

This week we will study the Israelites as they leave “the Exodus” and how God protected them from Pharaoh and kept them safe – God even parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape and walk across the sea on dry ground!

2) The Exodus

5-10 minutes

Optional: if you have a book or visuals use to show students

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 12:31-42. Ask for a volunteer to read from **Exodus 12:31-42** or read yourself. Then, ask the following:

Where did the Israelites go first in verse 37?

From Rameses to Succoth. Show children a map (journey is approximate) or the image on the right.

How long were the Israelites in Egypt? 430 years.

Who brought them out and kept watch for them? God.

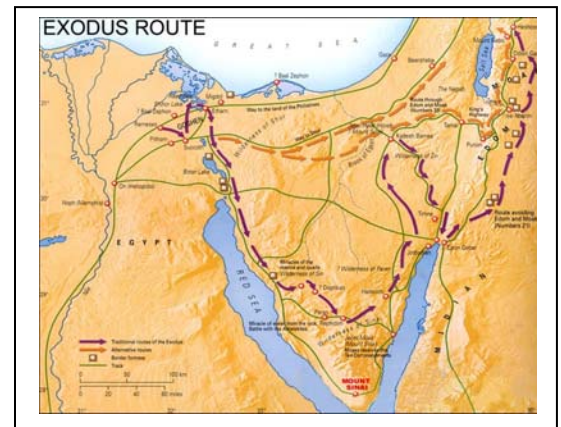
Have students turn to Exodus **13:17-14:4** and ask for volunteers to read it. Then ask:

Where did God lead them in verse 18? Toward the Red Sea

Whose bones did Moses take? Joseph’s as was promised

After being at Succoth, where did they camp next? Etham.

How did God guide them where to go? A pillar of cloud in the day and by night a pillar of fire.



That is really amazing – not only did God deliver 10 plagues that were amazing – He then led the people in an amazing way –with a pillar of cloud and fire. God took care of the Israelites and He takes care of us too!

Why do you think God used two different ways to guide them? So they could see and to be a light for them, since the cloud wouldn’t be visible at night and the fire might be too hot to be close to during the day when the desert sun was out. Throughout the Bible, God’s presence is explained as being in the clouds and fire so people could see His glory.

Why did God tell them to turn back from Etham? So Pharaoh would think that they were confused and so he would chase them.

Have you ever had a time in your life where it seemed you were going in circles or getting nowhere? Let students answer.

Well sometimes, things may happen that seem like a waste of time, or confusing, or like you are going in circles, repeating the same thing – maybe God is guiding you in some way to be an example to others – to show faith and patience even when things don’t seem to be going the way you think they should. Maybe God is trying to show other people something through your life. As long as we put God first in our life and follow Him – He will light the way and guide us and even if we think we aren’t going where we should – we can trust that God does know and that even when we go in circles, that just might be exactly what God wants us to do! Let’s remember this about the Israelites - that God always has a purpose and plan, even when we might not understand.

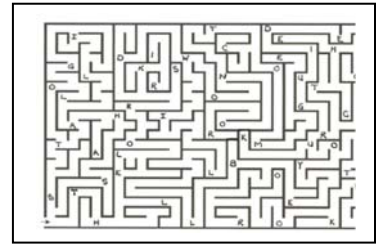
Show children the map of where the Israelites travelled.

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Exodus Maze

5-10 minutes

Hand out one page to each child of the Exodus Activity Sheet along with pencils. Ask them to listen as you read the instructions aloud. Then, have them work through the maze finding out what the maze's secret message is, writing the answer down at the bottom of the maze. Have them stop at this point because they will do the other activity on the sheet after they read more from Exodus. Have them hand in their sheet and put away the pencil crayons before moving on to the next activity.



Answer:

The Lord will be your guide!

4) The Parting of the Red Sea and Finishing Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Optional: if you have a book or visuals use to show students.

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 14:5-31. Ask for volunteers to take turns reading, or if you are showing pictures from a book – ask someone to hold the pictures while you read **Exodus 14:5-31** yourself. Then, ask the following:

When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming what did they say to Moses in verse 11 and 12?

Were there no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? They were afraid and were starting to complain!

What did Moses say in verse 14? The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

We need to take this advice too sometimes. There are times when we should be patient and trust in God. We too, should not react with complaining or fear but trust in the Lord because He will fight for us – if we let Him! But, if we complain, act impatient, or try to solve the problem without letting God help – He can't fight for us because we are not letting Him.

