

Story Time: Read the story to the children:

Lesson 40: CROSSING THE RED SEA

Exodus 14

When the Israelites stopped at a place called Etham the Lord told Moses: Tell the people of Israel to go back and camp between a place called Migdol and the Red Sea. The king will think they were afraid to cross the desert and that they are wandering around, trying to find another way to leave the country. I will make the king stubborn again, and he will try to catch you. Then I will destroy him and his army. People everywhere will praise me for my victory, and the Egyptians will know that I really am the Lord. The Israelites obeyed the Lord and they camped where He told them to. When the king of Egypt heard that the Israelites had finally left, he and his officials changed their minds and said, "Look what we have done! We let them get away, and they won't be our slaves any more." The king got his war chariot and army ready. He commanded his officers who were in charge of his six hundred best chariots to chase after the Israelites. The Lord made the king so stubborn that he went after them, even though the Israelites went on their way. But the king's horses and chariots and soldiers caught up with them while they were camping by the Red Sea. When the Israelites saw the king coming with his army, they were afraid and begged the Lord for help. They also complained to Moses and said, "Wasn't there enough room in Egypt to bury us? Is that why you brought us out here to die in the desert? Why did you bring us out of Egypt anyway? While we were there, didn't we tell you to leave us alone? We would rather be slaves in Egypt than die out here in this desert!" But Moses answered, "Don't be afraid! Be brave, and you will see the Lord save you today. These Egyptians will never bother you again. The Lord will fight for you, and you won't have to do anything at all." The Lord asked Moses, "Why do you keep calling out to me for help? Tell the Israelites to come close. Then hold your walking stick over the sea. The water will open up and make a road where they can walk through on dry ground. I will make the Egyptians so stubborn that they will chase you. Then I will be praised because of what is going to happen to the king and all his chariots. The Egyptians will know for sure that I am the Lord." When the Israelites left Egypt, God's angel had always gone ahead of Israel's army, but now He moved back behind them. A large cloud used to also go ahead of them, but now it moved between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud gave light to the

Israelites, but made it dark for the Egyptians, and during the night they could not come any closer. Then Moses stretched his arm over the sea, and the LORD sent a strong wind that blew all night until there was dry land where the water used to be. The sea opened up, and the Israelites walked through on dry land with a wall of water on each side. The Egyptians all went after them. But before daylight the Lord looked down at the Egyptian army from the fiery cloud and made them all very scared. Their chariot wheels got stuck, and it was hard for them to move. So the Egyptians said to one another, "Let's leave these people alone! The Lord is on their side and He is fighting against us." The Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your arm toward the sea--the water will cover the Egyptians and all their chariots." So Moses stretched out his arm, and early in the morning the water rushed down toward the Egyptians. They tried to run away, but the Lord drowned them all in the sea. The water came and covered the chariots, and the whole Egyptian army that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them was left alive. But the sea had made a wall of water on each side of the Israelites; so they walked through on dry land. On that day, the Israelites knew that the Lord had saved them. Because of the mighty power He had used against the Egyptians, the Israelites worshiped Him and trusted Him and his servant Moses.

CROSSING THE RED SEA (EXODUS 14)



"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided."
EXODUS 14:21

40. CROSSING THE RED SEA (EXODUS 14)

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord is my strength and my song; and He has become my salvation."
EXODUS 15:2

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The King and his officials were mad that they let the Israelites leave Egypt because they wouldn't be their slaves any more.
TRUE or FALSE
2. The King made all his captains and officials chase after the Israelites.
TRUE or FALSE
3. The Lord told Moses to take the Israelites back to Egypt so they would be safe. TRUE or FALSE
4. When the Israelites saw the king and all his army coming, they were mad and wanted to fight them. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did the Israelites want to go back to Egypt so that they wouldn't die in the desert?
2. What did the Lord tell Moses to do with his stick?
3. What happened when Moses held his walking stick out over the water?
4. Did the Israelites have to swim across the Red Sea?
5. After the Israelites crossed over, what did the Lord do when Moses stretched out his stick over the sea the second time?
6. Did the Lord drown all the Egyptians?
7. Did the people trust the Lord and His servant Moses after that?

40. Crossing the Red Sea Activity/Craft

Paper Wad Wars

You will need about fifty pieces of wadded paper and some large pieces of cardboard for shields. Divide your class into two groups. Have them throw the divided pieces of paper at each other without the cardboard shields first. When they have sufficiently hit one another, have them start over using the shields. Point out that if they are behind the shield, they are safe from the incoming paper bombs. Explain that the Lord is our protection and shield. If we stand behind Him (live obedient lives as His children), He will protect us from the weapons of the enemy.

