



Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 14:8-31 - selections

Level A

Ages 3-6

Series Theme: The Lord leads and provides for us, and we can choose to follow Him.

Lesson Focus: The Lord helps me not to do what is wrong.

Reading Summary: Moses asked Pharaoh to let the children of Israel leave Egypt, but Pharaoh refused. So the Lord sent plagues on the Egyptians. Finally Pharaoh let them go. The Lord led them out of Egypt by means of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They followed it to the sea. Then the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh chased after the children of Israel. When the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming they were frightened and complained that they would die in the wilderness. But the Lord promised He would save them and told Moses to stretch his rod out over the sea. The Lord sent a big wind. The wind divided the sea and created a dry path for the children of Israel to cross over. The Lord protected them by putting His angel and the pillar of cloud between them and the Egyptians. The Egyptians followed them into the sea. The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand out again and the waters returned, destroying the Egyptians. The Lord saved the children of Israel, and they believed in Him.

Lesson 3		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Activity	Walk the Line directions p. 2	tape and open floor space or chalk and open pavement space to do the activity outside <i>optional:</i> copy of the Word
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above <i>Crossing the Red Sea Readings</i> p. 5 discussion guide p. 2	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Act It Out recreate the miracle of the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea	Crossing the Red Sea directions p. 3 <i>Crossing the Red Sea Script</i> p. 8	open space for acting, 2 blue sheets, towels or a blue plastic tablecloth cut in 2, rod for Moses, small white towel or washcloth for cloud; <i>optional:</i> simple costumes for the characters
	Make make a diorama of Moses leading the children of Israel across the Red Sea	Moses Leads the People directions pp. 3-4 <i>Red Sea Background</i> p. 9 <i>Moses and the People</i> p. 10	markers or crayons, an 8"x3" (20cm x 7.5cm) strip of sandpaper or stiff brown paper for each child, glue, tape, scissors <i>optional:</i> blue paper for copying <i>Red Sea Background</i>
	Coloring Picture	The Red Sea Parts p. 11	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 12	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Walk the Line

Supplies needed: tape to make a line across the floor indoors (or chalk to draw a line if you will be doing the activity outside). Set up the line before class. You could make the line straight, or make the activity more challenging by adding 1-2 curves. *Optional:* Place a copy of the Word on a small table or piece of fabric at one end of the line.

Start by welcoming everyone. Ask the children if they think they could walk along the tape line. Offer each child a turn to walk along the line toward the Word. Cheer the children on as they try to stay on the line. When everyone has had a turn, sit in a circle.

1. How did it feel to walk on the line? Was it easy or difficult?
2. Did you know that the Lord is leading each of us along a path toward heaven? We cannot see this path in front of us like you see the tape. Our paths are made up of the things we choose to do each day. When we are kind and loving to others we are following the path toward heaven.
3. The Lord helps us stay on this path—His path—and protects us each step of the way. In our story today the children of Israel are following the Lord's path. Let's find out how he protected them and helped them stay on the path.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Selections from Exodus 14:8-31 on p. 5. See teaching pictures on pp. 6-7.

The Lord called Moses to help Him lead the children of Israel out of Egypt where they had lived as slaves for a long time. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, did not want them to go. So the Lord sent ten plagues. Finally, Pharaoh let them go. The Lord sent the children of Israel a pillar of cloud to lead them by day and a pillar of fire to lead by night. The people followed the pillar and left Egypt.

Who chased after the children of Israel? The Egyptians.

The children of Israel were frightened because the Egyptians had chariots and horses that could go fast. Have you ever felt frightened? What happened to make you feel that way? Was there something that helped you feel better?

Moses told the people not to be afraid. He said, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

What did the Lord tell Moses to do next? Go forward. Then hold his rod out over the Red Sea.

Let's put our hands out like Moses and imagine that we are holding rods to part the Red Sea. Can you imagine the sea opening up?

What two things came between the children of Israel and the Egyptians to keep them safe? A pillar of fire and the Angel of God. These two things are like the true ideas we know from the Lord's Word and the angels who love the Lord and protect us all the time.

The wind made a dry path through the sea and the children of Israel walked across the sea on dry land. A strong wind held the water back until everyone had crossed safely.

What happened when the Lord told Moses to stretch out his rod again? The sea returned, drowning the Egyptians. The children of Israel were safe and finally free from slavery.

The power of Moses' rod is like the power of the Lord to help us obey His teachings. When we are having a hard time we can think of true ideas we know from the Word, such as telling the truth, and the Lord will help us not to do what is wrong. He protects us all the time, just as he protected the children of Israel from the Egyptians.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Crossing the Red Sea

Reenact the story of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. The story pictures the way the Lord leads us away from bad choices and toward safety.

1. Have you ever been to the sea or the ocean? Have you run in the crashing waves? Or turned your back against the wind?
2. We are going to act out the story of the Lord helping the children of Israel to cross the Red Sea. The Lord had led the children of Israel out of Egypt to the sea so that he could free them from the Egyptians by means of a big miracle.
3. Assign key roles. *Note:* This play offers opportunities for a larger group of children. If you have a small group, you might want to have children be both Israelites and Egyptians at different points in the script.
4. *Optional:* help the children dress in costumes.
5. Start with the children of Israel camped next to the Red Sea and the Egyptians standing at the far side of the room, ready to follow them. Act out the story using the script provided (p. 8).
6. If there is interest and time, repeat the story, either with the same actors or with children changing roles.



