

General Church Education



Family Lesson: Exodus 13-14
Crossing
the Red Sea

Family Talk Level 2

Song Level 3

Level 1 Level 4

Level 5

Family Lesson 2-D

Crossing the Red Sea
Exodus 13, 14

Family Talk
CROSSING THE RED SEA

Rev. Donald Rose

What does it mean to us when we say that the Lord is present with us or is close to us? The story of the Israelites being saved from the Egyptians and crossing the Red Sea gives answers to this question.

The Egyptian army that started to chase after the Israelites had everything they needed. They had chariots and horsemen and weapons and trained soldiers. The Israelites had the presence of the Lord. And the way that presence was beautifully pictured was by a pillar — a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Something no one could see was the fact that the Lord was present in the midst of a great host of angels. What they could see was the pillar. This meant that “**the presence of the Lord was constant...for so the angels, in whose midst was the Lord, appeared before the people**” (*Arcana Coelestia* 8110). That pillar was actually made up of many angels (*Arcana Coelestia* 8192).

“He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people” (*Exodus* 13:22).

Picture in your imagination what that pillar of cloud did. As the Egyptian army came nearer, the cloud moved. It had been in front of the Israelites, leading them. But then it went around behind them. “**And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them**” (*Exodus* 14:19).

Why was this? This pillar did two things. It provided light and guidance for the Israelites, but it also served to hide them from the enemy.

The cloud “came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, “**so that the one did not come near the other all that night**” (*Exodus* 14:20).

We are told that if evil spirits could rise into heaven, they would be blinded by the light and would see nothing. The light would be as darkness to them. The pillar served to hide the Lord's people the way the great wings of a bird might hide its young. Thus it is written in the Psalms, “**Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who oppress me, from my deadly enemies who surround us.**” (*Psalms* 17:8,9)

One who is surrounded by evil spirits or enemies is surrounded more closely by something far stronger, and this we see when we come to the matter of the sea becoming a wall.

Just as the cloud was a darkness and confusion to the Egyptians and a help to the Lord's people, so the waters of the sea which crashed down and drowned the Egyptians were also like a wall of safety for the Children of Israel.

When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the Lord caused all the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night. And the Children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground: **“And the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left”** (*Exodus 14:22*).

Going right into the sea itself and having a wall of protection calls to mind another wall in an equally amazing story. Swedenborg was let down into something more dangerous than the sea. He was let down into hell itself. Was he safe? He writes, **“I noticed clearly that a sort of column was surrounding me. This column grew greater. Then I was given to know that this was ‘the wall of bronze’ mentioned in the Word (in *Jeremiah 15:20*). It consisted of angels, so that I could be sent down...and yet remain unharmed”** (*Arcana Coelestia 699*).

The protection of Swedenborg in the midst of hell is amazing. And we learn that we also have far more protection than we would imagine. Here is what we are told:

“Unless the Lord defended man every moment, yea, even the smallest part of every moment, he would instantly perish, in consequence of the indescribably intense and mortal hatred which prevails in the world of spirits against the things relating to love and faith toward the Lord. The certainty of this fact I can affirm, having been now for some years (notwithstanding my remaining in the body) associated with spirits in the other life, even with the worst of them, and I have sometimes been surrounded by thousands, to whom it was permitted to spit forth their venom, and infest me by all possible methods, yet without their being able to hurt a single hair of my head, so secure was I under the Lord's protection.”

(*Arcana Coelestia 59: portion*)

The Children of Israel had a wall on the right and on the left, and this meant that **“the Lord is present, and the presence of the Lord puts away evil and falsity on every side”** (*Arcana Coelestia 8206*).

A good answer to the question of what the Lord's presence means is *safety*. When the Children of Israel reached the other shore and the Egyptians were drowned, they were filled with joy in the safety that they felt. They had known danger enough to feel how wonderful safety is, and they sang a song.

“I will sing to the Lord...The Lord is my strength and song. And He has become my salvation.”

(*Exodus 15:1,2*)

Note to Parents: When reading the above passage from the *Arcana Coelestia 59*, you may wish to change the long words to simple ones, or explain them. “Infest” can be changed to “hurt,” for example.

