

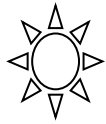
# Safari

## Lesson 3 – Wild Elephants

- In today's lesson the children will learn that our Lord Jesus is the fountain of Living Water and we should seek after Him desperately.
- This month's Life Point: When I seek the Lord I will not lack anything.

### Scripture Study

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.  
John 4:1-26



### Prayer:

*Father, let us thirst for you. Let every teacher and child be so thirsty for You that we can't think of nothing else. Then come and fill each of us. Make us overflowing vessels of Your love. In Jesus name, amen.*

### Memory Verse

Psalm 34:10

"Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who seek in the Lord will lack no good thing."



### Memory Verse Song:

The Rizers – Psalm 34:10  
"The Good Song"

### You Tube Link

<https://youtu.be/X1ndN62TbyA>

### The Redemption Story

(10-15 min.)

*The point of this activity is to present the salvation message in brief at each lesson.*

**Instructions:** Follow the pictures on the board or Power Point slide to tell the children about God's plan to restore our relationship with Him. Invite children who are familiar with the pictures to describe the images to the class. Always have someone ready in the classroom to pray with a child who desires to accept Jesus as his Savior or to be available to pray for any needs a child may have.

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### Object Lesson

(15 minutes)

#### Supplies:

Safari Hat

Binoculars

Rope

Vest

Elephant Stuff  
animal

3 Water bottles.

Large Lays Chips

#### **In preparation for the class read:**

[http://www.smit  
hsonianmag.com  
/science-  
nature/saving-  
malis-migratory-  
elephants-  
74522858/?no-  
ist](http://www.smit<br/>hsonianmag.com<br/>/science-<br/>nature/saving-<br/>malis-migratory-<br/>elephants-<br/>74522858/?no-<br/>ist)

(Wear the Safari hat, vest, binoculars on your hand and rope across your chest)

Hello Kids! Who likes Lays chips? (chose a couple of kids – the younger the better) I have a challenge for you. I want you to eat this bag of chips as fast as you can. But no matter what, you cannot ask for any water. All right? Go!

(keep the two volunteers on the side eating the chips while you continue with the lesson.)

Well look at me! Today we are going to venture into the land of *wild African elephants*. What?! Yes! That's right! When we deal with *wild African elephants* anything can happen.

We are not talking here about your average circus elephant. No the African elephant is wild. He is fast. He is huge. And he is dangerous.

He is also very smart. When he is thirsty, he sets out to look for water and nothing and no one can stop him or get in his way. His survival depends on it. I am getting thirsty just thinking about it. (Drink water – tempt the two kids) oh yes! This water taste **so** good!

Today the wild African elephant is going to teaching us a great lesson about seeking Jesus. (gulp)

**\*\*(Give water to the children eating chips UNTIL the end of the next lesson)**

### *Teaching Tips:*

- Consider the emotional and spiritual cost as well as the rewards of being a Sunday School teacher. Be excited, passionate, eager!
- Humble your heart before the Lord continually. Making room for the Holy Spirit to lead.
- Correct mistakes quickly. Acknowledge any errors before the class and redirect them in the right direction. This will set a humble example for the children. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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### *The Message*

#### **Supplies:**

Continue with the Lays chips activity.

Prepare a worship song in advance for the end of the class.

Lead the class in worship and reflection towards GOD.

***GOD wants to invade the soul of each child.***

***Will you let Him?***

***GOD desires to bless each child. To let them know that His kingdom is theirs.***

***Point the children towards GOD. He will do the rest.***

Well like I was saying (*gulp*) just south of **Tombouctou** (that is a real place by the way), in the Sahara Desert live the Mali African elephants (*gulp*). They live in extreme conditions and their survival depends in making the right decisions (*gulp*).

How are you two kids doing? Are you two getting thirsty?

The Mali Elephants follow a long route in search for water. They do so every year. The temperatures in the Sahara Desert can be very high putting these animals in danger. There are also men (poachers) that have found the Mali elephant route and kill the elephants for money. This practice is illegal but some men do it any ways.

Yet nothing stops the Mali elephants from reaching their water source destination. Their lives and existence depends on it.

I want to read you a story from the Bible that talks about being thirsty and a kind of water which can take away your thirst forever. **Read John 4:6-26** - **Jesus** is the source of living water!

The Mali elephants travel 300 miles each year seeking the water they need to survive. They endure extreme, dangerous heat and the possibility of being killed by poachers, yet nothing stops them. That is because they are after their source of life, water.

You and I have the opportunity to drink from a fresh, bubbling spring that gives eternal life to those who drink it! The woman from the story told Jesus, "Please sir, give me this water!" – She was desperate.

(look at the two kids eating the chips) Are you desperate? Do you want water? – (look at the class) How about you? Are you thirsty for Jesus so much that nothing else can satisfy you?

Don't let NOTHING stop you from being with JESUS! Do not let ANYTHING come in your way. Be like the wild African elephant. Go after your water source. Your life depends on it.

SEEK GOD! Tell Him, **"nothing else will do LORD!"** Fill me with your living water!

Let's take a moment to be with GOD. Call to Him.

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### Eternal Life Water

**You will need:** A bottled water for each child. Color pencils. Glue. “Jesus is My Living Water” template.

#### Instructions:

Print out a label “Jesus is my Living Water” per child.

- Have the children color and draw on the label.
- Remove the store label from the water bottles and give each child a water bottle.
- Have the children glue the label to their water bottle.
- ***Encourage the children to give the water bottle to a homeless person. Or someone who may need encouragement in his or her life.***

Jesus is my Living Water

Jesus said: “But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” John 4:14

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### ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THIS MONTH

(These activities are to be used when you have spare time after a lesson)

#### Find the Coin (week 1)

**Items:** one quarter

**Presentation:** What GOD is able to give you is worth a lot more than money. Search after GOD. Go after Him. He is much, much more valuable than any treasure.

**Instructions:** Hide the quarter in the classroom. Have the kids search for the missing coin. Review the story of the 'Lost Coin' with the children.

#### Monkey See Monkey Do (week 2)

**Items:** none

**Presentation:** Monkeys are very curious creatures. They tend to mimic everything they see. Good or bad. We as God's children are to imitate Jesus Christ, not the world. In John 5:19 Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

**Instructions:** This game is played like 'Simon Says' but the key is to encourage children to only use animals they would likely spot if they were in a Safari.

#### Wild Elephant Races (week 3)

**Items:** Peanuts, use construction paper and tape to create tubes aka 'elephant noses'.

**Presentation:** An African bush elephant can run up to 24 mph. That is pretty fast when you take in their size! In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul says "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." Elephants run away from danger. But our race is to live a life faithful to God until we meet Him in heaven.

**Instructions:** Mark a start and finish line. Line three kids side by side at the starting point and place a peanut on the starting line in front of each kid. The object of the game is to see who can push the peanut to the finish line first... But the kids can only use their noses! (use tape to attach an 'elephant nose' to each kid)

#### The Lion is King (week 4)

**Items:** 12 pieces of construction paper. On two write: Elephant. On two write: Zebra. On two write: Giraffe. On two write: Rhino. On two write: Lion. On two write: Cheetah.

**Presentation:** In Hosea 11:10 God says: "For someday the people will follow me. I, the LORD will roar like a lion. And when I roar, my people will return trembling..." In the wild, the lion is feared. Considered the king of the animals. Our GOD is our KING and he is to be feared by all.

**Instructions:** This game is played as the 'Memory Game'. Choose two children. Turn all cards upside down. Each child turns two cards. Children take one turn each. The child with most pairs wins. Here is the twist... If a child finds the LION pair, he wins the game immediately!