



# ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

## 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!

**WORD OF WONDER:** I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts. —Psalm 77:12

## CURIOSITY

## BELIEF

## FAITH

- \*\*Preservice STEM Experiment: Dry Land 8–10 min
- Welcome Question: What is your favorite sea animal? 2 min
- SMALL GROUP 25 min
- Declaring God's Wonder 1–2 min
- Prayer of Invitation 1–2 min
- Worship: Love Come Down, Praise You Anywhere 8–10 min
- God's Big Story 5–6 min
- Experience It! 5–7 min
- Connecting the Wonder Truth 1–2 min
- Responding in Worship: Jesus Paid It All 4–5 min
- Blessing Your Kids 1–2 min
- SMALL GROUP: Responding in Worship Closing Activity



### Schedule:

**Pre-service Activities:** 10 min before service

**Small Group:** 20-25 minutes

**Large Group:** 30-35 minutes

**Small Group Response Activity:** 5-10 min



[Connected Easter Elem Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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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.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**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

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

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### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

### SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

## STEM Experiment: Dry Land

7–10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE

**SUPPLIES:** empty gallon-size ice cream bucket or large bowl, water, table, glass cup or sturdy clear plastic cup, paper towels

Ahead of time, fill the bucket or bowl with water so that the water level is nearly as tall as the glass. Set the filled bucket or bowl on a table at the front of your teaching area.

### SLIDE: DRY LAND

**"Today we're going to learn about an amazing miracle God did— He made dry ground in the middle of the sea!"**

Show the kids the bucket or bowl of water. If possible, invite kids to gather around the table for a closer look. **Let's see if we can make some dry ground in the middle of this sea of water!** Wad paper towel and place it in the bottom of the glass. Tip the glass upside down to make sure the paper towel doesn't fall out. If it does, add more paper towels so that the wad will stay at the bottom of the glass.

**I'm going to put this glass into the water, and the paper towel is going to stay dry.**



Carefully hold the glass upside down with the mouth of the glass over the water. The wadded paper towel should stay put in the glass. Lower the glass into the water. As you do, air will stay trapped inside the glass as the water pushes up from below. Although it will look like there is water in the glass, there isn't. Lift the glass straight up out of the water and invite one of the kids to check the paper towel to see if it's dry.

### **Amazing!**

Invite a few different kids to push the glass carefully into the water to see the trick. If the paper towel falls or if the glass gets pushed in sideways and the paper gets wet, wad up a paper towel and do the experiment again.

**It was so fun to see how the paper towel stayed dry in the middle of the water. Today we will see how God made a dry place in the middle of the sea as He rescued His people.**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE.**



## Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

### **SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

**At service start time,** draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

**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."**

## Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

### **VIDEO: COUNTDOWN**

**"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

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

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

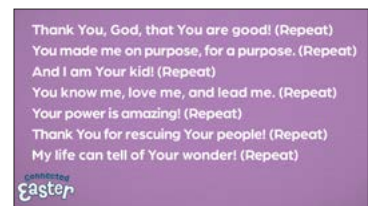
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**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.)



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**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.**

## Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

**"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: Love Come Down, Praise You Anywhere**

## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

Introduce today's true story from the Bible. Today in God's Big Story we will hear about God rescuing His people.

**"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will experience more of the story!"**

**VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY**



## LESSON 2 CROSSING THE RED SEA EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

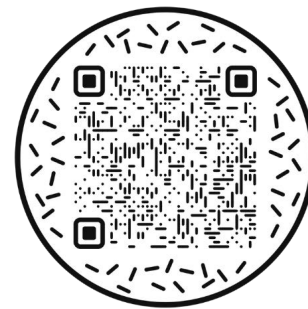
**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors (prep only), tape (prep only), shepherd’s staff or walking stick, paper, marker (prep only), chair, wooden spoon (optional)

**Ink RESOURCES:** [Pharaoh’s Head Sheet \(1/LG\)](#), [Experience It! Script \(1/LG\)](#) Wind Sound Effect

Ahead of time, print the Pharaoh’s Head Sheet on cardstock and trim around the dotted lines. Tape this image to the back of a chair as if Pharaoh were sitting there. You could raise the head if you wish by sticking the head to a wooden spoon with tape and taping the spoon to the back of the chair. Pharaoh will sometimes face forward, sometimes not, and will occasionally move around, so make sure it’s a chair that you can move yourself. Pharaoh will begin center stage, facing backward so that the kids cannot yet see him. With a marker, write “Let my people go!” in large letters on a blank sheet of paper.



The Rescue Plan Slides illustrate all the actions God does to rescue His people. Once introduced, the image on the slide will remain until the next slide appears. The slides will begin in order but often come back to Slide 4, like this: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, back to 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, back to 4. If possible, put your slides in that order with Slide 4 repeating so that you don’t have to return to it. Recruit an adult volunteer to advance the Rescue Plan Slides and play the Wind Sound Effect, providing her with a copy of the Experience It! Script.



WIND SOUND EFFECT

Before you start, invite a kid volunteer to play Moses, giving him a shepherd’s staff (or walking stick) 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.

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. Display Rescue Plan Slide 1—The Plagues—and point to the screen. God made life very hard for the Egyptians by sending a series of 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.

**Leader Tip:** As a review of what happened, you could, when they are mentioned, list the 10 plagues God sent: blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of the animals, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and death of the firstborn sons.

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—Pillar of Cloud—and point to the screen. 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 Mose , "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 Slide 4—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. Cue the Wind Sound Effect. Have the wind start quietly and grow louder until it's clear the kids can hear it.

**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. Turn off the Wind Sound Effect. **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 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!**

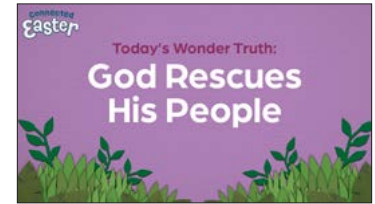
## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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 action 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."



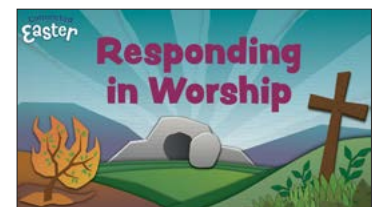
## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

### WORSHIP VIDEO: Jesus Paid It All



## Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, Use your own words. Here is an example:

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

## Return to Small Group

Instruct Small Group Leaders to close out their time by completing the "Responding in Worship" Activity at the end of their SG Leader Guide.