because in seven days rain would fall for forty days and forty nights. **Noah did just as God commanded him** (add a picture of the ark with the doors closed and take away Noah and the animals), and later rain started. The earth was flooded and all people died along with the animals and the birds that weren't inside the ark because they did not obey God. The people had only the desire in their hearts to do evil things that weren't pleasing to God. The only survivors from the flood were Noah and all with him in the ark because they chose to obey God and trust Him.

Tell the children that, after Noah and his family came out of the ark God promised that never again would He destroy the earth with water. As a sign of this promise God gave us rainbows (Genesis 9:1-17)

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

Encourage children to participate and ask them the following questions:

- What did God ask Noah to build?
- Did Noah know what an ark looked like?
- Did Noah do what God asked him to?

(When children answer the questions, emphasize the fact that Noah did JUST as God asked him. Noah did not complain; he never said "I can't")

- The ark God asked Noah to build, was it easy to build?

(Again, emphasize the fact that a building an ark was a very hard thing to do, but Noah obeyed because he trusted God)

- How long did it take Noah to build the ark?

(Again emphasize how hard it was to build the ark but Noah obeyed God. Noah is an example of patience and faith for the time he had to invest in building an ark where there wasn't water)

- Why did God choose Noah to build the ark?
- Why were only Noah and his family saved from the flood? (Emphasize the fact that these eight persons obeyed God although the people around them didn't.)
- Why did God flood the earth? Why didn't more people get in the ark? (Emphasize the fact that God is just and punishes sin. That's why He sent rain: to wipe away those that disobeyed and did what was wrong)
- How many of you obey without complaints?
- How do mom and dad feel when you disobey?

- *When you disobey your parents, are you disobeying anyone else? When we obey our parents we are also obeying God.*
  - *Is obeying hard? Yes/no, why?*
  - *In whom should we trust when we have a very difficult task to do?*
  - *How long should we wait for God to answer our prayers?*
  - *(God responds when He thinks is right, only God knows the right time to answer and God knows what is good for us, his children).*
  - *When our classmates misbehave, should we do the same or should we set an example by obeying as Noah did?*
  - *If our parents love us, why do they punish and scold us when we do wrong and disobey?*
  - *If God loves us, what does He do when we sin?*
- (God loves us and so do our parents, for this reason they punish us or scold us when we disobey or misbehave. The way of sin only bring problems, sadness and it pulls us away from God. We shouldn't forget that God is just and punishes sin)*

*Review with the class the memory verse for this day in Genesis 6:22*

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

- *Optional Activity.*

*Give each student a photocopy of the work sheet added at the end of the lesson. Instead of pencils, give them pens. Tell the students they may only have a pen in one hand and the work sheet in front of them facing down. They may not speak to others around them and have only 5 minutes to answer the questions on that worksheet. Ask them to read the instructions before starting. Say "Start" for the students to start reading. Those students who finish before the 5 minutes are over ask them to turn their paper facing down (so others can't see it), place their pens down and wait quietly for others to finish.*

*Once everyone has finished, explain the following:*

*Noah was a man that loved God and lived according to His will. Noah did everything JUST AS God commanded him to do. Noah followed all of God's instructions without changing a thing. Noah learned to be patient because he trusted God would always be with him to help him. Noah didn't care about how long it would take him to do what God told him because he trusted God.*

*For some of us it's hard to follow instructions or rules, especially when we are not allowed to go places where we want to go, but if we follow instructions we may learn and everything will be easier. Sometimes we don't want to obey because at the time we are given an order we're playing or we are doing something we don't want to stop doing or we want to go somewhere with our friends. But if we love God and our parents we must learn to listen to what they say and obeying may be easier. Sometimes we feel angry because our parents rebuke us when we're doing something that is wrong, but they do it because they love us and want what is best for us. So, instead of being angry, be happy for the love of your parents. If obeying is hard for you, ask God to help you be obedient and God will surely be with you and take care of you like He did with Noah.*

*Noah did everything according to what God commanded him to do and we, also, can follow Noah's example and obey God and our parents. When you choose to disobey your parents, they may*

*ground you because they know what is good for you, God does the same, and He also punishes those who disobey. God wants our obedience and our love. God only asks us to do what is best for us. You can discover what God wants you to do by reading the Bible and listening to teachers at church.*

- *Take one of the students' papers and say: When we drew the ark it might have seemed difficult but the only thing you had to do was listen and follow the instructions. In the second work sheet you only had to read the instructions to answer correctly. Those who did read the instructions as they were told discovered that the only thing that had to be done was write your name, the date and the memory verse at the end. It wasn't necessary to do anything else.*

