



**PRE-K  
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.

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

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Jesus Loves Me, God's Way
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### 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.



## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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## Welcome

**Slide: Series Welcome Loop**

### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

**Video: Countdown**

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

**RESOURCES:** Tac the Cat puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, or a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

**Leader:** Let's say hello to Tac!

**Tac the Cat:** *(Tac makes a siren sound.)*

**Leader:** Oh wow! That's an interesting sound. Tac, why do you sound like a siren today?

**Tac the Cat:** Well, I just met some firefighters.

**Leader:** Why did you meet firefighters?

**Tac the Cat:** Earlier today I got stuck in a tree! I guess I climbed a little too high, and then I couldn't get down. I was so sad and scared. I started meowing really loudly.

**Leader:** Oh no! That does sound scary. What happened?

**Tac the Cat:** I heard a siren, and then some nice firefighters used a ladder to climb up to get me. I heard them say they rescued me. What does rescue mean?

**Leader:** Rescue means to save. Those firefighters saved you when you needed help. That reminds me of a time in the Bible when God's people were sad and scared. They needed to be rescued.

**Tac the Cat:** Did fire fighters come to rescue them too?

**Leader:** No, not exactly! But God did do something amazing to save them.

**Tac the Cat:** Really? I can't wait to hear all about it! I'm going to let my mom know I'm OK because I was rescued!

**Leader:** That sounds great! (Tac makes a siren sound as he leaves.)

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever felt sad or scared?"** Allow the kids to respond. **"Who has helped you when you're sad or scared?"** Allow the kids to respond. **"We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God is able to rescue His people?"**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE**. Today we'll discover how God rescues His people!"

## **Declaring God's Wonder**

### **SLIDE: DECLARATION**

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

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

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

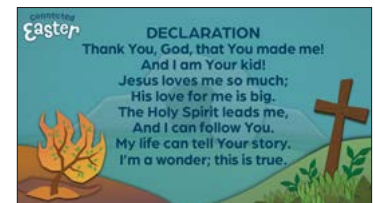
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## 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 how You want to rescue us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

"Today we'll learn about how God rescues His people. Let's sing and thank God for how He rescues!"

**WORSHIP: Jesus Loves Me, God's Way**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, a part that comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible."

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, tape, chair, inflated balloons (10–12), permanent marker (prep only), blue disposable tablecloths or towels (2), walking stick, wooden spoon (optional), tape (optional, prep only), sheets of paper

**RESOURCES:** [Pharaoh's Head Sheet](#), [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print Pharaoh's Head Sheet and tape it 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's chair will begin in the center of your teaching space, facing backward so that the kids cannot yet see him. Inflate the balloons and use a permanent marker to draw simple faces on them. Set them all together on one side of the room (these are the "Israelites"). Lay two blue disposable tablecloths (or towels) across the middle of the floor. Instead of balloons, you could just draw smiley faces on papers and put the papers on the floor.



**Allergy Caution:** Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

**"You are going to help with our story today! We have been talking about how God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt.** Point to the inflated balloons (or papers) with faces. **Let's pretend that these are the Israelites. Poor Israelites! That's Egypt** (point to the place the balloons are). **They needed help because the Egyptian people held the Israelites captive and made them work. The Egyptians treated them very badly. So the Israelites really needed God to help them!**

**God cared for them and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt. Moses went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Moses told Pharaoh what God had said: "Let my people go," But Pharaoh said he would not.** Move the Pharaoh chair close to the balloons and say, "No!" **God sent bad things called plagues to happen to the people of Egypt. After a lot of bad things happened, Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave.** Move the Pharaoh chair away from the balloons and say, "Go!"

**Let's work together to get the Israelites out of Egypt!** Invite a few kids (or all the kids) to help move the balloons about halfway to where the blue tablecloths are on the ground. If the kids get out of control with the balloons, have the kids sit across the room and watch while you move the balloons.

**They were free! Pharaoh let God's people go. And God led them through the desert to the Red Sea. During the day, God led them in a pillar of cloud. A pillar is like a tower. At night, God led the people with a pillar of fire. They always had light to see where to go. God was right there with them.** Move the balloons close to the blue tablecloths.

**This is the Red Sea.** Point to the tablecloths. **It wasn't really red; it was just called that. The Israelites camped by the sea. But something bad was about to happen. Pharaoh changed his mind! He took his army and went after God's people.** Move the Pharaoh chair toward the balloons again. **Horses and chariots and horsemen and troops! It was a big, strong army! They caught up with God's people. Then the Israelites were stuck between Pharaoh's army and the sea. Oh no!**

God's people were very scared. Moses told them not to be afraid. "Stand firm," he answered. "You will see how the LORD will save you today" (Exodus 14:13).

Then God told Moses to hold out his walking stick and reach out his hand over the sea. God was about to do something amazing! God was going to make a way for the people to walk through the sea on dry ground! Point to the walking stick.

Moses reached out his hand with the stick. Hold up the walking stick. Then God sent a strong wind. The waters split, and there was dry land in the middle! Encourage two kids to pull the blue tablecloths apart, then move the balloons between them (or allow kids to help move the balloons). The people walked through the sea on dry land. God made a way for the people of Israel to get away from Egypt's army and horses and chariots!

God's people got to the other side of the sea. God told Moses to reach his hand over the water again. The water went back to normal. Encourage two kids to put the tablecloths back together on the ground. Now God's people were safe from Pharaoh's army.

That day the Israelites sang a song about how God saved them. They sang about how God set them free. They sang because they knew God rescues His people."

**Leader Tip:** The word exodus is probably an unfamiliar word for most preschoolers. Take a moment and have them repeat it after you. Then tell them an exodus is when a lot of people leave a land at once. Tell kids it's like the word exit that you see on red signs in buildings to tell you where you can leave the building.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD RESCUES HIS PEOPLE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When God parted the waters of the Red Sea so His people could cross on dry land, God showed His power to save His people. He also gave a clue about another time when God would save 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 so we can be forgiven for our sins and live with God forever."

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God that Jesus rescues us from sin!

"Let's pray and thank God for His help."

God, thank You so much that You care for Your people. You rescue us when we need it. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

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