

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. After this rescue, God's people praise Him!

MEMORY VERSE: I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts. —[Psalm 77:12](#)

CURIOSITY Large Group or Small Group

Activities that spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite sea animal?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder

**BELIEF Large Group**

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
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Psalm 77:12](#)

FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Blessing Your Kids

CLOSING Large Group or Small Group

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

- Rescue Relay
- Memory Verse Activity

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.

Large Group or Small Group

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

Welcome Question

Before kids arrive, display the [Red Sea Welcome Question Slide](#), or point out the following question on a whiteboard: “What is your favorite sea animal?”



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the [Welcome Question](#) and encourage them to share their answers with friends. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

Free Play

The tables will be set with games, toys, and activities for kids to enjoy until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to build relationship with kids through play and conversation.

PRO TIP: Use this time for a bathroom reminder in order to avoid unnecessary interruptions later in class!

Countdown Video

Play the [countdown video](#) provided and then show it every week before your official start time to signal time to clean up.

Curiosity Questions

At your start time ...

Invite the kids to gather together, and let them know you're glad they're at church today. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is your favorite sea animal?**

What great sea animals—God has created so many awesome things! Today we're going to learn about a time when God split the sea apart. I wonder what all the sea creatures thought when that happened! But first, it's time to be curious.

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I'm curious ...

- **Have you ever been to the ocean or a big lake? Tell us about it!**
- **What is the most exciting adventure you've ever been on?**

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Red Sea Declaration Slide

Display the [Red Sea Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
Your power is amazing! (Repeat)
Thank You for rescuing Your people! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

We like to start our time together with a declaration. These words that we're going to say together remind us of what God says is true about me and you!
Repeat after me:

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Your power is amazing! (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for rescuing Your people! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

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Belief

LESSON 2 **ELEMENTARY**

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, 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

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 You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



LESSON 2 CROSSING THE RED SEA

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Red Sea Title Slide, shepherd’s staff, Pharaoh’s Head Sheet attached to a rolling chair, Let My People Go sign

Ahead of time, Pharaoh's head image will be taped to the back of a rolling chair as if Pharaoh were sitting there. Pharaoh will sometimes face forward, sometimes not, and will occasionally move around. Pharaoh will begin center stage, facing backward so that the kids cannot yet see him. Gather the “Let My People Go!” sign for Moses.

Invite a kid volunteer to play Moses, giving him a shepherd’s staff and the paper that says, “Let my people go!” Tell him you will point or nod when it’s time for him to read the sign. Let him know he will say those words three times to a chair that represents Pharaoh, and each time he can get a little

louder and more intense! For all of Moses' other actions, assure your volunteer that you will guide him on what to do.

TO BEGIN: Display the [Red Sea Title Slide](#). Open a Bible to [Exodus 14](#). Let kids know that today's story comes from the book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible where we first learn about God rescuing His people.

For Older Kids: Have kids open their Bibles to Exodus 14.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Read [Exodus 14:10–18](#) aloud to the group. Then invite a volunteer to read [Exodus 14:21–22](#) aloud. Then ask another volunteer to read [Exodus 14:26–28](#) aloud. Finally, ask a volunteer to read [Exodus 14:31](#) aloud. (If inviting kid volunteers to read, provide the verses for them to review ahead of time.)

Gather kids together. **God’s people were forced into slavery by the Egyptians, but God remembered His people and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt.** Gently nudge Moses toward the chair at center stage. **Moses went to Pharaoh** (turn the chair around to reveal Pharaoh), **the king of Egypt, and told him what the Lord God of Israel had said** (cue Moses to read his paper aloud): **“Let my people go”** ([Exodus 5:1](#)). **But Pharaoh was stubborn.** Gently pick up Pharaoh’s chair and set it down with a loud “Hmph!” **“Who is the Lord?” Pharaoh said. “Why should I obey him?”** ([Exodus 5:2](#)). **Pharaoh refused** (turn Pharaoh’s chair stubbornly away from Moses) **to let the people go—again** (cue Moses: “Let my people go!” and move Pharaoh’s chair even farther with a “Hmph!”) **and again!** (cue Moses: “Let my people go!” and another Pharaoh “Hmph!”). **So, God convinced Pharaoh. God made life very hard for the Egyptians by sending a series of plagues.** Flip over the picture of the plagues. **Eventually, Pharaoh said** (turn Pharaoh’s chair back around to face the audience and hold it up), **“Get out of here!”** ([Exodus 12:31](#)), **and the Egyptians begged God’s people to leave.** Turn Pharaoh’s chair around again so the kids can no longer see him.