- ***Optional Activity***

*Give each student color paper, let them know they will make a paper boat. Have a boat already made to show children what they will look like. Have a piece of paper ready to show children, step by step how to make a paper boat by folding the sheet of paper (origami). Children should follow your lead. Fold the paper slowly, helping children understand what they need to do.*

### ***Conclusion***

*Just like in Noah's time, it seems that being God is a difficult thing to do because the World is full of wickedness. Everywhere we look there is evil and things that offend God.*

*The Bible says in Matthew 7: 13, 14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."*

*For many, it is easier to do bad things and disobey. It seems that it's more fun to disobey than obey but it isn't so. If you feel bad because you obey and your friends make fun of you, you might feel alone at first especially if you try to do God's will. But in the end you will be receive a reward that is only for the children of God, for those who do His will.*

*Just like Noah did, regardless of the difficulty of the task at hand, when you obey God, you can be certain that God is there to help you. If it seems too hard, ask God in prayer to help you.*

### ***Close in prayer.***

*Thank you Lord because you love me and help me. Thank you for my parents, and for those around me that love me. I ask you to help me obey them, and to be obedient to Your will, just as Noah did. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

**Optional Work Sheet.**

*Read carefully all the instructions and all the questions before answering. Remember you only have five minutes to answer.*

1.- Write your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

2.- What is the name of the main character in today's story? Write his name in big letters in the back part of this sheet.

3.- How many people were saved during the flood? \_\_\_\_\_

4.- Do you think the duck-billed platypus was saved during the flood? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5.- Why?: \_\_\_\_\_

6.- Which animal do you think was the last to go into the ark?: \_\_\_\_\_

7.- Write today's date in the upper right margin of this sheet.

8.- Draw a perfect square in the middle left margin of this sheet.

9.- Draw an *x* inside the square, using all the inside of the square to make 4 triangles inside.

10.- Write the phrase: *I'M THE BEST* in the upper left corner of your sheet.

11. Get up and say "I've done it" and sit down again to continue, remember you only have five minutes.

12.- Quietly take your left shoe off and put it on again.

13.- Write the memory verse you learned today (Genesis 6:22) and write it in the central right margin on your sheet.

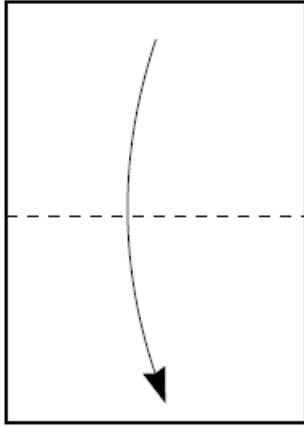
14. Draw a circle in the lower right of this sheet.

15. Draw a diamond on the lower right corner of this page.

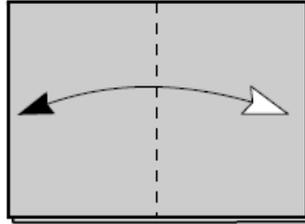
16. Answer only questions one, seven, and thirteen and turn your paper over.

# Boat (traditional)

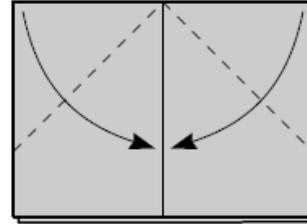
Diagrammed by: František Grebeníček (1999)  
www.origami.cz



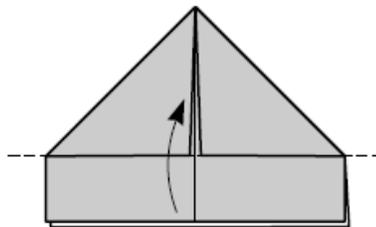
(1) Start from a rectangle (e.g. A4). Fold in half.



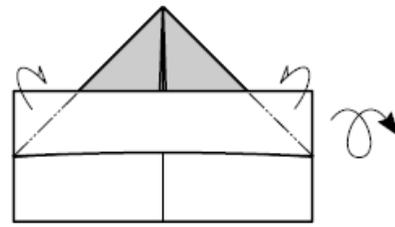
(2) Fold in half and unfold.



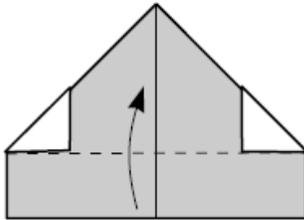
(3) Fold to the center.



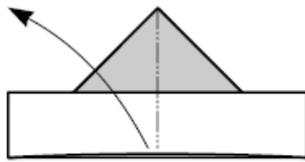
(4) Fold the overlapping strip upwards.