Crossing The Red Sea

Based on Exodus 14

Lori Odhner



And the wa-ters came tum-bling and splash-ing and crash-ing and pour-ing,



down up-on Pha-roah and all Pha-roah's men. 1. Now the child-ren of
2. Well the walls were of
3. And then Pha-raoh



Is - rael fol-lowed Mos - es out of E - gypt to be free, For the
wa - ter on--their right side, on their left side, all a - round, But the
chased them with his hors - es, and his cha-riots, and his men, For he



Lord meant to save them from their long mis - e - ry.
Lord led them safe - ly through the Red Sea on dry ground.
wan-ted to en - slave them back in E - gypt once a - gain.

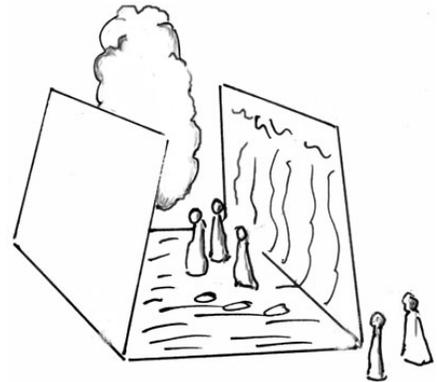
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Some of Lori Odhner's *Songs From the Word* are available on tape and in a binder of sheet music from the General Church Book Center, Cairncrest, P.O. Box 743, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009 Telephone (215) 914-4920, e-mail bookcenter@newchurch.edu

Crossing the Red Sea **Exodus 13, 14** **LEVEL 1 – THE LORD’S POWER**

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 piece of blue construction paper
- Sand, sandpaper and/or pebbles
- Small figures of Israelites (of play dough, etc.)
- Small figures of Egyptians (of play dough, etc.)



PARENTS: In this project, your child will make the walls of water Moses parted with the Lord’s power.

DIRECTIONS

1. Fold the blue paper into thirds, so you have the “sides” of blue water and a path through the middle.
2. Your child might want to draw waves on the sides.
3. Make the center path with sand or sandpaper, and/or pebbles.
4. Make figures of the Israelites from clay or play dough, and march them across safely.
(Note: You could also use little people from Lego, Fisher-Price, and other sets of toys.)
5. Make other figures for the Egyptians.
6. When the Egyptians cross, collapse (fold down) the “water” over them!



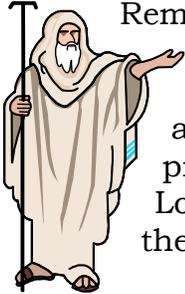
Optional: If you want to make the pillar of cloud, you could glue cotton balls onto a piece of paper or cardboard and put it in front of the Israelites to show that the Lord was leading them to safety.

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13, 14

LEVEL 2 – THE PEOPLE WHO LOVED THE LORD

You are going to see what happened to a bad army which was chasing people who loved the Lord.



Remember how the Children of Israel were held captive in Egypt? They were made slaves for 400 years. Finally, the Lord gave them a leader—Moses. Moses went to the Egyptian king, called Pharaoh, to ask him to let the Children of Israel leave Egypt and go to their promised land, Canaan. Pharaoh did not want to listen to Moses. The Lord sent ten terrible plagues on the Egyptians, so at last Pharaoh said the Children of Israel could go.