Address all the kids: **Now you are going to be God’s people. Let’s imagine: You’ve been stuck in slavery your whole life, and now Moses has arrived and announced God’s rescue plan. You can’t believe it, but Pharaoh has finally let you go! As the rest of the story is told, there are two ways you as God’s people can respond. You can be scared and complain. That looks like this: *Why?*** Throw up both hands and in a fretful voice exclaim, “Whyyyy?” Allow the kids to copy you. **Or you can trust and obey. That looks like this: *trust.*** Do the American Sign Language sign for trust: be still and hold both of your hands to your right side, the right hand above the left, as if you are holding on to a rope. As you grasp the “rope,” say, “Trust” in a firm and calm voice. Explain that it’s like when people rappel off a mountain—they hold the rope and trust something or someone else holds their weight so they won’t fall. Invite kids to practice the sign. (To get kids moving even more, encourage them to stand every time they respond, “Whyyyy?” or “Trust.”) **We trust God holds us. But it can be difficult to trust sometimes! Listen carefully and imagine you are here with Moses in this part of God’s big story. When I ask you to respond, choose what you think you would do: say, “Why?” or say, “Trust.” There are no wrong answers, and sometimes you might want to do both!**



After Pharaoh let the people go, God led them through the desert toward the Red Sea. During the day, God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. Display [Slide 2](#). **Pillars are tall structures, often made of stone or brick, and are used to hold up buildings. This pillar was like a tower made from the clouds and filled with the presence of God, who holds up the whole world. During the night, God led the people with a pillar of fire, so they always had light for travel.** Display [Slide 3](#)—Pillar of Fire—and point to the screen. **God was right there with them.** Ask the kids what they think it might feel like to not only know that God is right there with them but also to see it with their own eyes. Ask the kids to show the motion and say the word that fits how they would respond: “Why?” or “Trust.”

Then the Lord told Moses to have the people camp by the sea. Display [Slide 4](#)—The Sea—and point to the screen. **God told Moses that stubborn Pharaoh** (move toward Pharaoh’s chair) **would change his mind** (flip Pharaoh’s chair around so the kids can see him and say, “Hmmm” as if considering; then flip chair back around) **and chase after God’s people with his army, but God had a plan. He would show the Egyptians how amazing and mighty He is. The Egyptians would know that He is the Lord!**

Sure enough, Pharaoh changed his mind. Flip Pharaoh’s chair around with a loud “Hmph!” **He took his army—including 600 of the best chariots in Egypt—and went after God’s people.** Move

Pharaoh's chair toward the center, perhaps making it gallop like a horse over the next couple of lines.

Horses and chariots and horsemen and troops! It was a big, strong army! Set Pharaoh's chair center stage facing the kids. **They caught up with God's people, who were now stuck between Pharaoh's army** (point to Pharaoh's chair) **and the sea** (point to the screen). Ask the kids to respond: "Why?" or "Trust." Remind them that at this point in the story, they don't know what God will do. With a sea in front of them and an army behind them, they probably can see no way out.

The Bible tells us that God's people were terrified and complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us to the desert to die?" ([Exodus 14:11](#)). Invite all kids to ask Moses, "Why?" **But Moses told them** (direct Moses to speak out to the kids and repeat after you in the pauses): **"Don't be afraid."** Pause. **"Stand firm."** Pause. **"You will see how the Lord will save you today"** ([Exodus 14:13](#)). Pause. **Moses asked the people to trust God.** Direct Moses to do the sign for trust. Invite the kids to repeat the sign and say, "Trust." Then point to the screen, still on the image of the sea. **Let's see what God will do next.**

God was about to do something incredible: make a way for the people to go through the sea on dry ground! Display [Slide 5](#)—Pillar of Fire/Cloud Combined—and point to the screen. **But first God moved the pillar of cloud to stand between Pharaoh's army and God's people. During the night, the cloud brought darkness to the Egyptians and light to God's people.**

Display next slide—The Sea—and point to the screen. **Then God told Moses to hold out his walking stick and reach out his hand over the sea to divide the water. Moses reached out his hand** (direct Moses to reach his hand toward the screen), **and God sent a powerful wind.** Get very quiet and ask the kids to listen carefully and watch the sea. Invite kids to make a sound like wind that gets steadily louder.