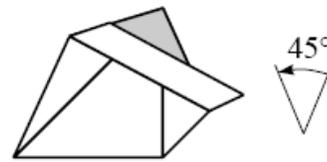
(5) Fold corners backwards. Turn over.



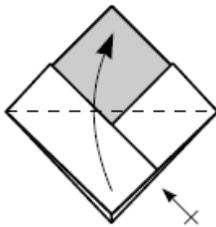
(6) Fold strip upwards.



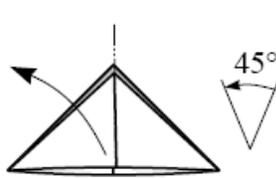
(7) Open.



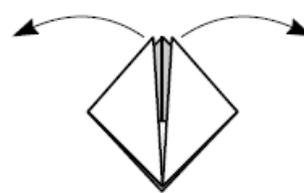
(8) Opening in progress.



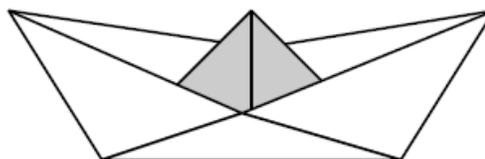
(9) Fold triangle upwards. Repeat behind.



(10) Open (like in the steps 7 and 8).



(11) Take upper corners and stretch out.



(12) Finished boat.

# *Living Water / Agua Viva*

## **Moses Strikes the Rock**

### **Day Two**                      **4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

<b>THEME:</b>	God uses water to teach us about trusting in God's care.
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Exodus 17:1-7
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	<i>God made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.</i> Psalm 78:16 (NRSV)

<b>Objective</b>	The student will know the story of Moses, who trusted God's care of the Israelites.
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray that God will give you understanding and wisdom to understand God's word and pray for the children who'll be in class.</li><li>• Always have the Bible in your hand, so the students will know and understand that what they are going to learn is coming from God's word.</li><li>• Don't forget to practice telling the story, and practice the entire lesson, to measure the time and then pray asking for God's help and God's blessing for the teaching team and the students.</li><li>• Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to meet the lesson's objective so that the lesson might be a great blessing for the children and may touch the hearts of those in need.</li></ul>
<b>Material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copies of the day's lesson outline with room for the participants to make notes.</li><li>• Copies of the story script</li><li>• Visual aids related to the Bible story.</li><li>• Always have paper, pencils or pens handy to share with the group.</li></ul>

#### **Introduction**

- *Welcome the group and if there is a new child, introduce him/her to the group. Allow the children to feel happy and comfortable to be learning about God.*
- *Hand out nametags to the students and fill out the attendance sheet.*
- *Offer a prayer giving thanks for the day, asking the direction of the Holy Spirit to teach this lesson according to God's will.*

#### **Studying the Bible passage**

*Read the scripture to the class or have one of the students read Exodus 17:1-7. Select an older child in the class or have an assistant read one of the parts from the following script "News Interview with Miriam". As this is being read, ask the class to listen for similarities in the story in comparing the Biblical Passage. The interview will give some background that leads up to Moses striking the rock, but this is important.*

"News Interview with Miriam"

Interviewer: This is \_\_\_\_\_ from the show "Old Testament Comes to You Live". We have been following the wilderness journey of Moses, who is one of God's right hand men. Moses was responsible for getting Pharaoh to release the Israelites from the bond of slavery in Egypt. Soon after they were free, Moses was also the one that God had part the Red Sea, so that they could be saved from Pharaoh's army, who had come after them. Since this amazing event, Moses has been leading God's people through the dessert to the promise land. Today, I will be conducting an exclusive interview with Miriam, who is the wife of Aaron, another one of God's followers. (*Miriam comes forward to be interviewed.*) Good evening, Miriam!

Miriam: Good evening, \_\_\_\_\_! I want to tell you that I just love your show!

Interviewer: Thank you Miriam! Can you tell us a little bit about your wilderness journey in the desert?

Miriam: Oh Yes, \_\_\_\_\_! It has been a long time of walking in the desert and all of us are very tired. It is hot in the day and cold at night. In the beginning, we went many days without food. We began to be very hungry. Many of the people began to complain to my brother Moses. They would say, "Why did God drag us out in the middle of the desert to die? At least when we were slaves we had food to eat!"

Interviewer: I'm sure this was very difficult for the people. Did Moses begin to worry and how did he handle all these complaints?

Miriam: Oh, Moses was so faithful to God. He would tell us that God got us out of Egypt and now God will send food water. Many people laughed at him and then continued to gripe about being hungry and thirsty!