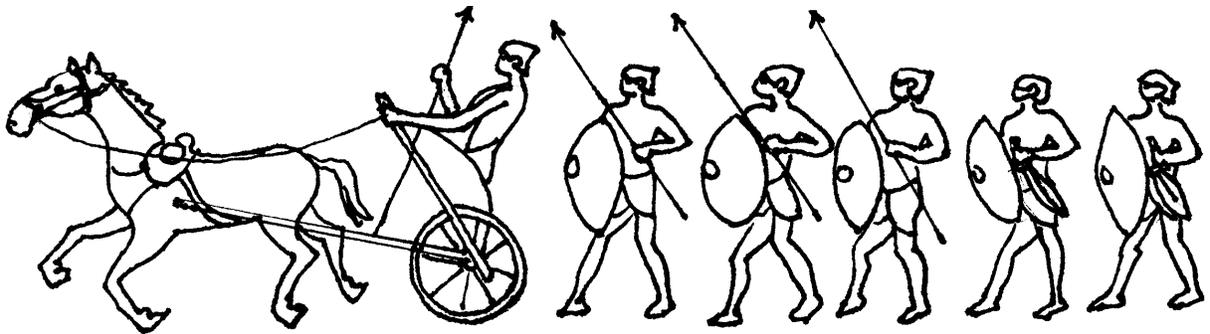
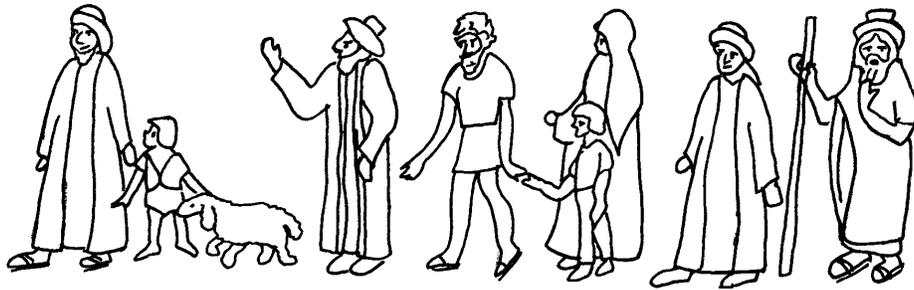
The Children of Israel left Egypt. But as soon as they were gone, Pharaoh changed his mind again and sent his army after them. They came to a great sea. The Lord made the water in the sea separate so the Children of Israel could walk across the sea on dry land. When the bad Egyptian army tried to follow, the Lord let the water come down, and all the Egyptians and their horses drowned.



Project

On the next page are four strips with pictures of people. The first two strips show the Children of Israel leaving Egypt. The other two strips show the Egyptians chasing after them.

1. Color the pictures of the Children of Israel in the first two strips.
2. Cut out all four strips.
3. Use an empty sink or tub for the sea.
4. First, walk the Children of Israel down one side of it and up the other.
5. When they have all crossed, the Egyptians follow. Walk them down into the sea.
6. Then turn on the water: the Lord held the water away for the children of Israel, but not for the bad army of Pharaoh.



