

Lesson 2

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus
13-17; 15:21

Memory Verse
Commit thy way unto the
Lord; trust also in him and
he shall bring it to pass
(Psalms 37:5)

Teachers Objective
At the end of the session,
the students should be
able to:

1. Define in their own words what the word deliverance meant to the Israelites, and what it means to us today
2. Locate on a map the route the Israelites took leaving Egypt
3. Describe how God is in control of every situation, and how He protects all of us
4. Express in their own words how they can trust God to help them work out problems

Materials Needed
See Teaching Activities

Teacher s Bible Study

In preparation of this lesson, you may want to read Exodus 11:1-12:50. It is important that you keep in mind the fact that the Egyptians found the Hebrew culture loathsome. Moses, who was born a Hebrew slave, and was adopted by Pharaoh s daughter, was approximately eighty years old when he lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Joseph had been dead about 300 years by the time Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.

For your information, below is the Jewish calendar with the corresponding Roman calendar months. Older children sometimes ask about

HEBREW CALENDAR

Nisan (Abib)
Iyyar (Ziv)
Sivan
Tammuz
Ab
Elul
Tishri (Ethanin)
Heshvan
Kislev (Chislev)
Tebeth
Shebat
Adar

ROMAN CALENDAR

March April
April May
May June
June July
July August
August September
September October
October November
November December
December January
January February
February March

the calendar. Please note that the Canaanites called the month of the Exodus Abib, and the Babylonians called it Nisan.

Deliverance from the Egyptians is one of the important facts in this story. After the Passover, the Israelites were no longer slaves. God wanted the Israelites to remember that He delivered them from bondage. He did not want them to look back and remember Egypt. Read Exodus 13:3.

Why did God not use a more direct route to Canaan? There are a couple of reasons. God wanted to give His people the opportunity to learn to trust Him. The direct route would have put them in conflict with their enemies. This particular route brought them to a great body of water which the Hebrews called yam suph which means sea of reeds. Now the Israelites were put to the test. Would they remember God, and trust Him to deliver them from the Egyptians, or would they moan and groan for Egypt?

Presenting the Bible Story

Discuss the reasons why God had them go the long, roundabout way. Impress upon them the security of God's presence and protection the Israelites could see with the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

Exodus 13:17–21

If you have a map showing the Israelite's journey, use it.

Exodus 14:1–4

God knew that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. What does having a hardened heart mean? It is an unwillingness to admit when you are wrong and ask God for His forgiveness. There are times in each of our lives when we allow sin to separate us from God. Read Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." God is always in control of every situation. God had a plan; He was teaching a lesson to the Egyptians and the Israelites. The lesson was "I am the Lord."

Exodus 14:5–9

Just as God had said, Pharaoh and his 600-chariot army were in pursuit of the Israelites. This is a good place to talk about how the Egyptians may have felt after the Israelites left. Literally, overnight, the Egyptians lost the people who kept Egypt functioning. Now who would do the jobs they disliked doing? Not only that, God had given the Israelites favor in the site of the Egyptians, consequently the Egyptians gave them silver, gold, clothing and livestock.

Exodus 14:10–12

As the Israelites saw the approaching armies of Egypt, did they trust God to deliver them? No, they did not. Instead they panicked and rebelled against God. They felt as though the situation was hopeless with no way of escape. They felt trapped. Do you ever feel trapped or as though a situation is out of your control? We must continually remind ourselves that God is in control of every situation. He is a sovereign God. Read Ephesians 1:11. The Israelites chose to complain bitterly to Moses about their circumstances, rather than trusting in God. Read the memory verse Psalm 37:5: "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Not only had Pharaoh forgotten God, but the Israelites did as well.

Exodus 14:13,14

You may want your older students to memorize verse 13 as well. It is a verse that is encouraging and reminds us of how God delivered the Israelites. "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today..."

Exodus 14:15–22

God gave instructions to Moses on how to escape, and he provided the barrier that obstructed the Egyptians. When Moses stretched out his hand, just as God had told him to, the sea divided, allowing for a path of escape. Once again, we have an example of how God is in control of every situation. We must learn to trust God completely. Sometimes we do not understand why things happen the way they do. Have your students read Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Exodus 14:23–31

Can we imagine what it must have been like to see the swirling wall of water come down over the Egyptians? While the Egyptians followed the Israelites, God caused them to have a few problems. This slowed them down. Then, when God commanded Moses to do so, Moses stretched out his hand and the waters came together, destroying the Egyptian army. Now the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea. Now they knew that God had a plan. He carried it out and they were protected. "So the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses."