Interviewer: So how did you end up getting food? I know there were not any McDonald's to drive through out in the middle of the desert?

Miriam: One evening soon after Moses told us that God would take care of us, a whole flock of birds flew into our camp. Many people caught them and then we had the biggest Bar BQ I had ever seen. It was delicious and the food didn't stop there! The next morning we awoke and found manna on the ground, which tasted like my Aunt Bessie's prize biscuits. It was wonderful!

Interviewer: Was this the only day you had food?

Miriam: Oh no! Moses told us the manna would come every day except on the Sabbath and that is exactly what happened!

Interviewer: Wow! This sounds wonderful! God really took care of you! Did you always have enough water to drink?

Miriam: Good question! When we arrived to setup camp at Rephidim, there was no water to drink....not a drop! And it had been many days since we had had water to drink and the people were getting very cranky from being incredibly thirsty! They said to Moses, "Why did you drag us out of Egypt only to let us die of thirst in the desert! They yelled, "You have only made things worse!" Moses began to fear for his life!

Interviewer: What did he do, because I know there aren't any policemen on duty in the desert?

Miriam: Moses shared with my other brother Aaron, that he would pray to God and ask what to do! God told Moses to go to a special rock and hit it hard with his staff! Have you ever heard of this? Well this is exactly what he did and pure clean water came running out of the rock. The elders, who saw this with their own eyes, came back and reported it to everyone. Moses told us that God will take care of us and we should remember that we are his people always!

Interviewer: What did Moses call this place?

Miriam: Massah, which means testing, or proof and Meribah, which means dispute.

Interviewer: Miriam, this is an amazing story. I want to thank you for sharing part of your incredible journey with us today on "Old Testament Comes to You Live!" I wish you many happy trails as you journey to the "Promise Land." Next week, we will have the honor to speak with Moses himself! Until then, May God bless you on your faithful journey!

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

- What similarities did you hear in the interview in comparison to the Bible scripture (*may have to read it again to refresh their memory*)?
- What questions do you have about the story?
- I wonder how the Israelites felt when they set up camp at Rephidim and discovered there was no water?
- Have you ever been really thirsty? If you could not get a drink, how would you behave?
- Why were only the elders able to watch as Moses struck the rock?
- I wonder what the Israelites were thinking when they asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?"
- Has anything ever happened to you that is like this story?
- Have you ever wondered if God cared?
- What helps you see and understand that God does care about you and others?
- Do you know someone that has asked, "Does God care about me?" What was happening in their life?

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

#### Creating Contemporary Skits

*Divide into groups of three to four and assign one skit suggestion for each group: someone dying of cancer, someone who is old and in a nursing home (forgot who they were and can't feed themselves), someone who has been in a hurricane, someone who has lost their home or job, someone who can not make friends, someone who is handicapped (blind, wheelchair, deaf). Depending on numbers, two groups may work on the same skit. Ask groups to begin by thinking about how God might be present*

*in the situation. How might God want us to act in such a situation? Take 5 minutes to create the drama. Come together and share the skits.*

*(Taken from Bible Quest curriculum, Multi-Age, Fall 2004, Bible Quest Publishers)*

### Water Poems

*Water was important to the Israelites in the desert. It's important to us today. Draw pictures on paper or make a list and discuss how we use water today. Talk about ways we can care for the water in our world. Work in small groups or one large one, to write a short poem about water. You can use sounds that you create yourself. For example, tapping lightly on the floor with fingertips could make the sound of raindrops, while a downpour might sound like very heavy slapping of hands against the tops of the legs. You may want to write about the water the elders saw coming out of the rock!*

*(Taken from Bible Quest curriculum, Multi-Age, Fall 2004, Bible Quest Publishers)*

### **Conclusion**

We need to always remember that God cares for all of us even when we are traveling on our own wilderness journeys. Invite each student to pause and think about the story of Moses and have them silently or openly finish the sentence "I know God cared for the Israelites when \_\_\_\_\_." And "I know God cares for me when \_\_\_\_\_."

