

General Church Education



The Miracle at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:13-31

Lesson 8

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

The Miracle at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:13-31

For Parents and Teachers

In the internal sense this lesson pictures the first temptations we meet after we have resolved to give up an evil habit that has enslaved us. We sometimes have doubts that we can succeed. We may feel trapped between the “security” of the old, unhappy way that we know and the uncertainty of the new path we have decided to follow. We cannot save ourselves. Moses, who represents the Word of the Lord to us, must lead us. He tells us to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Then, if we stand firm with trust, faithfully obeying what the Lord tells us to do, we will find true freedom with His help.

The Israelites looked back and fear overcame them as they saw the Egyptian army pursuing them into the Red Sea. Then they watched as their dreaded enemies were swallowed up in the waters of the sea. This story shows us just how powerless evil is in the presence of the Lord and His angels. Every temptation that seems irresistible can be conquered with the Lord’s help.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord’s power parted the Red Sea.
- The pillar of cloud and fire protected the Hebrews.
- The Lord protects those who trust and obey Him.
- The Lord is the only One who can do miracles.

From the Writings

God’s truth coming from the Lord appears before angels’ eyes as light. But it cannot appear as light to those steeped in falsities arising from evil, only as thick darkness, since falsity is the opposite of truth and snuffs it out. This is why the pillar, which was the Lord’s presence, brought cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, “the Egyptians” meaning those steeped in falsities arising from evil, and lit up the night among the children of Israel, “the children of Israel” meaning those guided by truth springing from good. The Lord appears to each of us in a way suited to the kind of person we are. *Arcana Coelestia* 8197

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Words to Understand

flee—to run away

pursue—to follow, to chase

chariot—a horse-drawn, two-wheeled cart in which a soldier stood

bewilder—to confuse hopelessly

salvation—being saved from danger or destruction

The Exodus Begins

Do you think it was easy to convince Pharaoh to let the Children of Israel leave Egypt? The whole congregation of people left the land of Goshen in Egypt and started out. But once they were on their way, Pharaoh changed his mind again. He wanted the Hebrew slaves back to work for him. He gathered his army of fighting men and pursued the Israelites. This is the story of how the Lord not only protected the children of Israel from danger but also showed them how His power could destroy evil and keep them safe if they would just obey the Lord.

The Wilderness Way

Moses led the huge multitude of Israelites by following the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. This pillar was a way to show the people that angels and the Lord were always there for them. There was a short way to Canaan but it would take them through the land of the Philistines who would make war with Israel. The Lord knew that the Israelites would be so discouraged by war that they would want to go back to Egypt. So He took the people another way, into the wilderness where they camped by the Red Sea, which was a wide river. It was here that the Egyptians came after them.

Pharaoh thought that the fleeing multitude of Israelites would be confused and



bewildered, not sure of the way to go and trapped by the Red Sea. Pharaoh's men were armed with weapons and came riding in chariots pulled by horses. Can you imagine the sound of the chariot wheels rumbling along the ground and the horses' hooves pounding the earth? When the children of Israel saw the enemy coming, they were greatly afraid and cried out to the Lord. The people immediately blamed Moses for bringing them into the wilderness because they thought they would die right there. Moses firmly told them not to be afraid but to trust in the Lord to save them. The Lord commanded them to go forward.



Read Exodus 14:13-31.

The Long Night

The pillar of cloud and fire that usually went before them, moved behind the Israelites and stood between them and the Egyptians. All night long it gave light to the Israelites but darkness to their enemies.

What a miracle the parting of the sea was! Suppose you were one of the boys or girls in this great crowd of Israelites who crossed the Red Sea. Imagine having the waters divide so that they were like a wall on your right hand and a wall on your left. Feel the strong wind in your face as you crossed. Would you hurry? The Egyptian army was coming fast behind you!

The Lord protected the Israelites and made it very difficult for the Egyptians, didn't He? The wheels came off their chariots and they had all sorts of trouble. The Lord then told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea again. Pharaoh's whole army drowned. Not one of them was saved!

Did you notice how the chapter ended? The children of Israel "saw that great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so then the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His

servant Moses.”
How do you think the people celebrated their freedom and the destruction of their enemies? How would you celebrate? They sang songs of praise and rejoicing to the Lord when they were safe on the other side.

The Lord’s Miraculous Power

Why was this such an exciting story? It shows the great power of the Lord and His great goodness. He saved the Israelites from a wicked enemy. Notice that the people had to do something too. They had to get going and cross the river between the walls of water. This story shows us that we not only need to trust the Lord in our lives, but we cannot just sit still and expect the Lord to do everything. We have our part too, and as we do our part the Lord will help us and give us success. What did the Israelites do? They sometimes complained but in the end they did what the Lord told them to do. Does the Lord speak to us? If we read His Word we can know what He promises to do for us and what we must do in our lives to cooperate with Him.



