

LESSON 32

God Parts the Red Sea

EXODUS 13:1 – 14:31



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Exodus 14 from the Scriptures or read story 32, “God Parts the Red Sea,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
The Sea and the Sea
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Multiple Choice
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper and pencil for each team
 - ✓ prize for the winning team
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 32—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Be Ready to Go
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ four three-foot lengths of rope
 - ✓ four large sticks or poles to be used as walking staffs
 - ✓ four towels to represent cloaks
 - ✓ prizes for the entire class (optional)

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Remember the Passover—On the day the Israelites leave Egypt, Moses speaks to them on God’s behalf. He wants the Israelites never to forget how God helped them to escape from Egypt. So he does two things to help them remember.

He tells them to keep observing the Passover year after year. He also tells them that when they enter the Promised Land they are to kill a lamb for every firstborn son. In this way the sons shall be “redeemed.” This is to remind Israel how God spared them from the final plague in Egypt.

God wanted Passover to be the most important time of the year for the Israelites. This is because he had planned something like the Passover, only much more wonderful. That plan was that one day the Redeemer, the Messiah, the Savior, died to save people from eternal death. Jesus became the ultimate Passover lamb.

Be ready to go—Moses had told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover all dressed and ready as if they were about to go on a journey. The people obeyed Moses and did as he said. They did not know that while they were still wearing the Passover clothes, Pharaoh would tell Moses that the Israelites must leave Egypt. Pharaoh must have been amazed at how quickly all those people were able to go into the wilderness!

Now, we read that Pharaoh quickly changes his mind about letting the people go. He begins to chase after them with his army and six hundred chariots. If the people had not been ready to leave Egypt quickly, they probably would not have been able to leave at all.

Trust in the Lord—When the Israelites see that the Egyptians have caught up to them, they are afraid. But Moses is brave. He commands the Israelites not to fear but to trust God to help them.

God puts a pillar of cloud between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud stays there all night. While the cloud protects the Israelites from Pharaoh and his army, God begins to work through Moses to part the Red Sea that stands in the way of the Israelites. In the morning, the Israelites cross the sea on dry ground. When they reach the other side, the Egyptians are

crossing the sea, chasing after them. God works through Moses to close up the sea, and all of Pharaoh's army is drowned.

Not only does God save his people, Israel. He destroys their enemy forever. In the same way, God's Son, Jesus, will save us and destroy our enemy, death, forever.

THE LESSON

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Exodus 14 from the Scriptures or read story 32, "God Parts the Red Sea," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Sea and the Sea

Read Exodus 14:10–18 and Mark 4:35–41. Then ask the class the following questions:

- **How are these two stories similar?**
(In both accounts, the people of God became afraid and did not trust God. God delivered them in both stories.)

- **Why didn't the people need to fear in either of these accounts?**
(The Israelites and the disciples had seen God do miraculous things and should have trusted in God. In both of these accounts, the presence of God was with them. The Israelites had the pillar of cloud going before them, and the disciples had Jesus in the boat.)

Talk to the children about how God is a God who saves. His plan in both the Old and New Testaments was to bring salvation to his people.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Multiple Choice

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil for each team
- ✓ prize for the winning team

Divide the class into groups of five and ask them to answer the following questions. Award a prize to the winning team.

1. How many chariots did Pharaoh take to pursue the Israelites? a. three hundred; b. five hundred; c. more than six hundred. (C is correct. See Exodus 14:7.)
2. What did the Egyptians give the Israelites as they left? a. diamond jewelry; b. a golden calf; c. clothing and gold and silver jewelry. (C is correct. See Exodus 12:35–36.)
3. Where was the pillar of cloud? a. The pillar of cloud appeared just as the Egyptians were closing in on Israel; b. The pillar of cloud led Israel and moved from in front

of them to behind them when the Egyptians drew close; c. Moses lifted his staff and the pillar of cloud formed and moved to block the way of the Egyptians. (B is correct. See Exodus 14:19.)

4. What did God do to the Egyptians to make them realize that God was on the side of the Israelites? a. The waters of the Red Sea came back on them; b. The pillar of cloud came down on them and their chariot wheels bogged down; c. The wind stopped blowing, indicating the water would soon return. (B is correct. See Exodus 14:24–25.)
5. Which of the Egyptians who had followed Israel into the sea survived when the Red Sea returned to normal? a. Pharaoh survived; b. All but a handful were lost; c. No one survived the Red Sea. (C is correct. See Exodus 14:28.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)
- 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.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Be Ready to Go

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ four three-foot lengths of rope
- ✓ four large sticks or poles to be used as walking staffs
- ✓ four towels to represent cloaks
- ✓ prizes for the entire class (optional)

Read Exodus 12:11 and explain to the children that God wanted his people ready to go at a moment's notice. Then play the following game:

Divide the class into two teams and line them up for a relay race. Call one team "Prepared to Go" and a second team, "Just Sitting Around." Give "Prepared to Go" two ropes, two sticks, and two towels, having them dress their first two players in line so they are prepared to go. Place the rest of the items for "Just Sitting Around" off to the side of the room and have that team all sit down.

When you say Go, each team's first two members must put on the costumes, run to the other side of the room, return to the line, and give their items to the next people. The first team to have all their members complete the task wins. Because they have two teammates ready to go beforehand, "Prepared to Go" will obviously have a head start.

Use this to help the children see that God had a very detailed plan on how he was going to save Israel. After the last plague when Pharaoh gave the word to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, God's people were all ready to go. Imagine what it would be like for all of Israel to begin an immediate evacuation within minutes.

Note: If you choose to present a prize to the winner, consider one for each of the children on both teams.

LESSON 32 - GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