*Conclude with prayer.* "Thank you God for loving all of us! We are glad that you care for us, even when you are silent we know that you are there watching over us. We thank you for the many people that you have put in our lives who help us, teach us, nurture us, lead us and love us. Help us to reach out to others who do not know that you care for them and may we be your feet and hands that provide that care! Amen"

# Agua Viva / Living Water

## Jonah is swallowed by a fish

### Day Three 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God uses water to teach us about repentance
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Jonah 1:1-17 and 2:10 (optional: Jonah 2:1-10)
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)

<b>Objective</b>	The student, through the Bible story, will learn the true meaning of repentance, so that they may receive the forgiveness and peace that God can give.
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare your heart in prayer asking for Jesus Christ's guidance. Pray that the new souls that will hear the Word of God may be reached today.</li><li>• The students in this class require group control because they're not little any more. Try to get their attention in the best way you can.</li><li>• Read the lesson several times to be confident in front of the kids about what you are going to say.</li><li>• In all your classes, emphasize the fact that all that is being taught was and is true and it comes from the word of God that is "the Bible" (always have it at hand).</li></ul>
<b>Material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pictures of the sea and of different animals that live in it.</li><li>• Colored paper for kids to make a big fish.</li><li>• Paper, scissors, colors and glue.</li></ul>

#### Introduction

- *Again welcome all students and welcome those who come for the first time. Make them feel welcome and part of the group.*
- *Make a short prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in today's class.*
- *Start the class asking the kids what they know about animals of the sea and which of them is the largest (show sea animal pictures you gathered for the class).*
- *Tell the kids that today's Bible story is based on a true story about a big fish that swallowed a man named Jonah.*

#### Studying the Bible passage

Jonah was a prophet that heard the voice of God telling him: "Go to Nineveh, the great city, and talk to the people about me, for there's great wickedness in them". "I won't do that", thought Jonah, "I don't want to do it". So, Jonah ran away from the presence of God as fast as he could, so God wouldn't see him. He arrived at Joppa where he saw a ship sailing towards another city that wasn't Nineveh, so he got on board the ship and fled. But who can hide from God if He's everywhere? God knows exactly everything we do, everything we think and everything we say, so

Jonah couldn't hide from the presence of God. When Jonah was on the ship a violent storm began, the wind blew very strongly, and waves grew to the size of mountains and hit the boat making it creak. All the sailors and people on board were scared, but Jonah was peacefully sleeping in a lower part of the boat, so the captain woke him up. Then the sailors said to each other, "let us cast lots to see who has to leave the ship." Guess who the lot fell on? (Wait for answers). Jonah was thrown over board, into the sea.

This happened because God had a plan for Jonah. When Jonah was at sea, a big sea monster came from the depths and swallowed Jonah. The Bible says that for three days and three nights Jonah was in the big fish's belly, and while he was there the Holy Spirit touched his heart. Jonah repented for not doing what God had told him to do. Jonah felt great sadness in his heart (this is true repentance: feeling sad in our hearts when we do something that isn't right and committing to not do it anymore) and humbly prayed to God and repented. Jonah told God that he would never again disobey any of His commandments and that he would do it whole-heartedly. After God heard Jonah's prayer (God listens to all those who truly repent and forgives them), the big fish spewed Jonah on the beach and when he saw the sky and the sun again, he gratefully knelt down and worshiped God. Jonah was truly forgiven and his response to that was obedience. Jonah got up, sailed on a ship to Nineveh and once he got there, he started to preach to the people there about God and about all the wonders He does in a person's life.

This Bible story teaches us today that we must obey His commandments written in His word (*show the Bible*), not because a big fish will come and swallow us but because we love Him.

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

- Which would be your reaction if God were to send you to talk about His word to your friends from school or your neighborhood? Would you say "No" to God, as Jonah did?
- What did Jonah do when he repented inside the fish's belly? Would you do the same if you had disobeyed God?

Jonah's story teaches us a great lesson about repentance for our own lives. When we do things that don't please God, like Jonah did, bad things may happen to us: Those bad things happen so we can have an opportunity to repent and ask God for His forgiveness in prayer. God loves us, and we can be sure we will be forgiven.

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

- How should you feel when you do something that you know isn't right?

Every time you do something that isn't right, come to God in prayer. Ask God to forgive you for what you did and DON'T DO IT AGAIN.

### Optional activity:

*Give each student a sheet of paper, scissors, colors and glue. Have a contest to see which kid can make a fish with the material they've been given.*

### **Conclusion**

- *Review the memory verse for today.*

- *Encourage the kids to invite a friend to come hear the great lessons God has prepared for us.*

*Close with a short prayer. Invite the students to silently meditate about the wrong things they've done and tell them this might be the time to come to God and ask Him for His forgiveness.*



*While the disciples were gone to get food, Jesus engages in the longest dialog ever recorded between Jesus and another person. Jesus spoke to this Samaritan woman who had come to the well to get water, and he asked her to give him a drink. To us this seems inconsequential, but in Jesus' time, it was unheard of for a Jewish man, let alone a Rabbi, to speak to a Samaritan woman. This woman seems to have come alone to the well at a time when other women were home resting in the cool shade. Jesus knew she had great emotional and spiritual needs; he loves all people at all times, and he was not considering his own reputation. He was reaching out to her by asking her for a drink.*

