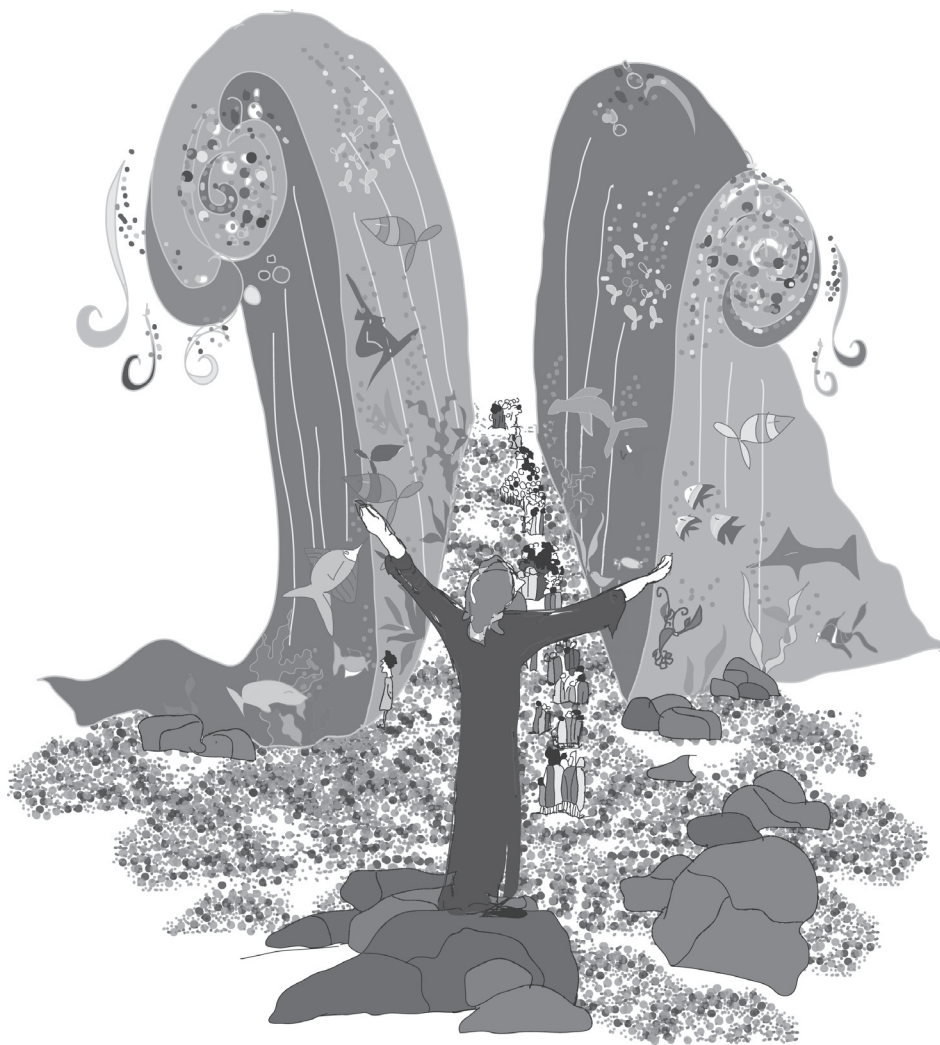


LESSON 32

# God Parts the Red Sea

EXODUS 14



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

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THERE IS NO OBSTACLE BIG ENOUGH TO HINDER  
THE ADVANCE OF GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**  
**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard, dry erase markers
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 32)
- 3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**  
**Where Is Jesus?**  
**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare
- 4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**  
**SUPPLIES:** Snack food/water
- 5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**
- 6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN**  
**Coloring Page 32**  
**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons
- The Red Sea**  
**SUPPLIES:** broom handle
- Can You Part the Red Sea?**  
**SUPPLIES:** large, shallow pan; water; two towels
- Complaining, Complaining**
- 7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will hear how God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to escape the Egyptians chasing them.

What do you remember?

The parting of the Red Sea is one of the most well-known Old Testament stories. So even before you read the Bible story you can use this exercise to see how much of the story the children can remember. On the whiteboard, draw a wavy line to represent water, a wooden staff, and a person (you can draw a stick person). Then ask the class what each represents in the story of the crossing of the Red Sea.

