

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.**MEMORY VERSE:** I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. —[Psalm 77:12](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Psalm 77:12](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

Interactive activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- Walls of Water Worship
- Walls of Water Run

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.

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids in your class by playing right alongside them!

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

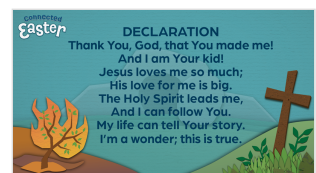
Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

At your start time....

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)

Show the [Declaration Slide](#) if you choose, and encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.



Welcome to church today! I am so happy to be here with all of you. We like to start our time together with a declaration. These words that we're about to say together remind us of what God says is true about me and you. 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").



Belief

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Rescues His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13–15

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 77:12

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn about how God rescues His people. Let's sing and thank God for how He rescues!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, we thank You for this chance to be together today and discover more from Your Word. Help us to trust in You and Your great love for us. You are our rescuer—help us learn what You want us to know about how You want to rescue us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, blue disposable tablecloths, walking stick, wooden stick or spoon to attach to Pharaoh head sheet, [Pharaoh's Head Sheet](#), [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print [Pharaoh's Head Sheet](#) and tape it to the wooden stick or spoon. Lay two blue disposable tablecloths (or towels) across the middle of the floor.

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Let's hear part of God's big story, a part that comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible.



God's Big STORY SCRIPT

You are going to help with our story today! We have been talking about how God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt. Let's pretend that you are the Israelites. Poor Israelites! Have everyone move to one side of the room, opposite the blue tablecloths. **The Israelites were in Egypt. They needed help because the Egyptian people held the Israelites captive and made them work. The Egyptians treated them very badly. So the Israelites really needed God to help them!**

God cared for them and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt. Moses went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh what God had said: "Let my people go," But Pharaoh said he would not. Hold up the Pharaoh head and move close to the kids and say, "No!" **God sent bad things called plagues to happen to the people of Egypt. After a lot of bad things happened, Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave.** Move the Pharaoh away from the kids and say, "Go!"

Let's work together to get the Israelites out of Egypt! Invite kids to move about halfway to where the blue tablecloths are on the ground.

They were free! Pharaoh let God's people go. Let me see you celebrate! And God led them through the desert 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. God was right there with them. Have kids move close to the blue tablecloths.

This is the Red Sea. Point to the tablecloths. **It wasn't really red; it was just called that. The Israelites camped by the sea. But something bad was about to happen. Pharaoh changed his mind! He took his army and went after God's people.** Move the Pharaoh toward the kids again. **Horses and chariots and horsemen and troops! It was a big, strong army! They caught up**

with God's people. Then the Israelites were stuck between Pharaoh's army and the sea. Oh no!

God's people were very scared. Let me see your scared faces. Moses told them not to be afraid. "Stand firm," he answered. "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 about to do something amazing! 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. The waters split, and there was dry land in the middle! Encourage two leaders to pull the blue tablecloths apart, then move the kids between them. The people walked through the sea on dry land. God made a way for the people of Israel to get away from Egypt's army and horses and chariots!

God's people got to the other side of the sea. God told Moses to reach his hand over the water again. The water went back to normal. Encourage two leaders to put the tablecloths back together on the ground. Now 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.

Leader Tip: The word *exodus* is probably an unfamiliar word for most preschoolers. Take a moment and have them repeat it after you. Then tell them an exodus is when a lot of people leave a land at once. Tell kids it's like the word exit that you see on red signs in buildings to tell you where you can leave the building.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Crossing the Red Sea God's Big Story Video!](#)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

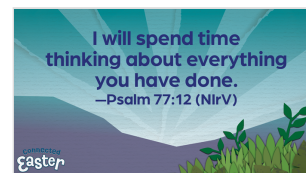
When God parted the waters of the Red Sea so His people could cross on dry land, God showed His power to save His people. He also gave a clue about another time when God would save His people in an even bigger way! During the exodus from Egypt, God brought His people from slavery to freedom. By dying on the cross, Jesus brings us from death to life so we can be forgiven for our sins and live with God forever. That's the best news ever!

Memory Verse

MEMORY VERSE

I will spend time thinking about everything you have done.

—Psalm 77:12



Our new memory verse reminds us that God rescues us. In today's story, God rescued His people in an amazing way! Our verse is from [Psalm 77:12](#). It says, "I will spend time thinking about everything you have done." But if we read the next several verses, we see what the writer of this psalm was remembering what God had done. What was that? Let's read to find out.