The waters divided and piled up into a wall of water to the right. Display [Slide 6](#)—Sea with Right Wave—and point to the screen. **And a wall of water to the left.** Display [Slide 7](#)—Sea with Left Wave. **And between them?** Display [Slide 8](#)—The Sea with Pathway. **Dry land! A path from slavery to freedom! God made a way for the people of Israel to escape through the sea.** Ask the kids to imagine what it might be like to walk on this path with the walls of water on each side. What would they see? How would they feel? Ask them to respond: "Why?" or "Trust." Remind them of all that they have just seen God do! And then ask again!

Head toward Pharaoh's chair. Display [Slide 9](#)—Chaos—and point to the screen. **When Pharaoh's army chased after God's people, God made the army panic, which jammed up the wheels of their impressive chariots. Then, once God's people had escaped, God told Moses to reach his hand over the water again.** Direct Moses to reach out his hand toward the screen. Display next slide, [Slide 4](#)—The Sea. **At sunrise the water went back to its place, sweeping away** (pick up Pharaoh's chair with a swoop and turn it around as if Pharaoh is gone) **Pharaoh's entire army with its many chariots and horsemen. God had acted, and His people were safe.** Thank Moses and invite him to take a seat with the other kids.

That day the Israelites sang a new song about how God had rescued them with His amazing power. They sang of how God brought them from slavery in Egypt into freedom. They sang because God rescued them from Pharaoh and the sea. God did it all! Ask the kids to respond one last time but this time in song. Encourage them to boldly sing the phrase, "God rescues His people" in their own tune and all together on the count of three. **God rescues His people!**

Watch God's Big Story

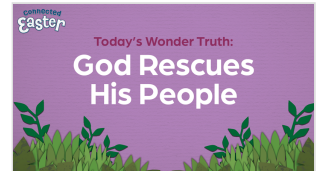
Watch the [Crossing the Red Sea God's Big Story!](#)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

SUPPLIES: Red Sea Wonder Truth Slide

Display the [Red Sea Wonder Truth Slide](#). Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:



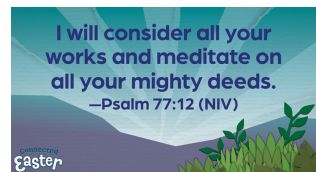
Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

The Red Sea crossing shows God's power to deliver His people and hints toward another time when God would deliver 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.

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse slide

Display the verse Slide. **The memory verse that we're working on this month is [Psalm 77:12](#). We saw some of the amazing, mighty acts God did in the true story we heard today. This verse invites us to think about all that God has done as He rescues His people. Let's read the verse together.**



Read the verse aloud to them. Then invite the kids to read it aloud several times together, starting quietly and building in volume each time they read it.

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Faith

LESSON 2 **ELEMENTARY**

Small Group

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

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

MEMORY VERSE

I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.

—Psalm 77:12 (NIV)

Questions: Younger Kids

- **Who changed his mind about letting the Israelites go?** (*Pharaoh, the king of Egypt*)
- **How many chariots did Pharaoh use to chase the Israelites?** (*600*)
- **What did God do to the Red Sea?** (*divided the water so the Israelites could walk through on dry ground*)
- **How do you think the people felt when Pharaoh was chasing them?**
- **How do you think the people felt after God rescued them?**
- **What are some ways God has rescued you?**

God rescued His people in such an amazing way! The Israelites saw God's power and knew that He had come to their rescue. God shows His power in our lives, and He can rescue us too. Let's take some time to share some prayer requests and ask God for His help.

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* If kids struggle to think of ways God has rescued them, introduce the truth that when we follow Him, God rescues all of us from our sin (the wrong things we do that separate us from God). Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we could be rescued from sin and death and live with God forever!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite the kids to share their prayer requests with the group. As they do, remind them that God is powerful and He rescues us. After a few minutes, pray aloud, thanking God for His love and His willingness to rescue us. End by thanking God for hearing all of your requests.

