



ELEMENTARY SMALL 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

- Welcome Question: What is your favorite sea animal? **preservice**
- Curiosity Questions **preservice**
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12 **2 min**
- Word of Wonder Activity **7–8 min**
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids **10 min**
- Small Group Prayer Time **5 min**
- LARGE GROUP **30 min**
- Responding in Worship: Praise the Lord! **10 min**



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

WONDER TRUTH: God Rescues His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13–15

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

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.

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Rescues His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13–15

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: Coloring Page, whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“What is your favorite sea animal?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Have you ever been to the ocean or a big lake? Tell us about it!**
- **What is the most exciting adventure you’ve ever been on?**

Leader Tip: Some kids may not have traveled a lot and haven’t had experiences with lakes or oceans. Keep this in mind, and invite kids to imagine what they think these places might be like or what they look like on TV or in movies.

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

WORD OF WONDER

I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.

—Psalm 77:12 (NIRV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"The Word of Wonder for the Connected Easter series is Psalm 77:12. We saw some of the amazing, mighty acts God did in God's big story today. This verse invites us to think about all that God has done as He rescues His people. Let's read the Word of Wonder together."

Ask kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 77:12. Read the verse aloud to them. Then invite the kids to read it aloud several times together, starting quietly and building in volume each time they read it.

Make It Inclusive!

Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids who are sensitive to sound.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Invite the older kids to help the younger ones find Psalm 77 in their Bibles. Let them know it is near the center of their Bibles. The psalms are poems and songs that praise God.

Talk about these questions:

- **How do you think this verse relates to what we learned in God's big story today?**
- **Which of God's mighty deeds in the Bible is your favorite? Why?**

Word of Wonder Activity

Invite kids to partner up and read the verse together. Let them know that there will be a "test" (or "challenge") in a little bit, and give kids 1–2 minutes to practice the verse with their partners.

After the teams have had a chance to practice, let them know that you're going to say the verse aloud, but something will be incorrect. Their job, as a team, will be to figure out what's wrong with the verse and then say it correctly. Say the verse aloud, and either forget a word or use a "mistake" like the following (feel free to come up with your own as well!):

- Say, "we" instead of "I" when reciting the verse.
- Say, "forget" instead of "consider."
- Say, "powerful" instead of "mighty."
- Say, "Psalm 77:16" instead of "Psalm 77:12."
- Say, "Proverbs 77:12" instead of "Psalm 77:12."
- Say, "my" instead of "your."

After you've said the verse, encourage teams to raise their hands if they know what was wrong. When called on, the team can hop up and (kindly!) point out what's wrong and then recite the verse correctly. If they get it right, encourage them to take a victory lap around the room. Play a few rounds until the kids have the verse memorized.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid); Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Exodus. Introduce today's true story from the Bible. Today in God's Big Story we will hear about God rescuing His people.

Read Exodus 14:21-31 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **Who changed his mind about letting the Israelites go?** (*Pharaoh, the king of Egypt*)
- **How many chariots did Pharaoh use to chase the Israelites?** (*600*)
- **What did God do to the Red Sea?** (*divided the water so the Israelites could walk through on dry ground*)
- **How do you think the people felt when Pharaoh was chasing them?**
- **How do you think the people felt after God rescued them?**
- **What did you learn about God today?**

"God rescued His people in such an amazing way! The Israelites saw God's power and knew that He had come to their rescue. God shows His power in our lives, and He can rescue us too. Let's take some time to share some prayer requests and ask God for His help."

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If kids struggle to think of ways God has rescued them, introduce the truth that when we follow Him, God rescues all of us from our sin (the wrong things we do that separate us from God). Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we could be rescued from sin and death and live with God forever!

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite the kids to share their prayer requests with the group. As they do, remind them that God is powerful and He rescues us. After a few minutes, pray aloud, thanking God for His love and His willingness to rescue us. End by thanking God for hearing all of your requests.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Exodus. Introduce today's true story from the Bible. Today in God's Big Story we will hear about God rescuing His people.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

invite a volunteer to read Exodus 14:21–22 aloud. Then ask another volunteer to read Exodus 14:26–28 aloud. Finally, ask a volunteer to read Exodus 14:31 aloud. Then discuss the following:

Notes! Have kids turn to the Notes Pages on the back of the Coloring Sheet and write the Scripture and any words that stand out to them.