Crossing the Red Sea
Exodus 13, 14
LEVEL 3 – CROSSWORD PUZZLE

MATERIALS NEEDED

Pencil or pen

PROJECT

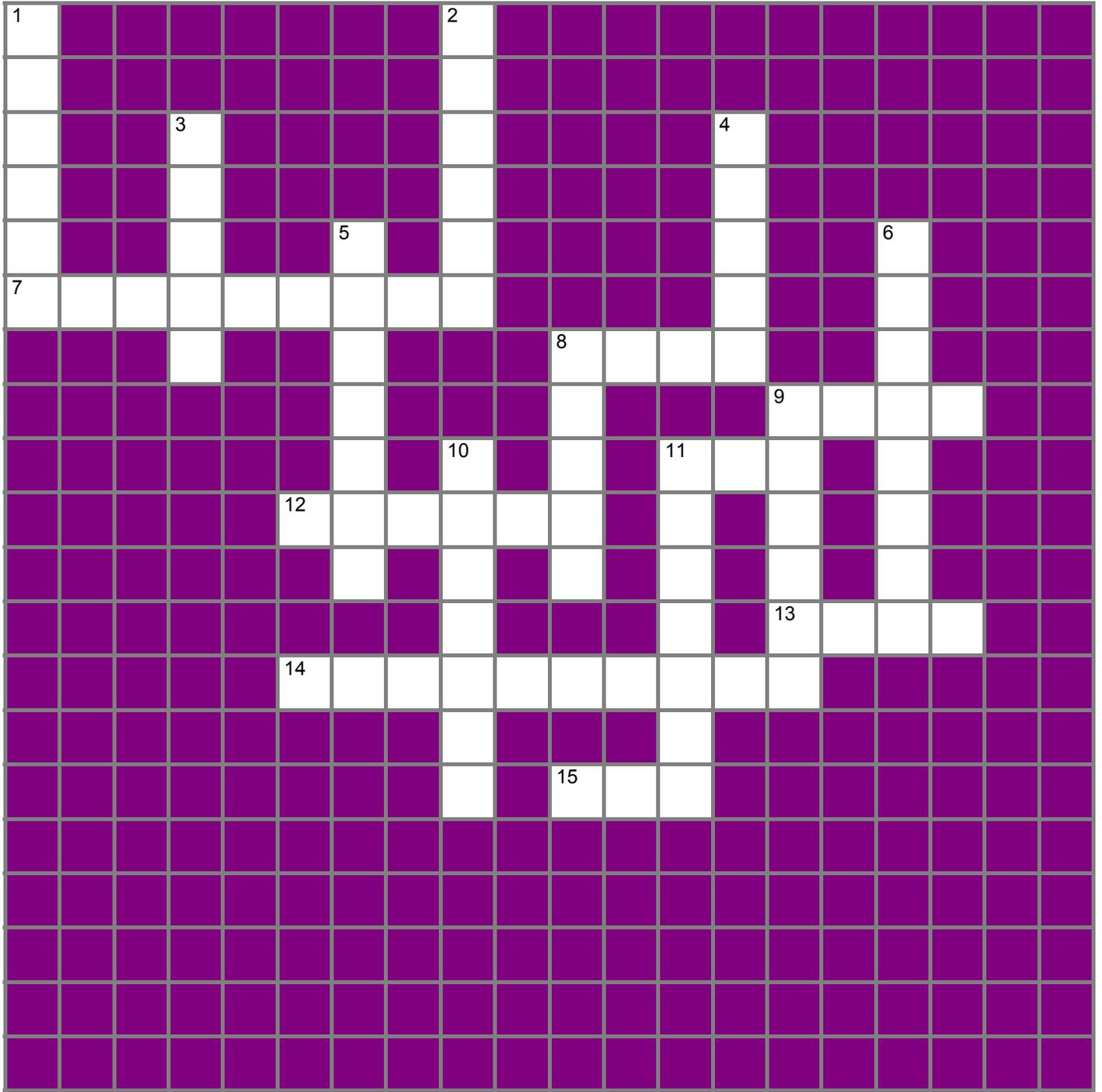
Test your knowledge of the story of the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea! Here are the clues for the puzzle on the next page.