Try to Part the Sea

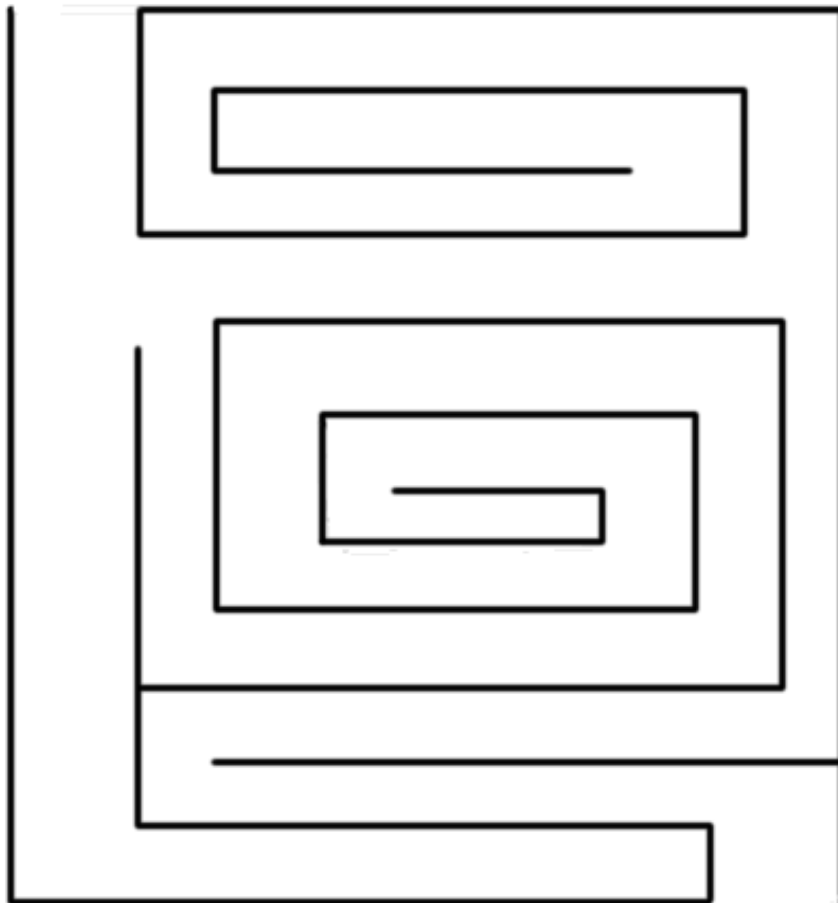
(You can also just discuss parting a bathtub full of water if you do not bring the items to actually try to do it – just say, “Imagine we have a bucket of water and a blow dryer. Do you think I could use the blow dryer on high enough to make that water part? How about if I had a spatula? Could I keep digging the water fast enough to make the water part in the middle?)

You will need a large tub of water, a spatula, a blow dryer, and a towel. Have different volunteers try to part the water in the tub using the tools you’ve brought. Of course, they will not be able to. Explain what a miracle God performed for His children. Ask your students what they think it must have been like to witness and be saved by such a miracle!

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer thanksgiving for the Lord’s protection and deliverance. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity.

HELP THE ISRAELITES CROSS THE RED SEA

Start



Finish

LESSON 40 ACTIVITY

Paper Wad Wars

You will need about fifty pieces of wadded paper and some large pieces of cardboard for shields. Divide your class into two groups. Have them throw the divided pieces of paper at each other without the cardboard shields first. When they have sufficiently hit one another, have them start over using the shields. Point out that if they are behind the shield, they are safe from the incoming paper bombs. Explain that the Lord is our protection and shield. If we stand behind Him (live obedient lives as His children), He will protect us from the weapons of the enemy.

Try to Part the Sea

You will need a large tub (OR A LARGE BOWL FROM THE KITCHEN) of water, a spatula, a blow dryer, and a towel. Have different volunteers try to part the water in the tub using the tools you've brought (or just have them try blowing really hard – this is so funny!). Of course, they will not be able to. Explain what a miracle God performed for His children. Ask your students what they think it must have been like to witness and be saved by such a miracle.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer thanksgiving for the Lord's protection and deliverance. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity