

GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 14:5-31



There is no obstacle big enough to hinder the advance of God's plan of salvation.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Pharaoh changed his mind – All of Israel left Egypt celebrating their deliverance and carrying off the treasures of that country. Surely, Pharaoh could not have imagined the entire nation of Israel would be poised to leave immediately. The people, however, had obeyed God's command given through Moses. They had their cloaks belted, their sandals on, had just eaten their Passover meal, and were ready to go. The word went out and even before the day's supply of bread could be leavened the people left.

When Pharaoh was told that they had all left, he surely was mourning the loss of his son; he changed his mind, assembled an army, and set off in pursuit of Israel.

The Israelites gave into fear – When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians caught up to them, they began to fear. Moses, on the other hand, remained brave and commanded the Israelites not to fear but to look for the salvation of the Lord. Even then, the Israelites were being led by the angel of God in a pillar of cloud. The pillar of cloud which was in front of them moved to their rear, protecting them from the Egyptians. Though Israel was afraid, God did not judge them but instead promised to deliver them from the Egyptians.

God's salvation is demonstrated – That evening Moses lifted up his staff and stretched out his hand over the sea as instructed by the Lord. The waters were separated by a great east wind. In the morning, the Israelites went forward on dry ground. When they had reached the other side, God once again commanded Moses to lift up his hand. As he did so the Egyptians were drowned by the returning waters. Not only did God save His people Israel, He destroyed their enemy forever. In the same way God's Son, Jesus, will destroy our enemy, death, forever.

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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.

Cornered by the Egyptians against the Red Sea, God took His people to a place where their deliverance could only come from God, through faith. First, there was no way in their own strength they could defeat the Egyptian army. Second, when God did open up the Red Sea, the Israelites had to walk through by faith. At any moment the walls of water representing God's judgment could come crashing down on them. They did not come crashing down because God was leading His people back to the land of promise. As a result of their deliverance, one day an Israelite child would be born. That child was Jesus, who would bring salvation by faith, not works, lest any man boast.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.
(Hebrews 11:29)

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 45:6-7

Connecting the passage to Christ:

This passage is quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9. Jesus is God, and it is His throne alone that remains forever and ever. Read Hebrews 1:8-9. Because of the righteousness of God we can live secure in our salvation. The salvation Jesus promises will never end. He is reigning over all and he is able to keep our salvation forever!

Questions for reflection:

- How does this passage relate to Jesus? (Jesus has an everlasting throne and He alone could love in complete righteousness.)
- How does this passage compare to Hebrews 1:8-9? (Hebrews 1:8-9 is a direct quote, and attributes this passage to the Son, Jesus.)

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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

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 there 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.



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MULTIPLE CHOICE

Supplies

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

Prior to reading the story of the crossing of the Red Sea, break the children up into groups of 5 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. 300; b. 500; c. More than 600

(C is correct. See Exodus 14:7.)

2. What did the Egyptians give the Israelites as they left? a. gold and silver jewelry; b. a golden calf; c. clothing and jewelry of gold and silver

(C is correct. See Exodus 12:35)

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 survived the flood of the Red Sea? a. Pharaoh survived; b. All but a handful were lost; c. No one survived the Red Sea.

(C is correct. See Exodus 14:28)



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UNBELIEF LEADS TO COMPLAINING

Read Exodus 14:11-12, Israel's response to the approaching Egyptians.

Then ask the class the following questions:

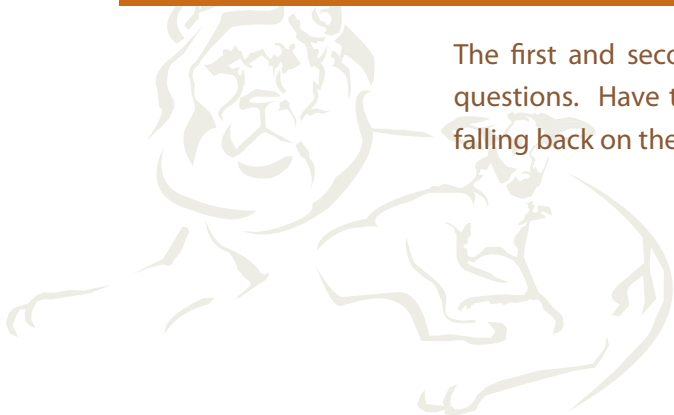
- When the Egyptians began to close in on the Israelites, they began to complain and say odd things. What were some of these? (The Israelites said that they had told Moses to leave them in Egypt, and assumed that they were now going to die in the wilderness. The truth is that they all came along freely with Moses.)
- In what situations might we complain when things don't go our way? (We usually complain when we don't get what we want. The Israelites demonstrated their love of comfort. They wanted to follow God as long as it did not require anything of them. We can have a similar posture. We will follow God as long as it does not cost us anything.)
- How was God's grace demonstrated to the Israelites in spite of their complaining? (The Israelites could have been judged for not trusting in God, but instead were protected by God. Similarly we are spared, protected and saved by the grace of God made available to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of the waters of the Red Sea falling back on the chariots of Egypt.



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FOR OLDER GRADES

Supplies

- pencils and paper

Have the children take a moment and read the assigned passage. This can be read silently or aloud with different children taking turns. Ask the class to make a list of situations where children their age are most likely to become afraid and not trust in God. Invite them to write down at least three situations.

After you have allowed five minutes or so, solicit volunteers to share some of their answers. Make a list on the board. Then ask them what Israel learned from their experience of being saved through the Red Sea. Finally, draw out the children as to how salvation and Jesus' death on the cross should work to build our faith.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Angel of God – The Angel of God is no ordinary angel, but the manifestation of God Himself. After wrestling with the Angel of God, Jacob declared that he had seen God face to face (Genesis 32:30). The Angel of the Lord also appeared to Moses and again spoke as God. The Angel of God was in the pillar of cloud that moved from before Israel to behind them.