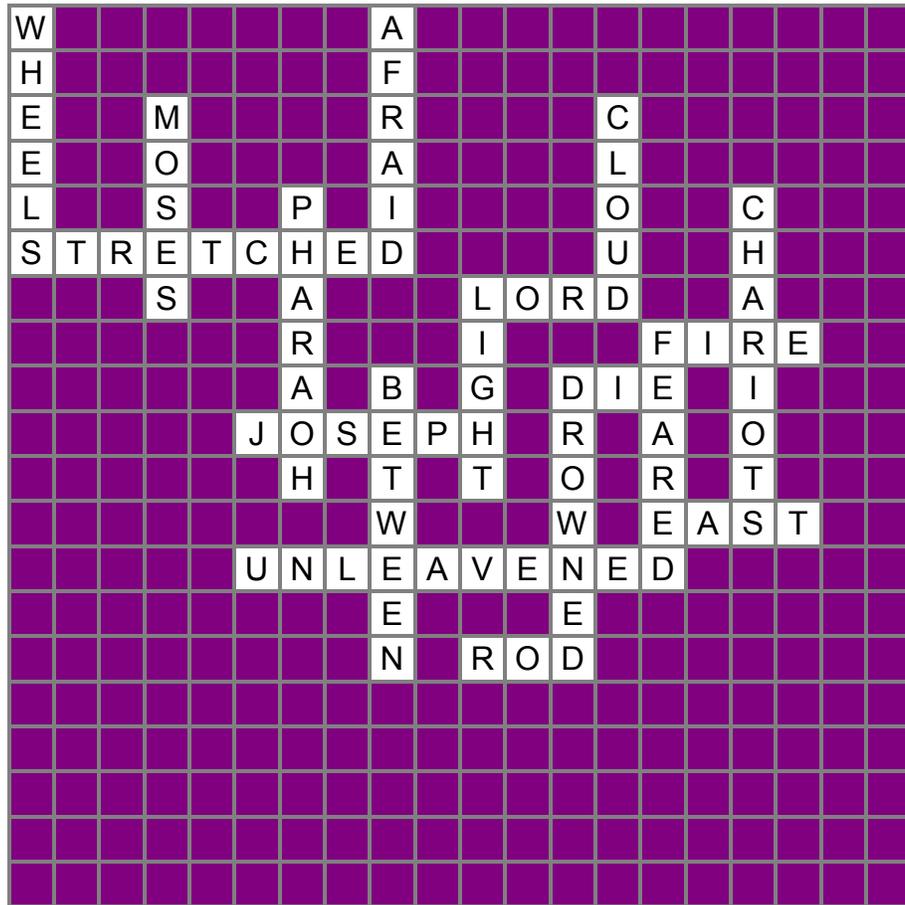
Across

7. When Moses ____ out his hand over the sea a second time, the sea returned to its full depth.
8. Moses told the Children of Israel the ____ would fight for them.
9. The Lord went before the Israelites by night in a pillar of ____.
11. The Israelites thought they were going to ____ in the wilderness.
12. Moses took the bones of ____ with him out of Egypt.
13. A strong ____ wind blew back the sea.
14. What kind of bread did the Children of Israel eat when they left Egypt?
15. The Lord told Moses to stretch his ____ over the sea.

Down

1. The Lord took off the Egyptians' chariot ____.
2. When the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army pursuing them they were very ____.
3. Whom did the Lord choose to lead the Israelites?
4. The Lord went before the Israelites by day in a pillar of ____.
5. The ruler of Egypt.
6. What did Pharaoh take with him when he pursued the Israelites?
8. All night the pillar of cloud gave darkness to the Egyptians, but it was a pillar of fire to the Israelites and gave ____ to them all night.
9. After the Egyptians died, the Israelites ____ the Lord.
10. The Lord moved the pillar of cloud behind the Israelites so that it stood _____ them and the Egyptians.
11. The Egyptians ____ in the sea.





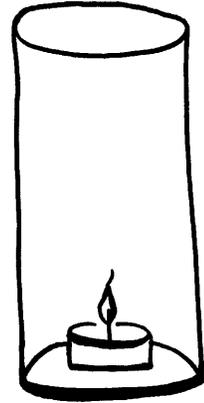
Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13, 14

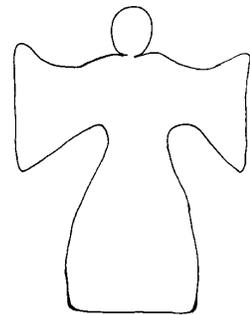
LEVEL 4 – PILLAR OF SMOKE AND FIRE

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 sheet red cellophane
1 sheet yellow cellophane
8 cotton balls
Glue or tape
Glass and Candle

