

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

- Play Stations:
 - Wind and Water
 - Rescue Mission
 - Crossing the Red Sea Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Table Tennis Ball Rescue
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Walls of Water Worship
- Game: Rescue Race



[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

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: disposable straws (1 per kid), medium or large container, water, towels (2), small objects that will float (such as a disposable bowl or small bath toy), kinetic sand (blue, if available) or shredded paper (blue), toy person figure, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Crossing the Red Sea Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Wind and Water

Set-up: Set out disposable straws (one for each kid) and fill a medium or large container with water. Place a towel underneath for spills. You can set out small objects that will float (such as a disposable bowl or small bath toy).

Play: Let the kids take turns blowing through their straws into the water to see how the wind affects the water. They can also set an object that floats on the water and use the straw to blow it and make it move.

Play Station: Rescue Mission

Set-up: Set out a pile of kinetic sand (blue, if available) or shredded blue paper in the middle of a table. If using kinetic sand, a towel or tarp underneath can help contain spills. Set out a toy person figure on one side of the table.

Play: Let the kids "rescue" the person figure by getting him from one side of the table to the other, parting the pretend sea (the kinetic sand or shredded paper), then leading the toy person figure through the opening to the other side.

Play Station: Crossing the Red Sea Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Crossing the Red Sea Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of their favorite sea animal.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, walking stick

WORD OF WONDER

I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.

—Psalm 77:12

"Our Wonder Truth today reminds us that God rescues us. In today's story, God rescued His people in an amazing way! Our Word of Wonder is from Psalm 77:12. It says, "I will spend time thinking about everything you have done." But if we read the next several verses, we see what the writer of this psalm was remembering what God had done. What was that? Let's read to find out. Read Psalm 77:13–16. Psalm 77:13–16 talks about how God showed that He is holy, powerful, and mighty when He set His people free and parted the Red Sea. We can remember that God is holy (that means set apart), powerful, and mighty!

Do you know how to do the wave? It is something that crowds at sporting events often do. You will line up. Then we'll start at one end of the line, and in order, each person will jump up and raise his arms. When you see me raise the walking stick, we'll start the wave and say our Word of Wonder verse together. As we do this, we can remember the waves in the Red Sea when God rescued His people!" Line the kids up and practice doing the wave with them. Then do it while saying the verse together. The next time, encourage the kids to start the wave and say the verse when you raise the stick.

Encourage the kids to say the verse and do the motions with you:

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Ask the kids these questions:

- **What does today's story show us about God?**
- **How do you think the Israelites felt when God parted the waters to rescue them?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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

Read pages 78–83 from the My First Hands On Bible.

Circle Time: Table Tennis Ball Rescue

SUPPLIES: permanent marker (prep only); white table tennis ball; walking stick, staff, or broom; disposable straws (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to draw a simple smiley face on a table tennis ball. Gather the kids and have them sit in a circle.

"Do you remember what Moses raised up in today's story when God made the sea split apart?"

Allow the kids to respond. **Yes, it was a walking stick! God rescued His people when He made a great wind blow the waters of the sea apart so the people could walk through. It was an amazing miracle!**

We're going to play a game while we answer questions about our story. When I raise the stick (point to the walking stick, staff, or broom), we'll pretend this ball (point to the table tennis ball with the face on it) is one of God's people ready to cross the Red Sea. We need some wind to blow the waters! I'll give the ball to one person, who will blow through her straw onto the ball. Try to get the ball across the circle to someone on the other side. Whoever gets the ball will answer a question, then use their own straw to blow it to another friend in another part of the circle. I'll raise my walking stick each time you need to blow into the straw, so don't do it until I raise the stick.

Raise your walking stick at various times and give each kid a disposable straw. Make sure they don't share straws. Choose one person to blow through a straw to get the ball (the pretend Israelite) across the circle to the other side. Then allow the child who got the ball to answer a question from the list. The questions can be asked more than once.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What were God's people called?** (Israelites)
- **Where were the Israelites held captive and treated badly?** (Egypt)
- **How did God lead His people to the Red Sea?** (a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night)
- **What amazing miracle happened when Moses held up his walking stick?** (God sent a strong wind to part the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through.)
- **How did the Israelites respond after God saved them?** (They sang songs of praise to God.)
- **What would you sing a song of praise about to thank God for?**
- **Do you believe God still rescues His people? How has He rescued us?**
- **What does this story show us about God?**

"In today's story, God rescued His people from slavery and brought them to freedom. Through Jesus, we can be rescued and freed from sin, and we can have a relationship with God! We can praise God like the Israelites did after He rescued them. Let's pray together and thank God."

PRAYER TIME

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Walls of Water Worship

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), blue crepe paper streamers or thick blue ribbons (2'–3' per kid)

RESOURCES: songs from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, cut 2'–3' of blue crepe paper streamers or blue ribbon for each kid. Give the kids the streamers.

"After God rescued His people from Egypt and from Pharaoh's army, the people sang a song of praise to God. They worshiped to thank Him for His love, His power, and His great rescue. God rescued His people by making a strong wind blow the waters of the sea apart so there were walls of water on both sides. Then the people walked through the sea on dry land! Isn't that amazing? God rescues us from sin through Jesus. We can sing songs of praise to God too.

We're going to use our own pretend walls of water to praise God as we listen to a worship song. You can wave your streamer in the air to make a pretend wall of water. Demonstrate waving a streamer and let the kids practice. **As you're doing this, think of some things in your mind that you want to pray and thank God for: some things about God, such as His power or His forgiveness; some things God has done for you, such as helping you with a problem; and some things God has given you. We'll listen to worship music, and you can sing and wave your streamer as you pray and praise God."**

Play worship music from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and worship God as they wave their streamers to create "walls of water" and thank God. You will need blue crepe paper streamers or blue ribbons again for the Closing Game, so you may want to keep them nearby.

Game: Rescue Race

SUPPLIES: masking or painter's tape, long ropes (2), large plastic hoops (2), cones (optional)

Make It Inclusive! Kids can pull the ropes from a standing or seated position. If some kids have limited mobility, encourage them to be the full-time rope puller who pulls the rope (from a seated position) to bring the hoop back to the start line each time. Their teammates will then take turns running the hoop back to the finish line each time.

Ahead of time, use masking or painter's tape to create start and finish lines on the floor, or use cones to mark the start and finish lines.

Tie the end of a long rope around a large plastic hoop and repeat with the other rope and hoop. Set the hoops at one end of the room by the finish line. Stretch the rope across the room and place the other end of the rope at the start line.

In this game, kids will race to complete the rescue race mission.

Gather kids and divide the group into two teams. **"In God's big story, we read about God's rescuing His people by providing a way through the Red Sea. We're going to do a fun rescue race of our own! When I say, "Go!" the first person will pull the rope until the hoop reaches the start line. Then she will grab the hoop, race across the room, place the hoop behind the finish line, and then run back to tag the next person in line. (The rope should still extend back to the start line.) The first team to have all their members complete the rescue mission wins!**

Leader Tip: Another way to do this game is by inflating a bunch of balloons and drawing faces on them (using a marker). These will be the "Israelites." Tie long strings or yarn to each balloon and put the inflated balloons at the finish line. Then stretch the strings to the start line. Let the kids take turns pulling the strings to save the balloon people by getting them to the starting line.

Once both teams have finished the rescue mission, congratulate the winning team and affirm all the kids for being excellent rescuers. Then gather kids and continue: **Today we practiced our rescue skills, but God's ability to rescue is much greater. God rescued His people from Egypt and made the way for the people of Israel to escape through the Red Sea on dry ground! God is the best rescuer!"**