*The woman immediately questioned Jesus about his asking her for a drink; she knew the social prohibitions; she knew the Jews hated the Samaritans, and she no doubt knew Jesus was a stranger, not from the local town. Jesus replied with a revelation about himself, (verse 10) "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (The term "living water" can mean "fresh, flowing water" as opposed to stagnant water.) We know from our memory verse, John 7:37, that Jesus meant that if she believed that he was the "anointed one" or the Messiah that God had promised to take away the sins of the world, that she would have "living water". "Living water" refers to Jesus' spirit, the Holy Spirit, who lives in the believer. John 7:38 quotes Jesus saying, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:39 explains that this refers to the Holy Spirit in the believer.*

*The woman was intrigued by Jesus' words; she asked him two more questions. First, she wanted to know where and how Jesus would get "living water", and second, she was awed by Jesus' authority; she asked him to tell her who he is. Notice that Jesus had deliberately invited her into this conversation, and she was willing to learn more about Jesus. She was not proud; she was not rejecting him because of her own religious beliefs or prejudices. She had the attitude of a child, willing to know Jesus. Remember, Jesus said when he blessed the little children, "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Luke 18:17)*

*Jesus answered the woman with the promise, "...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst...the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14) The woman asked Jesus for the living water "that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." (John 4:15) She wasn't sure what Jesus was offering her, but she wanted it. Children also sometimes are not sure what Jesus is offering, but they know they "love Jesus". Still, Jesus sees to the core of human nature, and he saw sin in the core of the woman. Isaiah 59:2 says that our sin has separated us from God, but John 3:16 gives us God's solution for sin, eternal life through his Son.*

*Faith in Jesus, the Son of God, is the "spring of water welling up to eternal life". To expose the woman to her own need, Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband and come back." (John 4:16) She admitted honestly (again, like a child) to Jesus that she had no husband, and Jesus told her that he knew she'd had five husbands and was now living with a man to whom she was not married. Inwardly, this shocked the woman, for we know that later she told the people in the town to "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (John 4:29) Outwardly, in verse 20, she betrayed her spiritual hunger to Jesus by saying, "Sir, I perceive you are a*

prophet.." and asking about where God should be worshipped. Jesus again answered her eager question; he explained that "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

The woman's reply to Jesus indicated that he had reached her heart. She said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." (John 4:25) And then Jesus openly told her, since she was ready to receive him, "I who speak to you am he." (John 4:26) What love Jesus showed for her in revealing himself to her as the Son of God! She joyfully believed him, and she ran off to tell the town's people that she'd found the Messiah. Children also can joyfully believe Jesus when they learn that their sins separate them from God, and that Jesus, God's Son, has paid the penalty for sin.

Jesus' disciples were puzzled when they returned and found him talking with a Samaritan woman. They urged him to eat, and his answer, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about" reminds us of his mission: "The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) The joy Jesus felt in the woman's faith filled him; it was enough.

### **Introduction**

- Welcome the group and if there is a new child, introduce him/her to the group. Allow the children to feel happy and comfortable to be learning about God.
- Hand out nametags to the students and fill out the attendance sheet.
- Offer a prayer giving thanks for the day, asking the direction of the Holy Spirit to teach this lesson according to God's will.
- Explain to the children that the story for today is about a Samaritan woman. Back when this story took place, Jews, which is what Jesus was, were not allowed to speak to people from Samaria. Also, Jewish men were not permitted to speak to women, who were strangers to them.

### **Studying the Bible passage**

Pick some people from the class to read the part of Jesus, the Samaritan woman, then the rest of the class can act out the part of the disciples and the people in Samaria that receive the Good News from the woman. Have the children read through it and give them a few minutes to come up with some ideas on how they will act this out.

Jesus: I have been walking a long time through this country called Samaria. I am hot and tired. Maybe I will sit down and rest a little by this well. Oh yes I remember this well. Many years ago, Jacob, Rachel and Leah had used this well and this reminds me that God promised to be with them and love them always!

(Samaritan woman approaches the well to get some water)

Jesus: May I have a drink, please?

Samaritan woman: What? You are a Jew! I am a woman and a Samaritan. How come you are talking to me?

Jesus: If you asked me, I could give you a drink of living water!

Samaritan woman: How can you give me 'living water'? You don't even have a cup or anything to get water from the well.

Jesus: if you drink from this well, you will be thirsty again after a while. If you drink the water, I give you, you will never be thirsty again.

