

T H E E X O D U S

EXODUS 12-15

GOAL

▶ **To help children understand God's power to deliver the Israelites and His power to save us from sin.**

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CHARACTERS

▶ **Moses:** God chose him to lead the people of Israel out of captivity in Egypt. God told him to hold his staff over the Red Sea and it parted, allowing the Israelites to cross safely to the other side.

Israelites: They were God's chosen people who He had freed from slavery in Egypt.

Pharaoh: He was the king of Egypt who chased after the Israelites after he had let them go.

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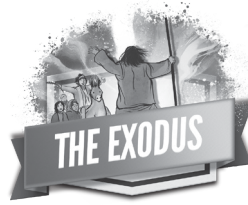
MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Psalm 27:1:** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

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OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Exodus 12-15:** Although Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave, he hadn't completely changed his mind. After they departed in the dead of night, he sent his army after them. Fearing for their lives, the people panicked, but God delivered them by parting the Red Sea. Once they had safely crossed over, the passage through the Red Sea closed back up, leaving the Egyptian army to perish.



SUGGESTIONS

As the Israelites stood on the shore of the Red Sea, they began to ask why God would bother to free them from the Egyptians only let them be killed in the wilderness. If God's power weren't obvious following the plagues sent to free the Israelites from Egypt, certainly there would be no mistaking it as He parted the Red Sea to bring His chosen people to safety.

The Israelites needed faith to take those first steps into the Red Sea. Without faith, they didn't know if they could trust that God could hold the water back long enough for them to make it across. The Israelites were beginning to learn about God, His character, and His power.

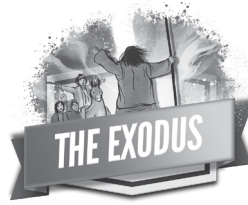
1. God has the power to lead: God has a plan, and He made it easy for the people of Israel to follow Him. By day, He directed their steps by leading them in the form of a huge cloud and as a column of fire by night.

2. God has the power to save: God saved the people of Israel from slavery and again from death at the hands of Pharaoh's army. In this instance, God saved the Israelites from physical slavery; later, through His Son, Jesus, God would save everyone from our spiritual slavery to sin.

3. Power over creation: Sure, humans can part bodies of water, but we have to build structures to make this happen. In a moment, Moses held his staff over the water, and God created a dry pathway through the sea for the Israelites to escape from Pharaoh. God's power over everything in creation is limitless, unimaginable, and tireless.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Red Sea Coming
Divide children into two teams: Israel and the Red Sea. Blindfold the Red Sea team. Each team begins at opposite ends of the room. The Israelites should try to touch the opposite wall without being tagged by any of the students on the Red Sea team.



MEMORY

VERSE

MEANING

POST-LESSON

ACTIVITY

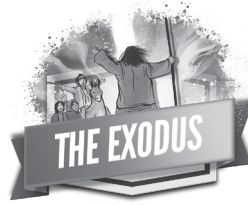
TAKE

HOME

▷ **Psalm 27:1:** God promises to protect us, and He has the power to back up that promise. When we follow and serve a God who has the power to part the sea, we have nothing to fear!

▷ **Moses Says**
Play "Simon Says," but instead, say "Moses says." Continue playing for as long as time allows or until each student has a chance to play the role of Moses.

▷ At some point in our lives, we will face something as scary or as impossible as crossing the Red Sea. The good news is that we never have to face situations like this alone; God is always with us. Taking the first step on the path God has set for us can be a scary thought, but we can build our confidence and faith by building a strong personal relationship with God. As we get to know Him better, we will grow to trust Him in any situation.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: From what country were the Israelites leaving?

A1: The Israelites were leaving Egypt.

Q1b: What was the worst vacation you've ever taken?

TN: Let students answer. After something so horrible, going home has never seemed so wonderful. The Israelites were finally free. They were finally on their way to the home God had promised their ancestors hundreds of years earlier. There was much to celebrate as they traveled through the desert.

SLIDE 2

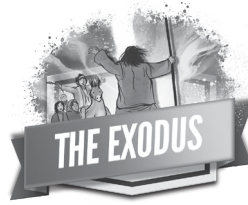


Q2a: How did God lead the people of Israel?

A2: During the day, He led them as a huge cloud; by night, He led them as a pillar of fire.

Q2b: Have you ever visited a museum?

TN: There are a lot of things to see in a museum. Having to read all of the information next to each piece of art to understand what we're looking at and figuring out which rooms hold the exhibits we're interested in can take a lot of time. Often, museums offer tour guides to help visitors get through the exhibits, and they have a lot of additional information about the pieces of art. Tour guides can add a lot to the experience of visiting a museum. God was acting as the Israelites' tour guide as they escaped Egypt. Leading a huge group of people through a foreign land, a desert no less, is a massive undertaking. To ensure that no one got lost, God led the people in a very obvious way that everyone could see: a cloud by day and a column of fire by night.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Who was chasing the Israelites?