Exodus 15:1–21

Art and Activities

These edible chariots
will be a big hit.

Write down how
we praise God.

Sing to the tune,
“Twinkle Twinkle
Little Star”

Make a pillar cloud
or a pillar of fire.

Explore with
your students
the following
questions:

Always close your
class with prayer.

Exodus 15:1–21 is the Song of Moses that the people sang to God. When we sing in church, the songs are songs of praise and worship to God. Many of the songs tell a story, or they review something God has done. The Israelites had been delivered from their enemies and they praised and thanked God in song.

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Using marshmallows, gum drops, sugar drops, licorice, and toothpicks, have the students make chariots. Use your imagination! You may have other ideas on types of candies the children would like to use to make their chariots. Purchase some plastic horses, if you wish, to attach the chariot to. Watch the really young children closely with the toothpicks.

Cut out the praise pattern and attach to construction paper. If you have a picture of each child, put it in down at the bottom of paper. Or, have each student draw a picture of themselves.

There are two activity pages. One is for the memory verse which also has a picture your students may color.

Older Children

Have your students create a praise song to God. Ask the students to tell about things that reflect how God has taken care of them or their families. Write these words or phrases on a board. Take the words and phrases and put them to a familiar song. If creating a song is too difficult for your students, give them a tune they all know, such as: Twinkle Little Star, 1–2–3 Little Indians, Thanks a Lot. Below is an example of a praise tune.

Thank you, thank you dear Father, for the blessings we receive
On your throne you look at me, as a precious gem to be
Thank you, thank you dear Father, for the blessings we receive.

For a cloud pillar, make copies of the pillar pattern and have students cut it out and glue it to *light blue* construction paper. The blue will represent the day. Have your student glue cotton balls to the pillar. For a pillar of fire, make copies of the pillar pattern and have students cut out the pillar pattern and have students cut out the pillar, glue it to *black or dark blue* construction paper. The dark paper will represent the night. Have your students color the pillar red, black, orange, and yellow.

Fill in the memory verse for younger students, and then let the children color the picture.

Explore The Subject

1. What country were the Israelites slaves in? (Egypt)
2. What was the king of Egypt's name? (Pharaoh)
3. What did the Egyptians give to the Israelites? (gold, silver, flocks)
4. How did God show His people He was with them? (pillar of cloud and pillar of fire)

Respond and Reinforce

1. Write a paragraph about deliverance
2. Discuss the memory verse

Activity

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17; 15:21

Moses was chosen by God to lead His people out of Egypt. God protected the Israelites as they traveled to the Promised Land. When Pharaoh's army approached, Moses stretched out his hand, just as God had told him to. The sea divided, allowing for a path of escape. When the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, they stood in awe of the Lord. Moses and the Israelites sang a song of praise to God. Below are words from our story today. Find the words in the puzzle.

E	C	N	A	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	J	I	M	T
Y	H	N	T	U	D	T	S	U	R	T	T	H	O	O
C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	N	E	D	O	Q	S	F
S	R	U	I	Y	S	N	A	I	T	P	Y	G	E	B
I	I	Q	P	V	A	B	E	S	W	Y	A	A	S	X
J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	L	A	K	A	R	C	D	U
T	T	C	R	O	S	S	I	N	G	E	B	U	S	U
N	P	I	N	M	D	D	T	C	V	O	O	I	B	E
F	I	H	M	I	E	B	E	O	X	L	L	R	B	H
S	L	V	A	M	R	F	S	N	C	V	Y	D	Q	H
C	L	L	P	R	O	S	M	T	E	K	I	V	E	W
Y	A	A	L	E	A	C	S	R	A	D	E	A	B	G
I	R	E	I	P	X	O	I	O	X	F	R	H	I	Z
U	F	J	Y	S	K	F	H	L	N	T	S	A	M	V
F	F	R	S	Q	K	Y	I	D	A	G	Y	C	H	Y

Abib
Cloud
Crossing
Egyptians
Fire
Heart
Livestock

Passover
Red Sea
Trust
Calendar
Commit
Deliverance
Escape

Gold
Israelites
Moses
Pharaoh
Silver
Chariot
Control

Egypt
Fear
Hardened
Journey
Nisan
Pillar
Song

Activity

Praise Pattern

Materials Needed:
Copies of praise pattern
Color construction paper
Pictures of students
Crayons, etc.