How did God save them? He parted the sea and let them cross over on dry land – the Egyptians followed but after the Israelites passed – God let the water settle back and drown the Egyptians. The cloud God used to guide the Israelites kept them safe from the Egyptians while they travelled through the sea.

Can we trust God to save and help us? Yes!

Hand out the Exodus sheet along with pencils. Read the instructions at the bottom for the “Red Sea Rush” and have the students go through the maze.

5) Optional – Moses and the Red Sea Craft

20-25 minutes

Before class get materials listed above in the materials section ready.

During class

- 1) Hand out one zip-to-close bag to each child with scissors – ask them to cut down the two sides of the bag and open it out flat.
- 2) Cut a square of light-weight brown cardboard that will fit exactly in the center of the flattened bag and allow the bag to fold up over each



side of the cardboard and zip close. Re-open the bag and staple the cardboard in place to the plastic bag. – Students may need help cutting and stapling.

- 3) *Or instead of using the zip-to-close you can: use cardboard as base – see image above and take blue construction paper cut in half and cut strips down each half, then using a pair of scissors, curl the blue paper to make the “sea” part. Glue the blue paper to the cardboard paper as shown.
- 4) Hand out the sea creature’s template and have kids cut out the circles and fold, and then glue the sea creatures onto the cardboard.
- 5) Cover the cardboard with white glue and then sprinkle a small amount of sand on the glue to look like the bottom of the sea. (This part is optional)
- 6) While the glue dries, hand out the Moses and Israelites Characters templates and let children cut out and color 2-3 people each. Glue the pieces of the clothing on the people bodies.
- 7) If doing the zip-to-close bag, scrunch up blue plastic wrap and attach the “sea” to the zip-to-close bags sides with a stapler – don’t cover up the flaps that zip and make sure students don’t add too many pieces so the bag doesn’t close. If you don’t have blue plastic wrap, use blue construction paper and cut out to fit the sides of the zip bag and staple on.
- 8) Cut out 1-inch circles from the paper rolls and attach the people to the rolls so the people will stand up and be able to “cross” the Red Sea! (See image above)
- 9) The sea can be opened and closed using the zip-to-close to show how it parted for Moses and the Israelites, then closed again. Have students clean up before moving on to the next activity.

6) Optional – Moses and the Red Sea Color Page

15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with crayons or pencil crayons. Allow them to color as you discuss questions above or if you have already discussed questions from the Bible text, let them talk about the lesson or ask questions while they color. Ask: **What was their favorite part and why? What did they learn about today’s Bible reading?** When finished have them help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

7) Optional –To the Red Sea Game

10 minutes

Divide the class into two groups -- one group will be the Israelites and the other group will be the Egyptians. Each team can be given their own colored cloth to put on top of their heads or to stick in their shirt so the teams are identified if needed. The teacher will put posters up on 4 sides of the room – they say RED SEA, WILDERNESS; PILLAR OF FIRE and PILLAR OF CLOUD. Tell the children they will have to listen very carefully as you will shout out the team name (either Israelites or Egyptians) and then which area to run to as a team. Ex: ISRAELITES to the RED SEA: or EGYPTIANS to the WILDERNESS, ISRAELITES to the PILLAR OF FIRE, etc. Only one team will be running to their area of the room at a time. After a few minutes, switch teams so that each team is the Israelites and the others the Egyptians.

8) Optional – Red Sea Walk Game

10 minutes

Place a long line of chairs in 2 rows for the children to walk through with the back of the chairs faced inside the area the students will go through. Ask the students to line up. The student in front will lead the students through the Red Sea until everyone has had an opportunity to do the "walk". If they like this, you can switch leaders and have them take turns leading the students (Israelites) through the sea.

9) Optional – Snack: Goldfish Crackers

5 minutes

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water. Explain that, **“Today we learned that God guided the Israelites to safety and protected them from Pharaoh. God parted the Red Sea and**

let the Israelites cross it on dry ground. We are going to eat fish crackers to remind us of what lives in the sea and how amazing it was for God to be able to part the waters and let His people cross! He took care of them and He will take care of us too! Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

10) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs from the front of your binder.

11) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank God that He took care of the Israelites and He will take care of us too!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!