Discussion Ideas

- The book *Arcana Coelestia* tells us the pillar of cloud and fire was a company of angels with the Lord in the midst of them. Why would the cloud be dark to the Egyptians and give light to the Israelites? (See *Arcana Coelestia* 8197)
- Why did the Israelites sing after their escape? How do songs help us?
- Pharaoh changed his mind and followed the Israelites. Do we sometimes wish to make changes in things we have said we would do? When is it okay to change our minds? When is it best to keep our word?

Activity Overview | The Miracle at the Red Sea

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:13, 14

Songs

Lamp of Our Feet

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lamp-of-our-feet/>

Crossing the Red Sea

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-crossing-the-red-sea/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Crossing the Red Sea Crossword Puzzle
- Activity 2 | Path Through the Red Sea Project
- Picture to color—The Miracle at the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Recreate the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea. Cover the bottom of a rectangular pan with water, but do not make the water very deep. Use a hairdryer (big wind) to “dry up” a path in the middle of the pan for the children of Israel to cross over. (*Note:* take care not to let the hairdryer touch the water. It could cause a hazardous electric shock.)
- The children of Israel were tempted to go back to Egypt when they saw Pharaoh and his army chasing them. Discuss what it means to be tempted.
- How does it feel when you are tempted to do something you know you should not do? How does it feel to stand firm for what you know is right? How are these feelings different?

Activity 1 | Crossing the Red Sea Crossword Puzzle

Test your knowledge of the story of the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea! Use these clues to complete the puzzle on the next page.

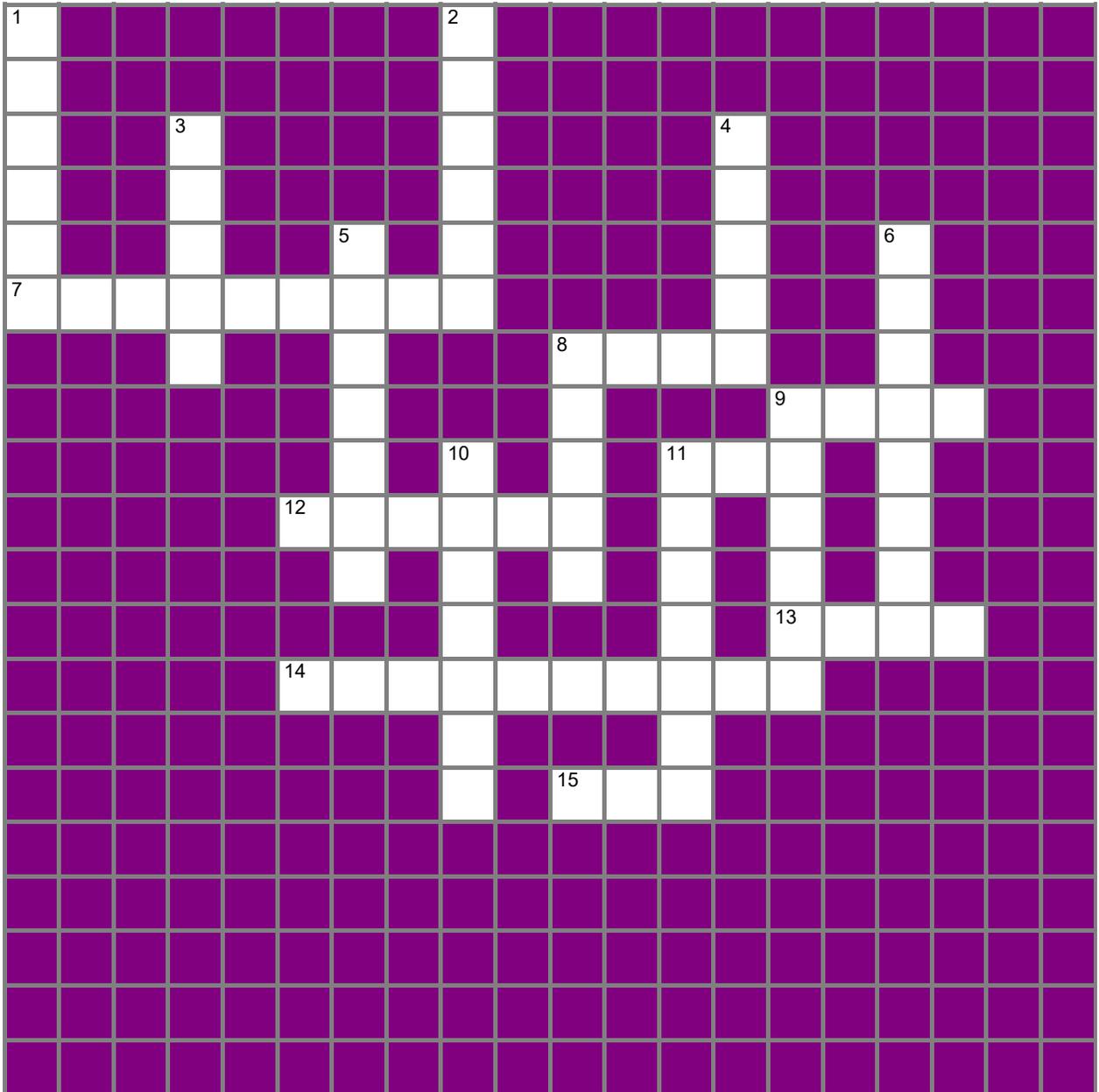
Across

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.