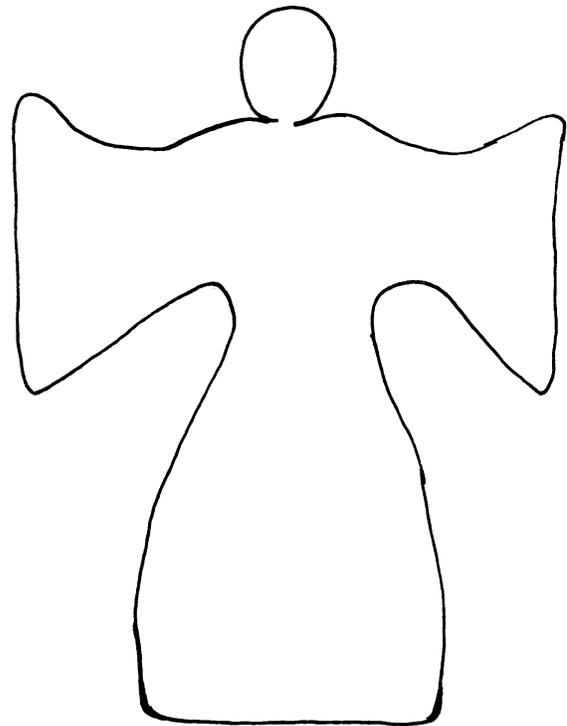
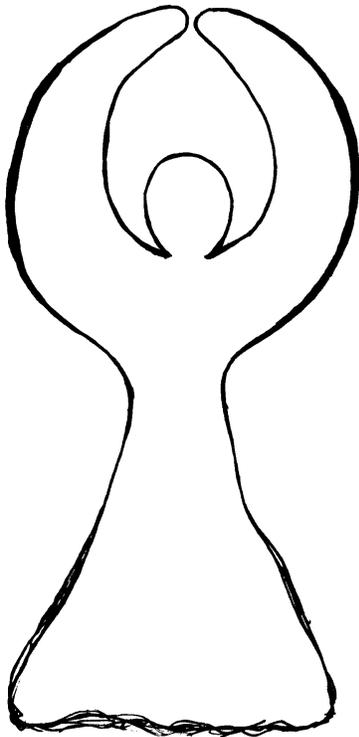


1. Get a tall clear drinking glass and put a short candle in it (tea lights work well).
2. Cut cellophane into flame-shaped angels to represent the choir of angels (see examples for shape ideas).
3. Tape or glue the angels to the outside of the glass.
4. Tear apart cotton balls and glue over flame-shaped angels.
5. At night, turn out the lights, and light the candle to see the pillar of fire. During the day this appears as the pillar of smoke.



You could display this project for worship.

Feel free to use these angel patterns – or make your own!



Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13, 14

LEVEL 5 – SAVED BY REAL TRUTH

The story of the crossing of the Red Sea completes the escape of the Children of Israel from Pharaoh and his armies. It is, of course, an exciting story filled with miracles. The Children of Israel are apparently trapped at the border of the Sea with the army of Pharaoh behind them. But the Lord, through His servant Moses, parts the Sea and allows the Children of Israel to cross on dry land. Pharaoh and his army, chasing after them, find themselves mired in the sea bed and drowned as the waters rush back.



*What does this story describe that applies directly to our own lives?
It involves:*

Something good: The Children of Israel stand for the good things that we want to do.

Something selfish or evil: Pharaoh and his army are like the selfish loves that are within us. They plague us and enslave us.

A false idea: The Red Sea is like a sea of false ideas.

A true idea: The rod in Moses' hand that parts the water is truth from the Word.

Here is an illustration:

something good: it is a good thing to want to help a person in need. That good love is like the Children of Israel.

something selfish: we don't want to bother spending our time or money helping the person in need. That is like Pharaoh and his army.

a false idea: we tell ourselves reasons why we do not need to help the needy person. We might say we are too busy; we have more important things to do; the person will only waste what we give so why bother; it's not our fault they are in trouble. We could have a whole lot of these thoughts—a sea blocking our way.

a true idea: we know something true from the Word that pushes away the selfish ideas, just like the rod of Moses pushed back the water of the Red Sea.

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

“All things you would that men should do to you do you even so to them.”

If we follow these true teachings from the Word we can cross over the “sea” and do what is right.

Application

Here are two cases. You will have to think out the conclusion of each case. In each case think of something good you should want to do, something selfish you might feel or do, a false idea that would stop you doing something good, and a true idea that would lead you through the selfish thoughts to do the right thing.

- 1. A person runs a beauty parlor. All her clients are white. A black woman starts coming to the beauty parlor. One white woman tells her that unless she stops dealing with the black woman she and her friends will stop coming to her.

something good: _____
something selfish: _____
a false idea: _____
a true idea: _____

- 2. You want to make friends with a new student at school, a shy and not very confident person. A popular and influential member of the “in crowd” lets you know that this would not be considered “cool.”

something good: _____
something selfish: _____
a false idea: _____
a true idea: _____

- 3. *Now try to make up a situation yourself:*

.....
.....
.....
.....

something good: _____
something selfish: _____
a false idea: _____
a true idea: _____