Samaritan woman: Oh, I understand! You are talking about God's spirit. When God's spirit comes into you, it is like a drink of fresh, cool water. Please give me some of this living water!

(Jesus and the woman continue to talk. The disciples return from town and are very surprised to see Jesus talking to this woman. But they stay silent!)

Samaritan woman: I am so excited, Jesus, about this Good News that you have shared with me. I will go into the town and tell the people what I have heard.

(Samaritan woman leaves and goes into the town to tell the people what has happened. And the people in the town are ecstatic about what they have heard and they approach Jesus.)

People in the town: Jesus, please stay with us and share with us more about this 'living water'.

Jesus: I will stay for two days. God's promise is for all people...Jews, Samaritans, everyone! I will help you grow in God's way!

(Adapted from *The Family Story Bible*, Published by Westminster John Knox Press)

Read the story from scripture - have them discuss similarities and differences.

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

#### **Pick a Sentence**

After you have told today's story, on a large sheet of paper or have it already written on a big poster board the following:

- I'm curious about.....
- It puzzles me that....
- Living water means.....
- I would like to ask....
- I think it is important that.....

Ask participants to think about today's story and to choose one statement to finish that describes how they feel about the story. Encourage a group discussion about issues that are raised. If the students are quiet, prompt them on how the Samaritan woman felt about Jesus talking to her and what did Jesus mean by "living water" and what does it mean to us?

#### **Other optional questions**

What questions do you have about this story?  
What do you think this story is about?  
To whom do you relate in the story?  
What do you think living water is?  
For whom is God's gift of living water intended (just the Samaritans)?

Why would Jesus offer living water to this woman, especially if he should not have been talking to her, according to the rules of his culture?  
(Some of the questions from *Bible Quest*, Multi-Age K-8, Winter 2003-2004 & Fall 2004, Bible Quest Publishers.)

### **Put the Verse in Order**

Have each word from the verse individually typed or printed out on paper or construction paper (see attached) and have the students put it in order (this is part of today's memory verse).

## **The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life John 4:14**

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

Think back in some of your past science classes. Is there anything that changes for or takes on a new form of life? Here is a hint: a caterpillar. What does a caterpillar do? It eats and eats and eats and eats, then what does it do? It forms a cocoon around itself. What happens inside the cocoon? How long does it take? Once the butterfly emerges, we find it to be very beautiful. When we take on a new life with Jesus, how does our life change? How does the caterpillar - cocoon - butterfly example relate to the story about the woman at the well?

Does our life continue to take on new meaning as we grow closer to Christ? (We are opposite from the caterpillar, because we eat and devour God's word (read the Bible) after we take on a new life rather than before!

What does eternal life mean? By believing in the grace of God through Jesus Christ, we will have eternal life with God. What is the grace of God? How is grace free? How is grace a gift?

### **Conclusion**

Have students sit or stand in a circle. In the middle of the circle is a bowl of water with rocks or glass hearts or glass butterflies, which can be found at Meijer, Target or Michaels (or you could also cut out heart or butterfly shapes out of fun foam). Have the students one-by-one come up and take one of these from the water and say, I am a new creation of Jesus Christ. Close with this prayer:

Dear gracious and holy God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life. May we continue to grow more in our knowledge and understanding of Jesus so that we may draw closer to you. Thank you for eternal life and help us to spread the Good News about this to everyone like the woman from Samaria. Amen.

The water that  
I will give will  
become in them  
a spring of water  
gushing up to  
eternal life.

John 4:14

# Agua Viva / Living Water

## Let's go fishing

Day Five

4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade

<b>THEME:</b>	God uses the sea to teach us to trust in Him.
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	John 21:1-14
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them" Matthew 6:26 (NIV)

### Objective Preparation

That the child may learn early in life to trust in the Lord.

### Material

- Prepare and study the class materials, read the Bible passage more than one time.
- Prepare and have ready all the materials to be used that you may have more time for the lesson.
- Have your Bible at hand; the children need to know that whatever they learn today, it will come from the Word of God.
- Ask for God's guidance that you may be able to fulfill the class objective and that the lesson might be a blessing to the children
- Pictures showing people fishing.
- Pictures of different kinds of fish, boats, pictures of oceans to reinforced the bible story.
- Pictures showing different people, especially children fishing. Pictures showing different kinds of food.
- White or color paper.
- Pencils

