



MOSES

RED SEA CROSSING

EXODUS 12:31-15:18

GOAL

- ▶ To explain how God led the Israelites from Egypt and saved them from Pharaoh's army by miraculously parting the waters of the Red Sea.
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WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Deliverance:** the act of being set free or rescued.
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MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Exodus 14:14:** The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.

Exodus 15:2: The Lord is my strength and my song; and he has become my salvation.

Overview

OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Exodus 12:31-15:18:** After the plague that killed the firstborn sons in Egypt, the Egyptians were scared. They urged the Israelites to leave quickly. As the millions of people, taking all their belongings and livestock, left Egypt, the Egyptians gave them tons of treasure. The Lord led them into the desert, appearing as a huge pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. Some time after the Israelites left, Pharaoh changed his mind about letting them leave, and became enraged. He mustered his entire army to pursue them and bring them back to serve the Egyptians. The Egyptian army caught up to the Israelites as they reached the shore of the Red Sea. Seeing the vast army coming after them, the Israelites began to panic. They turned on Moses, accusing him of taking them from Egypt to die out in the desert. Moses told them not to be afraid because the Lord was going to fight for them. Moses raised his arm over the waters, and the Lord caused a mighty wind to part the waters of the sea. All the Israelites crossed to the other side, walking on dry land. Pharaoh commanded his army to follow on the path created through the sea. As they were making their way across, the Lord confused the soldiers, and the wheels of their chariots became stuck in the mud and fell off. They began to panic and tried to run back to the shore, but God closed the path through the sea, letting the waters collapse down on them. Pharaoh's entire army was defeated. The Israelites saw God's mighty power and that He had freed them from slavery and saved them from Pharaoh's army. Moses and all the Israelites broke out into song, praising God for His power and love.
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SUGGESTIONS

▶ **Three themes stand out in the story of the Exodus:** grace, deliverance, and rebirth.

1. Grace: Days after witnessing the last of a series of terrible and extraordinary plagues that only God had the power to send, the Israelites stood on the shore of the Red Sea, cursing Moses for freeing them from slavery. They did not draw on their memory of the display of might God had shown them as He fought to free them, their reaction stemmed from what they could see in front of them right at that moment: the entire Egyptian army bearing down on them. After what they had witnessed of God's power, the Israelites displayed an incredible lack of faith. God had mercy on the faithless Israelites, and once again, showed them His immense power and love by saving them again by miraculously parting the waters of the sea. At this moment, the Israelites did not deserve God's help and love, but He gave it anyway.

2. Deliverance: The Israelites had been living as slaves in Egypt for 430 years. When God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, it was the greatest redemptive act of the Old Testament.

3. Rebirth: The Israelites were descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (also known as Israel). Jacob's 12 sons and their families went to Egypt to escape a famine in the land of Canaan where they lived. Over the years, their status in Egypt changed from honored guests to an unwelcome horde of foreigners. When God brought them out of Egypt to lead them to the Promised Land, He reestablished His covenant with the Israelites. Now free, they were reborn as a nation of His people.



**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**



Ages 5-7 Pillars of Fire and Cloud | Supplies: cardboard toilet paper tubes; cotton balls; red, yellow, and orange tissue paper cut into small pieces; glue

Give each student two tubes, and instruct them to glue cotton balls to one and bits of red, yellow, and orange tissue paper to the other. These represent the pillars of fire and cloud that led the Israelites through the desert as they escaped from Egypt.

Ages 5-10 Parting the Waters | Supplies: blue and brown construction paper, glue, fish stickers

Provide each student with a piece of blue and brown paper. Instruct the students to cut the blue paper in half and cut 2-inch slits where they cut the paper in half. Students can draw fish on the blue paper or apply fish stickers. Using the scissors, gently curl the paper to make it look like waves. Glue the blue pieces to the brown piece to make it look like water being parted, leaving a path through the middle.

Ages 8-10 On Dry Ground | Supplies: paper, pens, crayons, markers, glue, clean sand, paint brushes

Give each student a piece of paper, and have them trace their foot on it. Have them write "The people of Israel crossed the sea on dry ground." They can decorate the rest of the paper however they want. Apply glue inside the outline of the foot, and use the paint brush to spread it around so the entire footprint is covered in glue. Sprinkle sand over the glue.



MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING

▶ **Exodus 14:14:** The Lord fought for the Israelites, and He will fight for us. All we have to do is believe that He is with us, knows what we are going through, and let Him take care of us.

Exodus 15:2: Our strength comes from knowing that the Lord is with us. Knowing the Lord is always with us gives us reason to be joyful. The Lord saved the Israelites by freeing them from slavery and He has saved us from our slavery to sin by sending Jesus.

