

Crossing the Red Sea

Teacher Pep Talk: Moses and the Israelites were between a rock and a hard place (literally!) They stood on the shores of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army closing in on them through the mountains. Unless God delivered them, they were doomed. But God set a column of fire between them and the Egyptians, which kept them safely apart. And then God did something else that was miraculous... He parted the Red Sea! The children of Israel walked through on dry land, with a wall of water on the left and a wall of water on the right. When the Egyptians tried to follow them... It didn't work so well.

You will need: Bible
Other items depending on the activities chosen
Be sure to check out the SNACK IDEAS

Major Points: The Israelites Left Egypt
Pharaoh Changed His Mind
The Israelites Were Stuck
God Parted the Red Sea
The Israelites Walked Through on Dry Land
The Egyptian Army Drowned
God Saved the Israelites!

Scripture Ref: Exodus 14

Memory Verse: Exodus 14:29 ...*the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground*

Lesson: **The Israelites Left Egypt**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- God's people (the children of Israel) had left Egypt!
- They had been in slavery in Egypt for 400 years and now they were free!
- God had brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand!
- He had sent 10 Plagues to Egypt
- Each one was worse than the last
- Finally Pharaoh had let God's people go!
- The Israelites left in the middle of the night
- They left with all of their possessions, and all their animals, and all of the things the Egyptians had given them as gifts

Pharaoh Changed His Mind

- Pharaoh had let them go...but once they were gone...
- Have you ever changed your mind? *(Wait for answers.)*

- [Consider doing activity “Changing Your Mind” at this point.]
- Well that’s what happened to Pharaoh. He changed his mind.
- At first it seemed like a good idea to let the Israelites go.
 - They had all those plagues, each worst than the last
 - All the firstborn children had died in one night!
 - They thought that something even worse might happen
 - So they sent the Israelites away in the middle of the night
- But after they were gone, the Egyptians were all by themselves
 - No more slaves...
 - No one to make bricks...
 - No one to do their work for them...
- And besides... all the plagues were gone!
- Pharaoh changed his mind
 - He didn’t want to lose those slaves after all
 - He was pretty mad that he had let them go
 - He decided to get them all back *or kill them all!*
- So, Pharaoh took his army to go and get the Israelites back!
- He knew where they were, and he thought they were trapped

The Israelites Were Stuck

- There is an old saying that you can be stuck “Between a rock and a hard place.”
- That’s what had happened to the Israelites
- They were between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea
- Pharaoh and his army were coming to get them
- What were they going to do?
- There was no place for them to go!
- Moses prayed to God

God Opened the Red Sea

- God knew where they were
- He had led them there, so that He could provide for their escape
- God performed a miracle
- God put a cloud of fire between the Israelites and Pharaoh to separate them and to protect the Israelites through the night
- Then God sent a strong east wind to blow over the sea
- God opened the Red Sea before them

The Israelites Walked Through on Dry Ground

- The Israelites (God’s People) walked through the sea on dry ground!
- The Bible says that there was a wall of water on the left and a wall of water on the right
- Can you imagine?
- They walked through the Red Sea on dry ground

The Egyptian Army Drowned

- The Egyptians saw what the Israelites had done
- They followed the Israelites into the sea in their chariots
- God threw the Egyptians into confusion
- The wheels came off their chariots
- Then.... All of the water went back where it belonged!!!
- All of the Egyptian army drowned

God Saved the Israelites

- The Israelites were safe on the shore
- God had protected them
- God delivered them from their enemies!
- God did a miracle to save them!

Let's pray and thank God for being able to deliver us from our enemies.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for delivering your children safely.
Thank you that you can deliver us from our enemies.
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.)*

[NOTE: You may choose to do this activity during the lesson, where indicated.]

Changing Your Mind – *The children will learn firsthand about changing your mind.*

Before Class: Prepare two sacks (or boxes) which you will bring to class. One sack should be large and very pretty. The other sack should be small and not so pretty. In the large, pretty sack put some stickers or some very small candies (such as M& M's). In the small, plain sack put some much larger candy or some gum.

During Class: Ask for a volunteer from the students. Show the child the two different sacks. Tell the child that he/she can have one of whatever is in the chosen sack. Ask the child which sack he/she would choose. (Wait for an answer.) Perhaps the other students have ideas about which one they would choose. Maybe you should let everyone vote... (They will probably choose to have what is in the large, pretty sack.) Give the children, who chose the pretty sack, one of the tiny candies (EX: One M&M each). Now tell the children that YOU are going to have some candy too... Take your candy out of the small sack. (It should be something wonderful.) All of a sudden you will notice that the children may want what is in the small, plain sack. Ask them, "What happened? Did you change your mind? Why?" Remind them that Pharaoh changed his mind too. He had let the Israelites go, but later he wanted them back. *(By the way, you may have to come up with some extra candies or gum to take home!)*

What's On the Bottom of the Sea? – The children will discuss (and then draw) what you might find on bottom of the sea.

Before Class: Obtain examples of items you might find at the bottom of the sea. For example: sand, rock, coral, and seashells. (You might just bring pictures of these.) Provide paper and pencils or crayons/markers for drawing.

During Class: Discuss how God parted the Red Sea and how the Israelites walked across the bottom of it on dry ground. Ask what they might expect to see on the bottom of the sea. Explain that it might be the same kinds of things you would find on a beach. Ex: Sand, rock, coral, seashells, etc. Show your examples (or pictures) of seashells, etc. Let the children hold them to look at them, if possible. Pass out the sheets of paper, pencils/crayons/markers. Ask the children to draw some of the things you might expect to find, if you were to walk across the bottom of the sea. Let them look at the seashells, if they want to draw one.

