

Welcome to the story of Wandering in the Wilderness! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday School school or between activities.

- **Wilderness Wanderings**

Choose a leader for the group. Everyone must follow that person around the room—no matter what. How long does it take before someone starts to complain?

- **Would You Rather**

God gave the Israelites quail and manna to eat every day. Do you think they would have rather eaten something else? Have a kid ask the group the following question: "Would you rather eat [name of food] or [name of food] every day?" Let everyone answer. Thank God for giving us a variety of foods to eat!

- **Build a Mountain**

God called Moses to the top of a very tall mountain. As a group, build a tall mountain with your bodies. Be creative, but safe. How tall can you get?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Besides eating and drinking, what other things do you think the Israelites did while they were traveling?
- Do you think God ever forgot about the Israelites?
- What would you think if one night there were so many birds in your yard they covered all the grass?
- What would it be like to live in a tent with all of your relatives for many years?
- Why did God give people the Ten Commandments?
- Which commandment is the easiest for you to remember?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Quail Everywhere!**

God sent tiny birds called quail to cover the ground in the Israelites' camp every night. Pretend you are a flock of quail on your way to the next place. How tiny can you get?

- **Rock Water**

God told Moses to strike the rock with his staff. God made water come out of the rock. How fast or slow do you think the water came out of the rock? Pretend you are the water. Move your body like water all the way to the next place.

- **Follow Moses**

Choose one person to be Moses. Everyone else is an Israelite. Follow exactly what Moses does all the way to the next place.

- **First Commandment**

The first commandment says to honor God above all else. How many ways can you think of to honor God? Say great things about God for everyone to hear all the way to the next place!

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- **Could Be Worse**

The Israelites were good at complaining! Sit in a circle. Have one person complain about something. The next person says, "It could be worse." Then he or she complains about something worse than the first person. Continue around the circle. Remember God is always with us, no matter how bad things get!

- **Commandment Test**

As a group, try to name all Ten Commandments. Which ones did you forget? Why are some commandments easier to remember than others?

- **True or False**

Have each person tell the group one thing he or she has done. It could be something true or made up. The group tries to guess if the person is telling the truth or not. Which commandment talks about lying?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What things had God already done for the Israelites before they started complaining about food and water?
- Why did the Israelites wish they were back in Egypt? Do you think they meant it?
- Do you ever feel like God has forgotten about you?
- Are the Ten Commandments easy or hard to follow? Why?
- What is the difference between appreciating what someone has and coveting it?
- What happens if you break a commandment?

Transition Tips

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- **Manna in the Morning**

Every morning the Israelites gathered all of the manna they needed for the day off of the grass. On your way to the next place, pretend to pick manna off of the ground and put it into a basket. Don't tell anyone what you are doing.

- **Great Thirst**

The Israelites complained of thirst until God gave them water from a rock. Imagine you are a thirsty Israelite traveling to the rock. How thirsty can you look? Will you make it to the next place in time to get a drink?

- **Desert Sand**

Much of the wandering in the wilderness took place in the desert sand. Sand can be hard to walk in because it squishes and slides. Pretend to walk in squishy, slippery sand all the way to the next place.

- **Sets of Ten**

God gave us Ten Commandments. As a group, count your steps out loud all the way to the next place. Every time you reach the number ten, begin with the number one again. How many sets of ten steps does it take to reach the next place?

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- **Sound Words**

Sit in a circle. Go around the circle with each person saying “manna,” “quail,” or “water” in a repetitive pattern. The next time around the circle, replace the word “quail” with a “squawk” noise. The third time around replace the word “manna” with a chewing noise. The final time around, replace the word, “water” with a gurgle noise. Can you do it?

- **What's the Order?**

Have the kids line up in order according to height. Now have kids line up alphabetically according to their first names. Just like the kids, the Ten Commandments are each important no matter what order you place them in.

- **Stretching the Truth**

There is a commandment that says we should not tell lies about other people. Lies hurt people. Sit in a circle. The first person whispers something true about himself or herself into the next person's ear. The second person *intentionally* changes one part of the statement and repeats it in the next person's ear. Continue around the circle. How big does the lie grow?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Have you ever worried you wouldn't have food to eat or water to drink? Did God take care of you?
- Do you think Moses enjoyed being the Israelites' leader? Why or why not?
- Does God listen when people complain?
- What would you do if God told you to climb up a mountain during a storm?
- What does it mean to honor your father and mother?
- Why do you think God gave us 10 rules instead of 20?

Transition Tips

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- **Going in Circles**

The Israelites spent part of their time wandering in circles in the wilderness. Waste time by walking in the wrong direction on your way to the next place. Do you feel frustrated?

- **Quail Catchers**

God covered the ground with quail for the Israelites every evening. How do you catch quail? Pretend you are out catching quail on the way to your next place.

- **God Gives Us Water**

God gave the Israelites water from a rock in the desert. How does God give us water in this place? Identify every water source you can between here and the next place you are going.

- **Getting Along**

God gave us the Ten Commandments to show us how to get along. Find a partner. Walk to the next place with your arms across each other's shoulders to show how you get along!