

### LESSON 2

## CROSSING THE RED SEA

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Rescues His People

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 13–15

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After His people spend 400 years in slavery, God steps in with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, rescuing them and providing a way through the Red Sea.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: Walls of Water Walk

**INVITATION**

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

Maybe this has been one of those weeks for you.

You know, a week that showed up carrying a conflict with your spouse or friend. An unexpected budget-busting bill. A nagging cough, sputtering car engine, maybe a misplaced pair of glasses.

Or perhaps you hit the jackpot and absolutely everything that could go wrong did go wrong ... twice.

However tough your week, it probably pales compared to what Moses found in his week: the Red Sea at his back and an Egyptian army thundering at him from the front. Worse, he was surrounded by people screaming for him to do something.

Read [Exodus 14](#).

The good news for Moses is the same good news we have for you: God rescues His people. Maybe not on their timeline, and maybe not in the way they expect, but He never fails to come through.

That broken tooth (thank you, peanut brittle) doesn't lessen His love for you. The exploding microwave? You won't be warming up leftover lasagna anytime soon, but there's still a spot for you in heaven.

In all the most important ways, you can stand with Moses, who looked at oncoming chariots and said this to his people: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the Lord will save you today" ([Exodus 14:13](#)).

As you prepare this lesson for your kids, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to let its truth sink deeply into your heart too.

The Lord rescues those who stand with Him.

Including you.

**DID YOU KNOW?****FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

God worked through Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Soon after, Moses received the law from God on Mount Sinai, along with instructions for the construction of the tabernacle. Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years.

**WHAT?**

God led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the desert to the Red Sea. Then Pharaoh chased after God's people with his army, but God parted the sea so the Israelites could escape on dry ground. Then the waters came back and swept away Pharaoh's army.

**WHERE?**

The exact location of the Red Sea crossing is unknown, but many scholars favor the Bitter Lakes region north of the Gulf of Suez, the northwestern branch of the Red Sea. The Bitter Lakes may have been connected to the Red Sea at the time.

**WHEN?**

The exodus happened approximately 400 years after Jacob's family came to Egypt. Following the exodus, the Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert after failing to trust God before taking possession of the Promised Land.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

The Red Sea crossing demonstrates God's power to deliver His people and foreshadows the even greater deliverance made possible at the cross. In the exodus, God brought His people from slavery to freedom. At the cross, Jesus brings us from death to life.

## Free Play

### As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. As kids explore the room, be sure to get on their level and play right alongside them! This goes a long way to build trust.

## Clean Up

### At the end of free play...

Greet the kids Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to say the declaration together.

## Declaring God's Wonder

**Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad you're here today. Stand up and repeat after me:**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

**SUPPLIES:** ball

Have kids gather on one side of the room. **In God's big story today, we will learn how God rescues His people, the Israelites. Rescue means to save. Let's pretend that this** (point to the ball) **is one of God's people who needs to be rescued. We need to get it to the other side of the room.** Invite kids to take turns pushing the ball to the other side of the room. They can use their hands or feet to make the ball go.

**God rescued His people in an amazing way. We'll learn all about it in our story today.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE.**

Tell the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD**—*Point up.*

**RESCUES**—*Hold arms out to sides, then pretend to scoop something up, like rescuing.*

**HIS PEOPLE.**—*Point to yourself.*

## Worship

**SUPPLIES:** Worship music videos

**Today in God's big story, we're learning that God rescues His people. God is amazing! Let's sing together and thank God!**

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## Snack

**SUPPLIES:** small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around tables and serve snack. After praying, begin the Bible story while kids are busy eating.

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. When I say rescue, you can clap and cheer.**

**Dear God, we thank You for Your great rescue** (*clap and cheer*) **of Your people. We thank You that You rescue** (*clap and cheer*) **us from sin through Jesus! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Blessing:** **May the Lord God, who rescues His people, remind you this week that He knows you, loves you, leads you, and rescues you.**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, walking stick

**Our story today is a great story from the Bible about Moses!** Encourage the kids to say, "Moses." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Moses!**

**God's people, the Israelites, were being held captive in Egypt. They were trapped! The Egyptians treated them very badly and would not let them leave. They really needed God!**

**God cared for them and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, that God had said, "Let my people go" Have kids repeat it after you. But Pharaoh said he would not. Shake your head. God sent bad things called plagues to happen to the people of Egypt. Things like bugs, and sickness, and lots and lots of frogs. After a lot of bad things happened, Pharaoh finally told the Israelites to leave.**

**They were free! God led them to the Red Sea. During the day, God led them in a pillar of cloud. A pillar is like a tower. At night, God led the people with a pillar of fire. They always had light to see where to go.**

**The Israelites camped by the Red Sea. But something bad happened—Pharaoh changed his mind! He took his big, strong army and went after God's people. Make a scared face. The Israelites were stuck between Pharaoh's army and the sea. Oh no! Make scared face.**

**Moses told the people not to be afraid. "Stand firm," he told them. "You will see how the Lord will save you today" ([Exodus 14:13](#)).**

**Then God told Moses to hold out his walking stick and reach out his hand over the sea. God was going to make a way for the people to walk through the sea on dry ground! Point to the walking stick.**

**Moses reached out his hand with the stick. Hold up the walking stick. Then God sent a strong wind. Blow really hard for a few seconds. The waters split, and there was dry land in the middle! The people walked through the sea on dry land to the other side. God made a way for the people of Israel to get away!**

**God told Moses to reach his hand over the water again. Hold out your hand. The water went back to normal. God's people were safe from Pharaoh's army.**

**That day the Israelites sang a song about how God saved them. They sang about how God set them free. They sang because they knew God rescues His people. Clap and cheer.**

## Activity: Walls of Water Walk

**SUPPLIES:** blue disposable tablecloths or pool noodles (2)

**In our story today, we learned how God rescued His people by sending a strong wind to blow apart the water of the Red Sea to make walls of water on both sides. The Israelites, God's people, walked through the sea on dry land! To help us remember our story, we'll walk through walls of water.**

Ask a leader to help you hold up the blue tablecloths (or pool noodles) on both sides of the kids. Leave a path in the middle and encourage the kids to walk (or crawl) through them.