



God Saves the Israelites – Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 14

God Statement: God is in Control

KEY VERSE: “Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord.”
(Psalm 27:14, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

MAKE: Thanksgiving Basket Cards

(To be done during check-in, prior to Explore Activity)

As kids check-in, invite them to make a Thanksgiving card to go with the Missions focus for this month – Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need.

Supplies: *Thanksgiving cards, markers/crayons*

Directions: Encourage kids to color/decorate and write a special note for the families in our city receiving a Thanksgiving Basket. Kids can write a Bible verse or a fun Thanksgiving joke or share a favorite Thanksgiving tradition. Place finished Thanksgiving cards in curriculum folders.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is in Control

In today's lesson, we are going to continue learning about how God is in Control.

SAY:

Raise your hand if you like swimming! Have you ever been in a big lake or pond or river or the ocean? What do you like to do when you're in water? Everybody all at once act out what you like to do in water. Ready, set, go!

Did you know God made all the water that we talked about – the lakes, rivers, ponds, oceans and seas? Today, we're going to learn about how God used his mighty power to save the Israelites from the people chasing them. Does anyone know who was chasing after the people of Israel? The Egyptians and the Pharaoh, that's right!

The Israelites were scared of the people chasing them, but God did something amazing to protect them and help them get away safely. Before we hear what that is, let's do an activity to help us get ready.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Cross The Sea!

Supplies: blue plastic table cloth, brown construction paper (stones)

Say: *We're going to play a game that will give us a hint about what our story will be today. First, let's lay this blue sheet down. This blue sheet represents water, okay? Let's all use our imaginations and pretend this is a big sea! Can I have a few volunteers who can show me how the sea might look if it's really stormy? What about if it's calm? Now, I'm going to place these stones across the sea and I need everyone to make a line at one end of it. We're going to take turns crossing this sea by only stepping on the stones, but don't worry, it will get trickier.*

Directions: Place the blue sheet on the floor and have kids stand on both shorter sides. Have them wave the sheet like an ocean. Have the kids lay the sheet on the ground, then place the brown paper "stones" randomly across the blue sheet. Have kids take turns stepping from stone to stone to cross the sea. Each time the entire class crosses

the sea, take away a paper “stone” and have them try again. Keep playing with different variations as desired.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you’re excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides..****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord.”
(Psalm 27:14, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance

along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Saves the Israelites – Crossing the Red Sea

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: Cross station, writing utensils, small paper cards

Prepare ahead: Prepare classroom teachers during Huddle to act out the horse hooves pounding and the shouting during the scene description.

Have you ever been very afraid? Maybe someone you love was very sick. Maybe you watched a yucky movie, and you couldn't stop thinking about it. Maybe you did something wrong and were afraid of getting in trouble. Maybe there was a big storm with lots of lightning and thunder.

- I think the Israelites in our story today were very afraid. The Bible says the Israelites "feared greatly." That means they were very afraid!
- They were sitting on the shore of the sea with nowhere to go. Behind them, the Egyptians came with hundreds of horses and chariots, and the army was thundering behind them.
- They were stuck in the middle. Going forward meant they would go into the deep water; turning around would mean they would run into the army.

Have kids close their eyes as you describe the scene. Remind teachers to be ready to make noises.

- Can you imagine sitting there on that shore? You can smell the water.
- You can feel the wind. You can hear the horses' hooves pounding. ***Teachers begin pounding ground with hands/feet.***
- You can hear the yells of the Egyptians coming your way. ***Teachers shout and make noise along with the horse hooves.***
- You can see the dust from all the chariots. It seems impossible!
- But God showed up. ***All teachers get silent.***
- He told Moses what to do. God's chosen people, the Israelites, were saved. The Lord fought for them while they sat silent. God is in Control.

Tell God your troubles. He will save you, too. It might not look the way you thought it would, but He is mighty to save. That's what He is good at. We can trust God that He will show up because God is in Control. God loves each and every one of us so much that He sent His own Son to die on the Cross for you and me. And we can be at peace that God is in control by continuing to remember all that He has done.

Have teachers pass out paper and pens/pencils to each kid.

Take a piece of paper and write to God. What are you afraid of? Ask God to save you. Tell Him what's on your mind, what's troubling you. How can you remember that God is in control and that He will show up like He did for the Israelites?

When you're ready, you place your paper at the foot of the Cross. As you set it there, remember that Jesus has already come to save us and He is with us, even when we're afraid. God is in control.

Make sure soft worship music is playing as the kids respond. Allow kids a few minutes to respond to this prompt and place their paper at the foot of the Cross. After it looks like most have finished, close time in prayer and invite worship leader back up to lead the last song.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, tell God your troubles. He will save you. It might not look the way you thought it would, but He is mighty to save. That's what He is good at.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Re-tell the story of the Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:5-31).**
2. **Who did Moses say would fight for the Israelites? (God.)**
3. **What would the Israelites need to do? (Nothing, just to be still.)**
4. **How do we see God's protection and power in our lives? Do you feel safe knowing that God is in control and He loves each of us? Why or why not?**

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we once again see Your power and protection for Moses and the people of Israel. You always keep Your promises. Thank You for Your protection, and for keeping Your promises to us.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Exodus 14:10-14**
Who did Moses say would rescue the Israelites? (God). What would the Israelites need to do? (Nothing, just to be still.)
2. **Read Exodus 14:15-18**
How did God keep the Egyptians away from the Israelites before they crossed the Red Sea?
3. **Read Exodus 14:19-31**
How did the attitudes of the Israelite people change at the end of this story? Were they afraid or did they trust?
4. **How do we see God's protection in this story? How do you see God's protection in your life?**

5. Has there ever been a time when you were afraid, and didn't know what was going to happen next? We are told that we can cast our worries onto God, kind of like our Worship Response activity today. How can that help you when you're afraid?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we once again see Your power and protection for Moses and the people of Israel. You always keep Your promises. Thank You for Your protection, and for keeping Your promises to us.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

God Is In Control – Part the Sea (Ocean in a bag)

Supplies: 1 sandwich bag per kid, blue and clear hair gel, blue food coloring, toy fish, duct tape

Say: *God did something pretty amazing in our story today. What happened? He parted the Red Sea, that's right. God used Moses to rescue the people of Israel! We're going to make a little activity to help us remember, even when we go home that God is in control and God saves.*

Directions: Help children put blue and clear hair gel in a ziplock bag. Put about 1 tbs of each in and mix together. If out of blue hair gel, use clear and ADD 2 drops of blue food coloring. They can add toy fish (1-2 per child) to their bag to have them swim in the "Ocean". Zip the bag and duct tape the zipper so children cannot reopen the bag. Children can then push on the middle part of the bag to "part the sea".

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.