A3: Pharaoh, Egypt's king, was chasing the Israelites.

Q3b: Have you ever wished to be grounded?

TN: No way! We wouldn't wish to be stuck inside, forced to stay away from our friends. As the Israelites saw the Egyptian army approach, they started to complain about being led away from Egypt where they were slaves. They would rather be slaves than to be free! How quickly they had forgotten that God was the one who had saved them. If He had the power to bring the plagues down on the Egyptians, He had the power to save them from this situation, too.

SLIDE 4

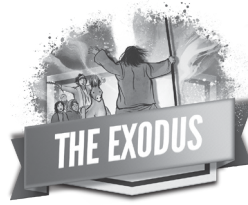


Q4a: What did God tell Moses to do?

A4: God told Moses to hold his staff out over the water of the Red Sea.

Q4b: Have you ever taught someone to do something you're really good at doing?

TN: Teaching can be really hard. The person may have never done anything like this, so we can't assume that they know even the most basic elements to the task we're trying to teach. When Moses prayed to God to help the Israelites as the Egyptian army was closing in on them, God responded by saying, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground." God's response makes it sound like parting the sea is the obvious, logical next step in such a situation!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Pharaoh's army do when they saw the Red Sea part?

A5: The army continued to chase after the Israelites into the parted Red Sea.

Q5b: If you saw elevator doors closing, would you try to slide in before they completely shut?

TN: Most elevators have sensors that stop the doors from closing when someone tries to enter, but some older models don't. This could be potentially dangerous. When Pharaoh's army entered into the passage through the Red Sea, they were taking a risk that they could make it through in time—it was a risk that didn't pay off.

SLIDE 6

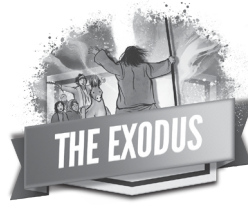


Q6a: What did the Israelites do after they passed to the other side of the Red Sea?

A6: The Israelites worshiped God.

Q6b: Are there any other stories in the Bible about people being freed from slavery?

TN: There are, and one of the best, and biggest examples is when Jesus died on the cross and freed us from our slavery to sin. And just as God saved the Israelite people from death at the hands of Pharaoh's army, Jesus saved us from death. Those who love Jesus are forgiven of their sins and will live with Him for eternity in Heaven.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

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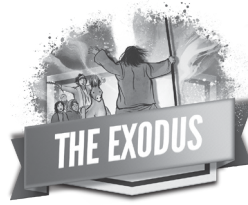
BIG IDEA

▷ God delivered the Israelites, and Jesus delivered us!

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▷ Dear Lord, thank You for protecting the Israelites. Thank You for delivering us from our slavery to sin by sending Your Son, Jesus. Help us to remember Your awesome power to save when we face difficult situations. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



When the Israelites left Egypt, the people were overjoyed. They danced and sang as they marched toward their promised land. After many years of slavery, they were now a free nation. They would travel through the wilderness and once again experience God's provision.

SLIDE 2



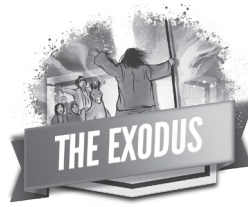
As the Israelites traveled through the wilderness, God led them with a huge cloud in the sky during the day. The people could always look up and see it—God's presence was always there. They knew where to go. During the night, the cloud turned into a pillar of fire, and the people knew when and where to go. Finally, the people came to the Red Sea, where they stopped for the night.



SLIDE 3



Even though Pharaoh had let the people go, he suddenly changed his mind. Now, he sent his entire army to chase them down. Hundreds of chariots and fierce soldiers came rushing after the Israelites. As the Israelites saw the Egyptian army approaching, they grew in fear and started complaining to Moses. "Why did you bring us out here to die? We were much better off in the land of Egypt."



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



When Moses saw this and heard the complaints of the Israelites, he prayed to the Lord, and the Lord told him exactly what to do. Once again, God's mighty power would be displayed for all to see. God told Moses to stretch out his hands over the mighty sea. A strong wind began to blow that turned the raging sea into a dry land. This created a perfect path for the Israelites to pass through. It was a wonderful thing to behold. The waters piled up on either side and, once again, God delivered the Israelites from the hand of the Egyptians. That entire night the wind kept blowing. The Israelites, with all their possessions, safely passed through.

SLIDE 5



Even after seeing the wonder God was doing, the Egyptians had no fear and charged right into the sea after the Israelites. When the last of the Israelites passed through the passageway, God told Moses to raise his hands and staff again. This time, the wind stopped blowing, and the waters covered the passageway. Pharaoh's entire army drowned—not one survived.

SLIDE 6



When the Israelites saw what the Lord had done, they worshiped Him. They were struck with awe at God's deliverance and decided to put their trust in God and His servant Moses. Their exodus out of Egypt was over, but their wandering in the wilderness would last for many more years.