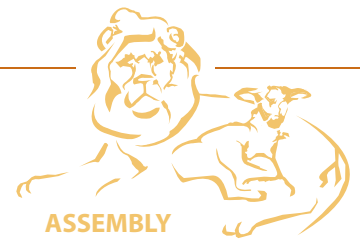


## GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 14:5-31



*Read Exodus 14:1-15:21 from the NIV or retell the story yourself in your own words. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### THE RED SEA

**Supplies:**

broomstick handle

Divide up 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 biblical 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 (broomstick 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!"

## GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 14:5-13

### 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 in slave labor. 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. Have some of the teachers join in to make it livelier.

Ask the following questions:

- What did the Israelites forget? (They forgot how hard it 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 put on their own clothes 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 for our good.)



## GOD PARTS THE RED SEA

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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)