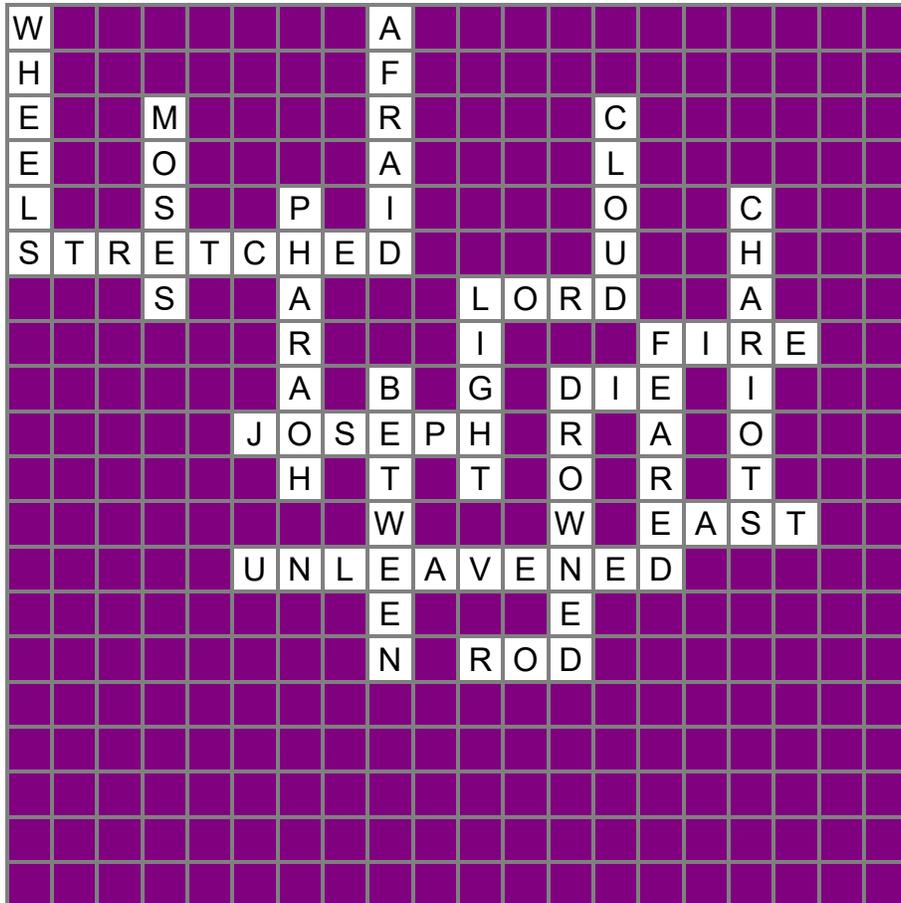
Down

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 Crossword Puzzle



Crossing the Red Sea Crossword Puzzle Answers



Activity 2 | Path Through the Red Sea Project

The east wind is usually a destructive force in the Word. In this story, the east wind is a Divine force that blows away false thinking (the Red Sea), and opens a new path toward heavenly life. The angels experience the Lord's Divine love as a gentle breeze. However, when the Lord's love descends into hell the evil spirits experience it as a fierce tormenting wind because it blows against their selfish and worldly loves (see *Arcana Coelestia* 7679). Children create a project where their breath is like a wind that can blow away selfishness, opening a path toward heaven.

Materials Needed

Path Through the Red Sea page
brown or yellow crayon
blue water-based paint
drinking straw

Directions

1. Have you ever been out on a windy day? Or harness the wind to fly a kite? In what ways can wind help us? (wind energy) When is wind destructive? (e.g. strong winds can topple trees, blow sand away, etc.)
2. In today's story the Lord did an amazing miracle by means of an east wind. The wind blew so hard all night long that it opened a path through the Red Sea. The water stood like a wall on each side of a path so the children of Israel could walk through the sea on dry ground.
3. This story pictures the way the Lord's Word shows us a true path of how to behave when we are struggling with anger or hatred.
4. Use a brown or yellow crayon to create a path by coloring inside the two lines of the *Path Through the Red Sea* page (on next page). Take time to cover as much of the path as thickly as you can.
5. Each of us chooses a path in life. The Lord wants us to follow the path in His Word to heaven. We are not born as angels; we are born so that we can *become* angels, and we do this by running away from bad choices and making good and true choices.
6. Put some a spoon of blue liquid water-based paint on the crayoned path of life. Use a straw to blow the paint of the path, like the east wind, painting a wall of water on each side of it.



You Will Show Me the Path of Life

Psalm 16:11