A large rounded rectangle with a black border. Inside, there are eight horizontal lines for writing, spaced evenly. Below these lines is a smaller rectangle with a black border, containing the text "Place Your Picture Here".

Activity

Crossing the Red Sea

God protected and delivered the Israelites from their enemy.

They were no longer slaves to the Egyptians.

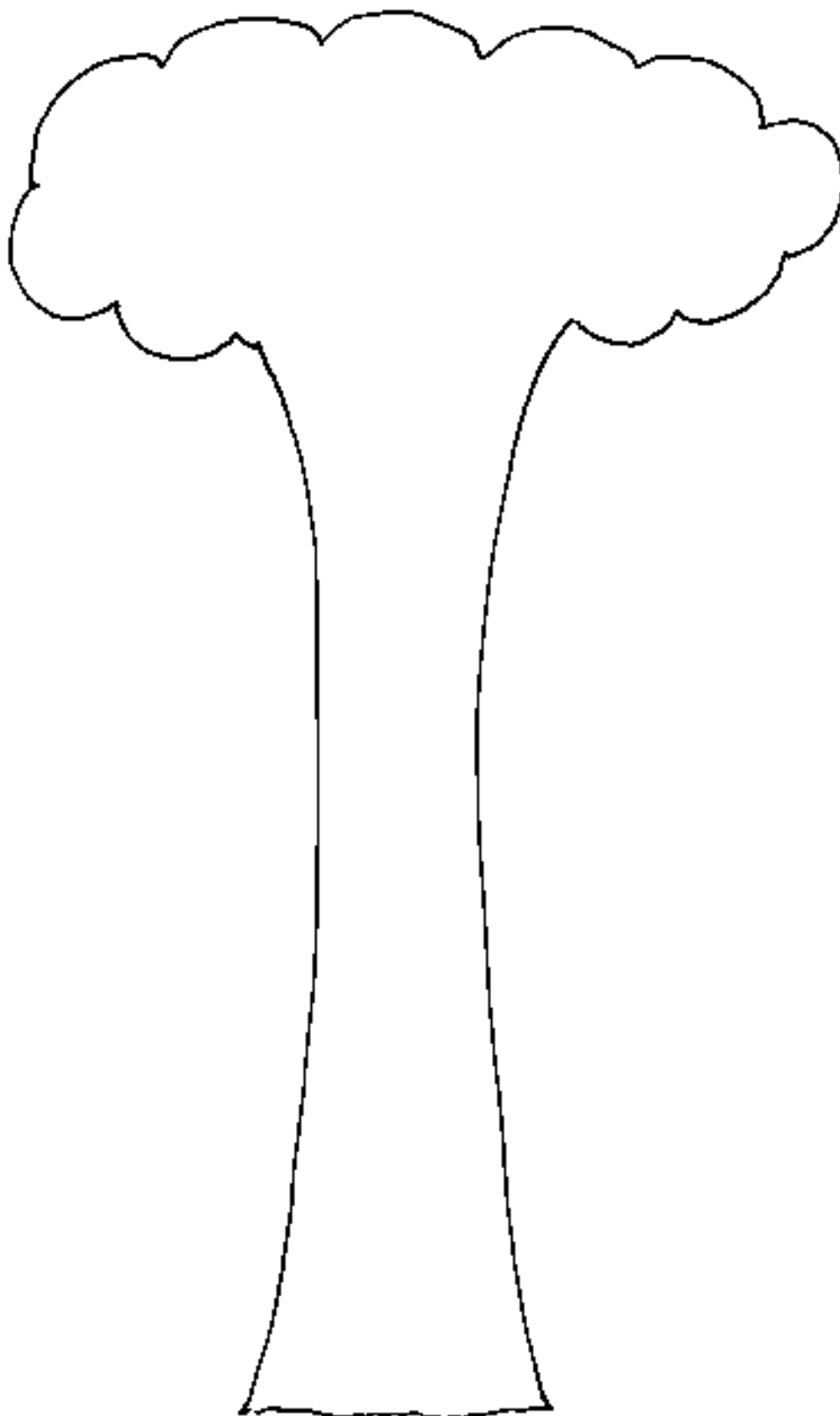
Write the memory verse below and color the picture.

Psalm 37:5



Activity

Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire



Activity

Marshmallow Chariot

Materials needed:

Licorice ropes

Tooth picks

Marshmallows

Gumdrops

Plastic horse