Read [Psalm 77:13–16](#). [Psalm 77:13–16](#) talks about how God showed that He is holy, powerful, and mighty when He set His people free and parted the Red Sea. We can remember that God is holy (that means set apart), powerful, and mighty!

Do you know how to do the wave? It is something that crowds at sporting events often do. You will line up. Then we'll start at one end of the line, and in order, each person will jump up and raise his arms. When you see me raise the walking stick, we'll start the wave and say our verse together. As we do this, we can remember the waves in the Red Sea when God rescued His people! Line the kids up and practice doing the wave with them. Then do it while saying the verse together. The next time, encourage the kids to start the wave and say the verse when you raise the stick.

Encourage the kids to say the verse and do the motions with you:

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Ask the kids these questions:

- **What does today's story show us about God?**
- **How do you think the Israelites felt when God parted the waters to rescue them?**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Divide kids into small groups and pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy during discussion. Don't forget to pray together, practice the memory verse, and award prizes!

Circle Time: Discussion

Do you remember what Moses raised up in today's story when God made the sea split apart? Allow the kids to respond. **Yes, it was a walking stick! God rescued His people when He made a great wind blow the waters of the sea apart so the people could walk through. It was an amazing miracle!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What were God's people called?** (*Israelites*)
- **Where were the Israelites held captive and treated badly?** (*Egypt*)
- **How did God lead His people to the Red Sea?** (*a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night*)
- **What amazing miracle happened when Moses held up his walking stick?** (*God sent a strong wind to part the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through.*)
- **How did the Israelites respond after God saved them?** (*They sang songs of praise to God.*)
- **What would you sing a song of praise about to thank God for?**
- **Do you believe God still rescues His people? How has He rescued us?**
- **What does this story show us about God?**

In today's story, God rescued His people from slavery and brought them to freedom. Through Jesus, we can be rescued and freed from sin, and we can have a relationship with God! We can praise God like the Israelites did after He rescued them. Let's pray together and thank God.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish, pray with them and thank God that Jesus rescues us from sin!

Let's pray and thank God for His help.

God, thank You so much that You care for Your people. You rescue us when we need it. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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



Closing

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Use the following activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

Option 1: Walls of Water Worship

SUPPLIES: blue crepe paper streamers, worship music video

Ahead of time, cut 2'-3' of blue crepe paper streamers for each kid. Give the kids the streamers.

After God rescued His people from Egypt and from Pharaoh's army, the people sang a song of praise to God. They worshiped to thank Him for His love, His power, and His great rescue. God rescued His people by making a strong wind blow the waters of the sea apart so there were walls of water on both sides. Then the people walked through the sea on dry land! Isn't that amazing? God rescues us from sin through Jesus. We can sing songs of praise to God too.

We're going to use our own pretend walls of water to praise God as we listen to a worship song. You can wave your streamer in the air to make a pretend wall of water. Demonstrate waving a streamer and let the kids practice. **As you're doing this, think of some things in your mind that you want to pray and thank God for: some things about God, such as His power or His forgiveness; some things God has done for you, such as helping you with a problem; and some things God has given you. We'll listen to worship music, and you can sing and wave your streamer as you pray and praise God.**

Play worship music and encourage the kids to sing and worship God as they wave their streamers to create "walls of water" and thank God. You will need blue crepe paper streamers or blue ribbons again for the Closing Game, so you may want to keep them nearby.

Option 2: Walls of Water Run

SUPPLIES: blue crepe paper streamers

If you didn't cut blue crepe paper streamers Worship time, be sure to do so for this game.

Split the group into two teams and make sure every kid in one group has a blue streamer. Have the kids with the streamers (or ribbons) line up in two lines facing one another. Leave a few feet in between the lines (to create a path for the other group to run through).

In today's story, we learned about how God rescued His people, the Israelites, from Egypt. God sent a strong wind to blow the water of the Red Sea so that there were walls of water on both sides. The Israelites were rescued from Pharaoh's army, who was chasing them. They walked through the Red Sea on dry land, with walls of water on both sides! Let's play a game where we run through walls of water on both sides. We'll take turns, so you'll get a chance to both run through the walls of water and make the walls of water.

Encourage the kids who are lined up to take turns running through the walls of water while the other kids wave their streamers or pool noodles. When all the kids on the running team have run through the walls of water, switch the teams so the other kids get to run through.