Post-Lesson Activities

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POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY

▶ **Ages 5-7 Walls of Water Are Falling Down**

This game is an adaptation of the “London Bridge” game. Choose two students to act as the walls of water, and have the rest of the students stand in a single-file line. The students acting as the walls of water should face each other, join hands, and raise them up high enough so that the other students can run underneath. The walls of water stay up until you call out, “Egyptian!” The students acting as the walls of water should bring down their arms around the student trying to pass under their arms. The student who was caught in the water becomes one of the walls of water. Continue until the class needs to move on.

Ages 5-10 Part the Classroom’s Sea | Supplies: tape and blue crepe paper streamers

Cut long strips of blue crepe paper streamers, and tape one side down to the floor of the classroom. Divide the class into two teams, and assign each team a wall on either side of the classroom. On “Go!” one student from each team should run to the “sea” in the classroom, carefully pull up one of the streamers along with the piece of tape, run to the team’s assigned wall, and stick the streamer to the wall as high up as possible. Repeat this until time runs out. The team with the most streamers on the wall wins.



Ages 8-10 **Cloud and Fire** | **Supplies:** cutouts of clouds and glow sticks

Tape cutouts of clouds on the walls and hide glow sticks around the classroom. Put them in inconspicuous spots so they aren't too easy to find. Make sure the glow sticks have been activated so they will glow. Divide the class into teams. Instruct the students to look for clouds when the lights are on, and glow sticks when the lights are off. The team with the most clouds and glow sticks when time is up wins.

TAKE
HOME



God saved the Israelites from the Egyptians through a series of miracles. God later saved all of humanity through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

1. Grace: We have done nothing to deserve God's love, and yet He gives it freely. Despite our sin, He sent His precious Son to die in our place. Through God's grace and our faith in Jesus, we are saved.

2. Deliverance: As humans, we sin. Jesus came to free us from our slavery to sin. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, sin no longer controls our actions and our future. Our faith in Jesus and help from the Holy Spirit helps us to resist the temptation to sin.

3. Rebirth: Jesus' sacrifice restored our relationship with God. God no longer sees us as sinners, but as His perfect creation again. Jesus' sacrifice made it so that our belief in Him makes us new creations. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven, holy, clean, and righteous.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What did the Egyptians give to the Israelites as they left Egypt?

A1: The Egyptians gave the Israelites treasure as they left Egypt.

Q1b: What's better: winning a championship game or getting a trophy for winning a championship game?

TN: Both are great! The feeling of winning a big game is an amazing feeling. Getting a trophy is a physical reminder of that feeling. When the Israelites were leaving, they were overjoyed. They had lived terrible, harsh lives working as the Egyptians' slaves. Being set free was the greatest thing that had ever happened to them. They were happy to leave with the few things they owned but receiving treasure from the people who had mistreated them all those years was more than they could have asked for!

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Besides direction, what did the pillars of cloud and fire provide to the Israelites?

A2: The pillars of cloud and fire provided the Israelites with shade from the sun and warmth at night.

Q2b: Have you ever forgotten to bring a pillow with you on a camping trip?

TN: It might be a little uncomfortable to sleep without a pillow, but a pillow is not necessary for survival. God saved the Israelites from slavery, but He didn't stop there. He guided them to the Promised Land, but He didn't stop there. God knew that the journey through the desert was difficult. He loved the Israelites so much that He wanted to make sure that the people were comfortable and cared for as they made their way to the Promised Land. He shaded them from the sun's harsh rays during the day and kept them warm at night. God's love is extravagant!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: How many of his best chariots and officers did Pharaoh summon to pursue the Israelites?

A3: Pharaoh summoned 600 of his best chariots and officers.

Q3b: You lend a friend your textbook, but you forgot you need it for an assignment. Is it okay to be mad at your friend for having your book?

TN: No, you gave your friend permission to take it. We can be upset with ourselves for not remembering our own needs before letting someone else use our things, but we cannot blame our friend for our failings. Pharaoh gave the Israelites permission to leave, but then he changed his mind. His decision to let them go made him angry, and he responded by taking his entire army out to chase after them.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did the Israelites do when they saw Pharaoh's army coming after them?

A4: The Israelites panicked when they saw Pharaoh's army coming after them.

Q4b: Have you ever wished to be grounded?

TN: No way! We wouldn't wish to be stuck inside, forced to stay away from our friends. As the Israelites saw the Egyptian army approach, they started to complain about being led away from Egypt where they were slaves. They would rather be slaves than be free! How quickly they had forgotten that God was the one who had saved them. If He had the power to bring the plagues down on the Egyptians, He had the power to save them from this situation, too.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Pharaoh's army do when they reached the parted sea?