- **How did God lead the people in the desert?** (He went ahead of them as a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night.)
- **How did God rescue His people when Pharaoh was chasing them?** (He divided the water of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through on dry ground and then swept the water back over Pharaoh's army.)
- **What did the Israelites do after they crossed the Red Sea?** (They praised God by singing a new song.)
- **How might you have felt if Pharaoh had been chasing you?**
- **Why do you think God chose to rescue His people in this way?**
- **What did you notice about God's power in God's big story today?** Invite the kids to think about all the ways God displayed His power in the Bible passage. Share your insights as well.

"God knew that His people were afraid and confused on the shores of the Red Sea. But He told them to just watch and be still, and they would see how He would rescue them. God rescues us too. Let's take some time to share prayer requests and ask God for rescue."

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Remind kids that while we might guess why God does certain things for certain reasons, we cannot fully understand His thoughts! (See Isaiah 55:8.)

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite the kids to share prayer requests. After a few minutes, encourage kids to pray for one another aloud. Close your time by praying for the whole group, thanking God for rescuing us from sin (the wrong things we do) through Jesus and inviting us to trust Him.

Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Kids don't always feel confident praying aloud. Encourage kids by letting them know that prayer is simply talking to God. Prayers don't need to be long or fancy; we can simply ask God to provide for a need. He is always listening!

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Praise the Lord!

SUPPLIES: paper plates (2 per kid), markers, dried beans or dry pasta, staplers (several), curling ribbon, tape, kid-safe scissors

RESOURCES: Shouts of Praise Slides, [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

"God rescued His people when they were trapped on the shores of the Red

Sea. It was amazing! What are some of the ways we saw God rescue in God's big story today?

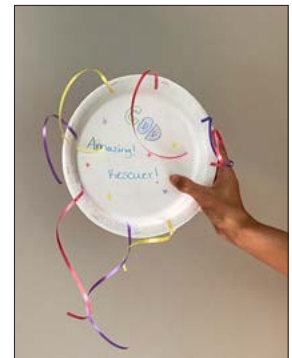
Invite the kids to respond. If needed, remind them of how God sent the plagues, provided a pillar of cloud and fire to guide His people, parted the Red Sea, and led His people safely across.

Wow! God showed His power as He rescued His people. The God of the Bible is the same God who still rescues today. He knows what's going on in our lives, and He rescues us too. What are some ways God rescues us? Invite the kids to respond. If needed, prompt them with the reminder that through Jesus, God rescues us from our sin, the wrong things we do that separate us from God.

Thank you for sharing! When God rescues us, it reminds us that He is worthy of praise. The Israelites felt the same way after they crossed the Red Sea. Open your Bible and read Exodus 15:19–21 aloud to the kids.

When God rescued His people, they played instruments and sang Him a beautiful song of praise. Let's do the same!

Invite the kids to make their own tambourines to use for praise. Give each kid two paper plates. Invite them to spend some thoughtful time using markers to decorate their plates with words that describe God or pictures that show how He rescues His people. After a few minutes, invite the kids to put some dried beans or pasta on one plate. Then have them cover this plate with the other plate and staple the plates all around the edges so that they are stapled together, and the contents can't get out. (Ask adults or teen leaders to staple younger kids' tambourines.) Then have the kids cut some ribbon and tape it to the edges of their plates to finish their tambourine.



Beautiful instruments! Let's take some time to praise God together! Read each of the truths about God that the Israelites declared after they crossed the Red Sea aloud, encouraging the kids to say out the words together. After reading all eight truths, play music from the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and invite kids to march and dance around the room making music with their tambourines. (Have noise-canceling headphones nearby for kids with sensitive ears!)

We have a great God who rescues His people! He is worthy of our praise!

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| 1. The Lord gives me strength! | 6. You are full of faithful love! |
| 2. The Lord saves me! | 7. The Lord rules forever and ever! |
| 3. He is my God and I will praise Him! | God rescues |
| 4. Lord, You are majestic and powerful! | |
| 5. Lord, who is like You? | |