BIG PICTURE IDEA:

Walls of Water – The children will recreate large walls of water, with hand drawn fish on them, and then walk past the walls of water as a group.

NOTE: This activity will probably take more than one class period... So you might want to divide it into two parts... ☺ (*Sorry, couldn't resist a little Red Sea humor there!*)

Before Class: Obtain a large blue sheet of paper to put on the wall of your room **OR** use a blue sheet, blanket, or towel. Drape the sheet or blanket over some twine to suspend it. Use clothespins at the top if necessary. **Alternatively** drape the sheet over a table. (Consider having two sheets and hanging them up near each other, so that the children can walk in between them.) Provide paper, markers, scissors, tape, and pins.

During Class: Show the children the blue paper (or sheets) which you have placed in the room. Explain that you are going to pretend you are the Israelites walking past the wall of water (or between the walls of water.) But **FIRST** you need to make some fish to put in the water... so that it looks more like sea water! Pass out the papers, markers, and scissors. Ask the children to draw some fish or other things that you might find in the water. When they are finished, have them cut out their fish and help them pin or tape them up on the wall of water. After everyone is done (maybe after snack time) have the children line up and walk past the wall of water (or between the two walls of water.) If possible, take a picture of them in front of the wall. This is such a fun activity, that you may have to leave it up for a while, so that parents and others can see it.

Draw a Fish – **NOTE: This works well with the Walls of Water activity**

Before Class: Use the activity sheet provided or provide paper or construction paper (of different colors). Also provide pencils, crayons, or markers, along with scissors.

During Class: Tell the children that there were many fish in the Red Sea. Today we will draw some fish. Allow the children to use the paper, pencils, crayons and markers to draw different kinds of fish that you might find in the sea. You may want to provide a lesson on how to draw a fish. See Activity Sheet.

ADDITIONALLY: Some children may wish to draw or color starfish, seashells, coral, etc. If you have brought examples or photos of these to class, allow the children to use those as examples to draw their own pictures and color them.

Write Your Name in Sand – *The children will use glue and sand to write their names.*

Before Class: Provide sheets of paper, glue, and clean sand. You will need newspapers or a plastic tablecloth to cover the tables. You may want to provide small paintbrushes to use for “writing” with glue. Have water and cloths for clean-up.

During Class: Demonstrate how to write or print your name with glue. Use a small container of glue and draw lines with it, or to use a brush and dip it in glue. Then put your paper on the covered table and lightly sprinkle sand on top of it. Let it sit for a few seconds, and then lift it up gently, letting the extra sand fall away. Allow to dry.

Dry Ground – *The children will use an activity sheet to write “dry ground” in sand*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Provide glue and clean sand. Cover the tables with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth.

During Class: Discuss how the children of Israel walked across the bottom of the Red Sea on Dry Ground. It was probably sandy. Today you will be working with sand. Using the activity sheet provided, have the children put glue on the letters saying “Dry Ground.” Put a line of glue between the dotted lines in each letter. Then sprinkle the papers with dry sand, letting the sand stick. Allow ample time for this to dry.

SNACK IDEAS – If you have ever used any of my lessons, you know that I don’t usually give out snack ideas. But these are such fun that I had to share them with you.

Pane of Glass Jell-O (with optional fish!)

- Use Very Berry Jell-O (or some other variety of gelatin) to make regular Jell-O according to directions on the box.
- Place mixture a long thin pan – like a baking sheet. (So that it is not very deep.)
- Put in Fruit Snacks shaped like fish
- Allow to cool according to package directions
- Cut into rectangular shapes and serve on white paper plates to the children
- Looks like the “pane of glass” of an aquarium



Jell-O Jigglers “Walls of Water” (...with optional fish!)

- Using Very Berry Jell-O (or some other variety of blue gelatin) make “Jigglers” according to the directions on the box.
 - Four 3 ounce boxes dissolved in 2 ½ cups of boiling water
 - Do NOT add the cold water (as with regular Jell-O.)
 - Place the mixture in a shallow pan, so that the liquid is at least ½ to 1 inch deep. (Use an 8x8 baking dish to make the Jigglers thicker.)
 - OPTIONAL: Add Fruit Snack shaped like fish, after it cools a few minutes.
- Allow Jigglers to cool in the refrigerator.
- Cut Jigglers into small squares. (Try to get some of the fish in the squares.)
- At Snack Time - Serve Jigglers on a white paper plate to the children. Allow them to stack up the Jigglers to make “walls” of water on their plates.
- NOTE: Graham cracker crumbs make great “sand”
- AWESOME!



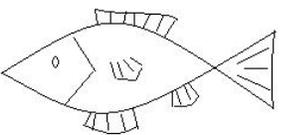
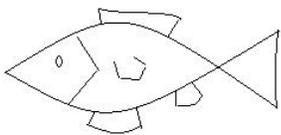
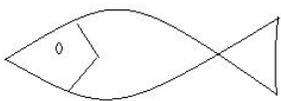
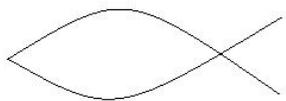
Jell-O Jigglers to represent the “Walls of Water” during the parting of the Red Sea. When this idea came to me, I was driving . I started laughing so hard that I almost had a wreck! I’m still laughing! Note the graham cracker crumbs for the dry sand.
Thanks to Lauren, my beautiful daughter-in-law, for that fun addition!
#1) Taking Jigglers out of the pan.
#2) A serving of Walls of Water.
#3) One idea for the Serving Platter.



Blue Jell-O and Goldfish

Serve regular blue Jell-O along with Goldfish Crackers as a snack.

Example:



Exodus 14:29 ...the Israelites went through the sea on...

DRY GROUND