A5: Pharaoh's army went into the parted sea and continued chasing after the Israelites.

Q5b: If you saw elevator doors closing, would you try to slide in before they completely shut?

TN: Most elevators have sensors that stop the doors from closing when someone tries to enter, but some older models don't. This could be potentially dangerous. When Pharaoh's army entered the passage through the Red Sea, they were taking a risk that they could make it through in time—it was a risk that didn't pay off.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What happened when the Lord threw the Egyptians into confusion and panic?

A6: They tried to run away after the wheels of their chariots got clogged with mud and fell off.

Q6b: If the Israelites walked across dry ground, how did the chariot wheels get clogged with mud?

TN: This is yet more evidence of God's power and His attention to the slightest details. Walking on dry ground is more comfortable and it's easier to walk on, which helped the Israelites to cross the sea quickly. God had no desire to make the journey across the sea easy for the Egyptians, so they got mud, which is what we would expect to find at the bottom of the sea. This slowed them down, which helped the millions of Israelites and all their livestock make it to the other side without being harmed.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What did the Israelites do when they saw what happened to Pharaoh's army?

A7: They rejoiced and sang songs of praise to the Lord.

Q7b: Are there any other stories in the Bible about people being freed from slavery?

TN: There are, and one of the best, and biggest examples is when Jesus died on the cross and freed us from our slavery to sin. And just as God saved the Israelite people from death at the hands of Pharaoh's army, Jesus saved us from death. Those who love Jesus are forgiven of their sins and will live with Him for eternity in Heaven.



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

▷ **Exodus 14:14:** The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.

Exodus 15:2: The Lord is my strength and my song; and he has become my salvation.

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BIG IDEA

▷ God is mighty, and He uses His strength to save those who love Him.

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CLOSING PRAYER

▷ Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace. Thank You showing us Your power when You saved the Israelites. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Remind us of these stories of Your incredible power when facing difficult times to help us to stand firm, knowing that You will fight for us. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



The final plague had the Egyptians scared, and they urged the Israelites to leave quickly. The Hebrews gathered their belongings and livestock and left Egypt with great rejoicing. To make their departure even sweeter, as this massive sea of men, women, children, and flocks and herds of livestock made their way out of Egypt, the Egyptians loaded them down with incredible treasure! Their centuries of slavery had come to an end. God delivered His people just as He had promised.

SLIDE 2



God led the Israelites out into the desert wilderness. While on their journey, God cared for His people. To help them find their way, He led them in the daytime as a pillar of cloud. During the night, He appeared as a pillar of fire. These columns not only gave the Israelites direction, but also comfort. The pillar of cloud protected them from the harsh rays of the sun, and the pillar of fire kept them warm through the cold desert nights.

SLIDE 3



After the Hebrews left, Pharaoh changed his mind and said, "What have we done?! We let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" Pharaoh commanded that his chariot be made ready and he summoned more than 600 of his best chariots and officers. As he and his charioteers rode off, Pharaoh's entire army marched behind him. All of Egypt's military was in pursuit of the Israelites.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



As Pharaoh's armies got near, the Israelites caught sight of them and began to panic. They quickly turned on Moses and asked him, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the desert?!" But Moses stood firm and called upon his fellow Israelites to do the same. "Fear not and see the salvation the Lord will bring you today! You will never see these Egyptians again, for the Lord shall fight for you!"

SLIDE 5



Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and the Lord sent a strong wind that drove back the waters until they were parted, leaving a dry path straight through the middle. All the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea, walking on dry land with towering walls of water on both sides. After the Israelites had made it some way through, Pharaoh's entire army followed them on the path the Lord had made through the middle of the sea.

SLIDE 6



When Pharaoh's army had made it midway through the sea, the Lord threw the Egyptians into confusion and panic. Their chariot wheels, clogged with mud, fell off or got stuck. The Egyptians began to cry out in terror, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord fights for them and against us!" Once all the Israelites had made it across safely, the Lord had Moses stretch his hand out across the sea again, and walls of water collapsed, crashing down in huge waves upon the Egyptians. Not a single Egyptian who went into the sea survived.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



After this mighty display of the Lord's power, the Israelites trusted Him and Moses as His servant. God had freed them from slavery and from the attacking Egyptian army! Overjoyed, Moses and all the people of Israel began to sing praises to the Lord! The people sang: "I will sing my heart out to God - what a victory! He has thrown horse and rider into the sea. God is my strength. God is my song. God is my salvation. I will praise Him always!" Through this mighty act of deliverance, God set the Israelites free. The Lord would be their God, and they would be His people.