

Godly Play Script

Godly Play is a creative, innovative and experiential way of helping both children and adults engage with the stories in the Bible. Before using a Godly Play script for the first time read the document [How to Use Godly Play](#) which also tells how to find more help if Godly Play is new to you. You will need to allow time to gather the materials and objects needed for the script and also to practice telling the Godly Play story. If time permits after the Godly Play session is complete you can also make use of the [Action Scene](#) picture which tells the story the manna in the desert. The [Action Scene instructions](#) give guidance on how to use the Action scene to best effect. The activities can be adapted to suit time and resources available.

Godly Play Desert lunchbox

You will need

- A medium-sized shoebox with loose lid, wrapped in white or cream plain paper. Label the box: *Desert Lunchbox*
- Piece of yellow material representing the desert
- Small pieces of folded card to represent tents
- Toy figure to represent Moses
- Large ball of fluffy cotton wool (a cloud)
- Photocopied pictures of [quails](#)
- 'Manna' (prawn crackers, wafers, crisps)
- A clear jar with a lid
- A stone or rock
- A stick

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Bring out the box and place it in front of them.

Leader: Does anyone have a school lunchbox? What does it look like? Well, this box is a lunchbox too. Let's look inside and find out what God has for us.

Open the box and carefully and slowly take out the yellow material. Spread it out on the floor in front of you, smoothing it and inviting the children to respond as you say: 'I wonder what this could be?' Accept all possible answers with, 'Yes, it could be that.'

Leader: It was two months since they had left Egypt, and the Israelite people started to moan to Moses and his brother Aaron who helped him. They were in a desert and were very hungry. They said, 'You have brought us all into the desert to starve to death!'

Take some card tent shapes from the box and place them on the yellow material.

Leader: But the Lord was with them and spoke to Moses.

Take the Moses figure from the box and place it on the yellow material.

Leader: Moses told the people that the Lord had some instructions for them. A cloud with the dazzling light of the Lord appeared.

Take the ball of cotton wool from the box and place it on the yellow material.

Preach Exodus! **Week Three**

Leader: God told Moses that the people would have food in the evening and again the next morning. Then they would know that he is their God.

Take the pictures of quails from the box and place them on the yellow material.

Leader: In the evening a huge flock of quails flew in to their campsite.

Take the 'manna' from the box and place it on the yellow material.

Leader: And after the early morning dew, there was something thin and flaky all over the desert. The Israelites asked, 'What is it?' Moses told them that the Lord had sent them food and told them to gather as much as each person needed. When the people had done this, Moses told them not to keep any for the next day. But some did, and the manna went rotten. Moses was angry. So the people simply gathered all they needed for each day. But on the sixth day, Moses told them that the Lord wanted them to gather enough for two days, as the Sabbath was a rest day. So the people cooked the food, but some still looked for food on the Sabbath. There was none. The Lord asked Moses why the people did not obey his commands. The people rested on the seventh day.

Take the jar from the box.

Leader: Moses told the people that the Lord wanted some manna to be saved, to show people in the future how God provided food for the Israelites when they were brought out of Egypt.

Gather some manna and put it in the jar. As you screw the lid on, quietly say, 'Thank you, God.'

Leader: They left the desert and moved on to another camp. But there was no water to drink. The people grumbled to Moses again. But the Lord spoke to Moses and told him to take his stick, which he had used before in Egypt. Moses took the stick that he had used in the River Nile before.

Take the stick and the stone from the box. Place them on the yellow material.

Leader: The Lord said to Moses, 'Go ahead of the people with some of the leaders. I will stand before you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock with your stick, and drinking water shall come from it. Then the people may drink.'

Hit the stone with the stick.

Leader: The Israelites had asked, 'Is the Lord with us or not?' It was as if they had been testing him. But the Lord had set them free, and continued giving them all that they needed. He never left them.

Invite the children to respond to some 'wondering' statements. Be positive with all responses.

Leader:

- I wonder what the people thought when they saw the manna for the first time?
- I wonder how the people felt when they saw the rotting Manna?
- I wonder how the people felt when they didn't have to gather any Manna on the Sabbath?
- I wonder what the leaders said to Moses when he hit the rock with his stick?

Add the DESERT LUNCH BOX to the TABLETOP TABLEAU by turning the box on its side and displaying some of the figures and objects on the yellow material. Place a copy of the quails sheet in the box. Write 'Desert Lunchbox' on the lid. Discuss with the children how God provides for us every day, just as he provided water and food for the Israelites for forty years, while they were in the desert.