The children should guess that the wavy line represents the Red Sea. You can erase the center of the line and draw walls of water to represent the parting of the Red Sea. The staff is what Moses used in parting the Red Sea. The stick person could be any of the people in the story, from Pharaoh to Moses, an Israelite or Egyptian. See how much of the story the children can remember and then after you read the Bible story point out what they were missing and what they got correct and incorrect.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 32, “God Parts the Red Sea,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

■ **What happened in this story?**

*(The Egyptian army came after Israel with chariots. God parted the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to cross on dry ground, but the waters crashed down on the Egyptians when they tried to cross.)*

- Why did Pharaoh come after the Israelites?  
*(God hardened Pharaoh's heart. He did not want to lose his slaves.)*
- What did the people do before God opened the Red Sea when they saw they were trapped?  
*(They complained and did not believe that God could save them.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- How high do you think the water was on either side of the Israelites?  
*(The water of the Red Sea was very deep, high over their heads.)*
- Who won the battle against Egypt?  
*(God won the battle.)*
- What do you think it would have been like to walk through the Red Sea?  
*(It would have been very scary to walk through the Red Sea. It was God's power that held the waters back. It would be scary to realize that at any moment the water could come crashing down.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 32—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Which people in the picture are the Egyptians?  
*(The Egyptians are the people in the water.)*

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Exodus 14:8–9; Romans 9:17

In these passages, we learn something more about God's purposes. Paul tells us in Romans that it was God who put Pharaoh on the throne of Egypt. He also tells us why. He did it to show his power through the life of Pharaoh so that God's name would be proclaimed in all the earth.

The story of the parting of the Red Sea has been told millions of times, but often the most important part of the story is not mentioned. Because the Israelites escaped from Pharaoh's army, one day a child named Jesus was born in Bethlehem to the nation of Israel. To this day, God's name is proclaimed through the life of Pharaoh and the story of how God parted the Red Sea.

- What did God do to the chariots to make it hard for the Egyptians to drive through the Red Sea?

*(He made the wheels come off [Exodus 14:25 NIV].)*

- Who did the Egyptians think was doing this?

*(The Egyptians thought the God of the Israelites was fighting against Egypt [Exodus 14:25].)*

Have the children draw a few small circles in the water to represent the chariot wheels flying off into the sea.

### The Red Sea

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ broom handle

Divide the class into four groups. Two groups will be the left and right walls of the Red Sea. One group will be the Egyptians and the last group will be the Israelites.

Act out the drama of this Bible story. Have the Red Sea actors sit down in two lines facing each other with their hands stretched out toward one another. Have the Israelites gathered near the Red Sea with the Egyptians shouting, “There they are!” Have one of the teachers play the role of the pillar of cloud.

Have Moses, one of the Israelites, stretch out a staff (broom handle) and then have the Red Sea actors raise their hands over their heads and stand up. They should continue to wave their hands over their heads.

After the Israelites cross through, have the pillar of cloud release the Egyptians and as soon as they get into the Red Sea, have Moses stretch out his hand and then have the Red Sea actors collapse upon the Egyptians who can shout, “Oh no! I can’t swim I’m drowning!”

### **Can You Part the Red Sea?**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large, shallow pan
- ✓ water
- ✓ two towels

Put about one-half inch of water in a shallow pan and set it on a table on top of a towel. Have the children come up and see if they can divide the water with their hands into two halves with dry ground in the middle. You can have them put their hands together palm to palm then spread them out to show them how the water just moves around their hands to fill the gap in the middle. (Use the second towel to dry each child’s hands after their turn.)

Point out how no one was able to do the job. We just don’t have the power or ability to separate water this way. But someone does ... and did.

### **Complaining, Complaining**

Explain to the children what it would have been like for the Israelites to work as slaves making mud bricks with their feet and pulling heavy loads with ropes. Have them act out briefly what it would have been like to work in the hot sun as a slave. Tell them that the Israelites were crying out to God to deliver them. Have them act out some of those cries to God.

Here are a few examples:

- “Oh Lord, deliver us from the evil Egyptians who make us work all day long.”
- “Oh Lord, free us from Egypt and take us away from this place.”

Thank the children and have them sit down. Then read Exodus 14:10–12. Have the children stand up and have them act out the complaints of the Israelites to Moses as they see the Egyptians coming.

Ask the following questions:

- **What did the Israelites forget?**  
*(They forgot how hard life was in Egypt.)*
- **What did the Israelites start to do when they saw the Egyptians coming?**  
*(They started complaining.)*
- **Do children ever complain?**  
*(yes)*
- **What kinds of things do children complain about?**  
*(They don't like to dress themselves because it is too hard. They don't like to put their toys away when they are done playing or make their beds when they get up.)*
- **Is it good to complain?**  
*(no)*
- **Why is complaining not good?**  
*(Complaining is telling God you are not happy with what he has given you, and you do not believe it is good. When we complain we are not trusting God to know what's good for us.)*

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 32 - GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