### Introduction

- *Welcome every child; if possible call them by name.*
- *Pray, giving thanks to the Lord for this day, asking Him to help you with your lesson.*
- *Read and practice the memory verse.*
- *Show the children the pictures of different types of food.*
- *Converse with them about their favorite food. Ask them what they ate today.*
- *Show the children pictures of persons or children fishing. Ask them if they have ever gone fishing.*
- *Chat with the children about the different kind of fishes about the fact that we eat them. Ask them if they like fish.*
- *Tell them that today's story is about some fishermen that learned that is God who give us everything: food, clothing, toys, etc.*

### Background of the Bible story.

*In John chapter 21 we find 7 disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias, wondering what to do.*

*Living Water: Let's go fishing*

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*For three years they had walked with Jesus. From the moment that Jesus called them, they left their daily tasks and followed the Master to live with Him and learn from Him. During the time of their discipleship they depended on Him. They went with Him everywhere, rested where lodging was offered. They ate meals bought with the offerings given by those who already believed in Jesus as the Messiah. In other words, the whole time they walked with Jesus, they depended on Him. Jesus had everything they needed. Now, Jesus had been crucified, had risen, but He was neither with them, nor they with Him. The question was: How are we going to eat now?*

### **Studying the Bible Passage**

These fishermen were very special friends of Jesus; we call them his disciples. We go back by the Sea of Tiberias and we find them again, seven disciples, Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, John, Jacob and two other whose names we don't know.

Because Jesus was not with them anymore, they could not depend on Him for their daily needs, so they were thinking: what should we do? How would they find a way to meet the needs of their families and their personal needs? Peter and others were fishermen. As always, Peter took the initiative and said: "I do not know about you all, but I am going fishing." So, they decided to do the same and went fishing once again. They had to get some food for their families, their families depended on them.

The Bible tells us that the disciples went far out to sea, where they knew there were fish, and they were fishing all night. They threw their nets once they were at sea, waited and pulled them back in and there were no fish. Over and over again, doing the same thing and nothing; the disciples caught nothing, no fish. They were so tired, frustrated and hungry that they pulled their nets and began sail back to shore.

John tells us that when they were near the beach, where they knew there were no fish, they saw a person on the beach. The person was Jesus, but they did not recognize Him because of the distance and because it was dawn. He called out to them "Friends, haven't you any fish?" In other words, do you have anything to eat for you and your families? The disciples had to answer: No! Then Jesus told them "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some"

They obeyed and threw their nets on the right side and "were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish, 153!" When they arrived at the beach, what did they find? The Bible tells us that a "fire of burning coals was there with fish on it, and some bread." And "Jesus said to them "Come and have breakfast" In other words Jesus was telling them, You must learn to trust and depend on me. You have no fish, I will give them to you, you have nothing to eat, and I will feed you whatever you need. Learn to depend on me, as you did when you walked with me.

This lesson was not only for the disciples, but it is for you and me, for all of us. Jesus is with us today. We might not see Him as the disciples did, but He can see us. Jesus sees you and knows what you need.

The disciples learned that everything comes from God and He is the one who gives whatever the person needs. You and I must learn also that all things come from the Lord and He is the one who gives whatever we might need today.

Let's learn to depend on God, to trust in God, who will supply all our needs for us and for our families.

## Reflecting on the Bible Passage

*Invite the children to think:*

What do we need in order to live?

What gives us strength and energy to play and grow? (food)

Who gives us food?

Who helps Dad and Mom to be able to give you food, clothing and toys?

## Applying the Bible Passage

The Bible verse we learned today says: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them" Matthew 6: 26

- In the same way Jesus gave food to his disciples, so He gives to us also whatever we need to eat. We do not eat fish every day, but we eat different things.
- Everything we have, we have it because God loves us and gives to your Dad and Mom so that they may give it to you.

## Activity

- *Ask the students to write a list of things they have at home and use every day.*
- *Chat with the children and make them see that everything they have in because of God's love. He gives to us every thing we need.*
- *Ask for a volunteer that would like to thank God, in a short prayer, for so many things they have.*

## Conclusion

*Tell the group:* It has been a pleasure to have you in class all week. We have learned so much about the love God has for us as we read those stories in which water played such an important role. Noah and the flood showed us how to obey God, Moses reminded us that God gives us water and everything we need to live, from inside the big fish Jonah invites us to confess our sins so we may follow God's plans for us, the Samaritan woman learned by the well that in Jesus we have new life, and finally today Jesus showed his disciples as they fished that they should turn to Jesus to provide for their needs.

I hope that you have learned a lot and that you had a lot of fun. I hope that you continue coming to church, because the Bible has many more stories that talk to us about how much God loves us. No, let us say a prayer and I'll ask God to continue to bless you and your families:

*Conclude with prayer.*