Questions: Older Kids

- **How did God lead the people in the desert?** (He went ahead of them as a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night.)
- **How did God rescue His people when Pharaoh was chasing them?** (He divided the water of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through on dry ground and then swept the water back over Pharaoh's army.)
- **What did the Israelites do after they crossed the Red Sea?** (They praised God by singing a new song.)
- **How might you have felt if Pharaoh had been chasing you?**
- **Why do you think God chose to rescue His people in this way?**
- **What are some of the ways God has rescued you?**

God knew that His people were afraid and confused on the shores of the Red Sea. But He told them to just watch and be still, and they would see how He would rescue them. God rescues us too. Let's take some time to share prayer requests and ask God for rescue.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Remind kids that while we might guess why God does certain things for certain reasons, we cannot fully understand His thoughts! (See [Isaiah 55:8](#).)

Prayer Time: Older Kids

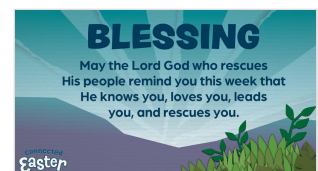
Invite the kids to share prayer requests. After a few minutes, encourage kids to pray for one another aloud. Close your time by praying for the whole group, thanking God for rescuing us from sin (the wrong things we do) through Jesus and inviting us to trust Him.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Kids don't always feel confident praying aloud. Encourage kids by letting them know that prayer is simply talking to God. Prayers don't need to be long or fancy; we can simply ask God to provide for a need. He is always listening!

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

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



Large Group or Small Group

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

Memory Verse Activity

Invite kids to partner up and read the verse together. Let them know that there will be a “test” (or “challenge”) in a little bit, and give kids 1–2 minutes to practice the verse with their partners.

After the teams have had a chance to practice, let them know that you’re going to say the verse aloud, but something will be incorrect. Their job, as a team, will be to figure out what’s wrong with the verse and then say it correctly. Say the verse aloud, and either forget a word or use a “mistake” like the following (feel free to come up with your own as well!):

- Say, “we” instead of “I” when reciting the verse.
- Say, “forget” instead of “consider.”
- Say, “powerful” instead of “mighty.”
- Say, “[Psalm 77:16](#)” instead of “[Psalm 77:12](#).”
- Say, “[Proverbs 77:12](#)” instead of “[Psalm 77:12](#).”
- Say, “my” instead of “your.”

After you’ve said the verse, encourage teams to raise their hands if they know what was wrong. When called on, the team can hop up and (kindly!) point out what’s wrong and then recite the verse correctly. If they get it right, encourage them to take a victory lap around the room. Play a few rounds until the kids have the verse memorized.

GAME: RESCUE RELAY

SUPPLIES: 25'-to-50' rope or string (2), plastic hoops or rings (2), masking or painter's tape or cones

Ahead of time, use masking or painter's tape to create start and finish lines on the floor, or use cones to mark the start and finish lines.

Tie the end of a rope around the hoop/ring to create a rescue rope. Repeat to create a second rescue rope. Set the hoops or rings at one end of the room by the finish line. Stretch the ropes across the room and place their loose ends at the start line.

In this game, kids will race to complete the rescue relay mission first.

Gather kids and divide the group into two teams. **In God's big story, we read about God rescuing His people by providing a way through the Red Sea. We're going to do a fun rescue relay mission of our own! When I say, "Go!" the first person will pull the rope until the bottle reaches the start line. Then she will grab the bottle, race across the room, place the bottle/hoop behind the finish line, and then run back to tag the next person in line. Demonstrate this for the kids, making sure the rope still extends back to the start line when the bottle/hoop is behind the finish line. The first team to have all of their members complete the rescue mission wins!**

Once both teams have finished the rescue mission, congratulate the winning team and affirm all the kids for being excellent rescuers. Then gather kids and continue:

Today we practiced our rescue skills, but God's ability to rescue is much greater. God rescued His people from slavery and made the way for the people of Israel to escape through the Red Sea on dry ground! God is the ultimate rescuer!