Materials Needed

Crossing the Red Sea Script, p. 8, open space for acting, 2 blue sheets or blue plastic tablecloth cut in half for Red Sea, rod for Moses, white washcloth or small towel for child to hold as cloud pillar *optional:* hobby horses for Egyptians, costumes for angel, Moses and others

Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies. Purchase blue plastic tablecloth if needed and cut in half lengthwise. Set up room so there is space for two groups and the Red Sea. Think through the size of your group and how to assign parts. If you have a large class it might be a good idea to get additional help.

New Church Concept Seas and Floods

Seas, depths, and abysses mean the hells where the falsities of evil are. *Apocalypse Explained* 538:2.



Choice

Moses Leads the People

The children of Israel were afraid to cross the Red Sea. But the Lord sent a strong wind that parted the waters so Moses could lead the people across on dry ground. Create a diorama to reenact this miracle. (For a picture of this project, see the next page.)

1. Hand out the Red Sea Background (p. 9)—unfolded and flat—and invite children to color both sides of the page with sea colors. Talk about how the children of Israel were worried about how they would get across the big sea.
2. What was the miracle that the Lord did? He sent a wind to blow the

Materials Needed for Each Child

copy of *Red Sea Background Picture* p. 9, copy of *Moses and the People* p. 10, markers or crayons, glue, 8"x3" (20cm x 7.5cm) strip of sand paper or stiff brown paper; *optional:* blue paper for copying *Red Sea Background*

Prepare in Advance

See next page.

Moses Leads the People *continued*

- sea into walls of water. Show the children how to fold up the sides of the sea to form walls of water along the dotted lines.
3. Hand out the strips of sandpaper or stiff brown paper. Show the children how to make a dry path in the sea by gluing the strip in the middle of the Red Sea. Now the Red Sea is ready for the children of Israel to walk across!
 4. Hand out the long strips of *Moses and the People* (p. 10). Have children color the figures.
 5. After the figures have been colored, help the children to fold their figures like an accordion so they will stand up.
 6. Children can now reenact Moses leading the people across the Red Sea. Have children set their seas in front of them with the sides folded down to cover the sand paper or brown paper path. Have the children of Israel stand beside the Sea.
 7. Remind them that when Moses lifted his staff over the water, the Lord made the waters part to show dry ground. Fold the sides of the sea up to show the dry ground. The children can “walk” Moses and the children of Israel through the sea on the dry ground.



Choice

Coloring Picture: The Red Sea Parts

Hand out copies of *The Red Sea Parts* (p. 11) for the children to color.

Prepare in Advance

Make copies of pp. 9-10.

(Optional: Use blue paper for p. 9.) Fold p. 9 along the dotted lines and then refatten. Cut p. 10 apart on the solid lines and discard extra pieces. Tape the two sets of people together securely to form one long strip, making sure that Moses is at the front. Cut sandpaper or stiff brown paper into strips approx. 8"x3" (20cm x 7.5cm) for a path.

New Church Concept

The Lord Protects

The Lord provides protection against all evils and falsities...from the hells. For the Lord alone fights on behalf of a person and protects him when he is under attacks from the hells. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8273.

Materials Needed

copies of *The Red Sea Parts* (p. 41); crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Take the story of the Lord leading the children of Israel across the Red Sea to heart by learning the following Memory Verse. Break the verse down into phrases and invite the children to repeat each phrase after you. Try putting the phrases together and saying the entire recitation.

Do not be afraid.

Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

Exodus 14:13

Closing

The Lord leads and protects each of us through true ideas from His Word. We can choose to follow the Lord by doing what He teaches in His Word.

Give a Parent Note (p. 12) to children as they leave.

Crossing the Red Sea Readings

Exodus 14:8-17,19-23,26-28,30-31 - selections

To shorten readings, read only the bold text.

And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel...all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea....

And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, “Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

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.”

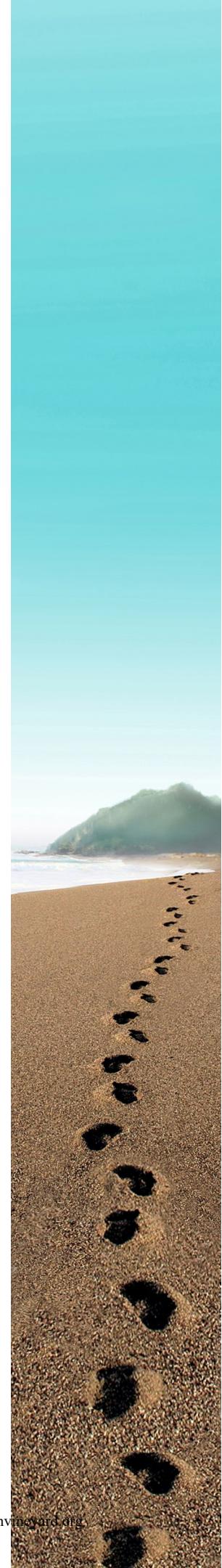
And the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow 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. So it 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.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen....

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it.... Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained....

So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.







Crossing the Red Sea Script

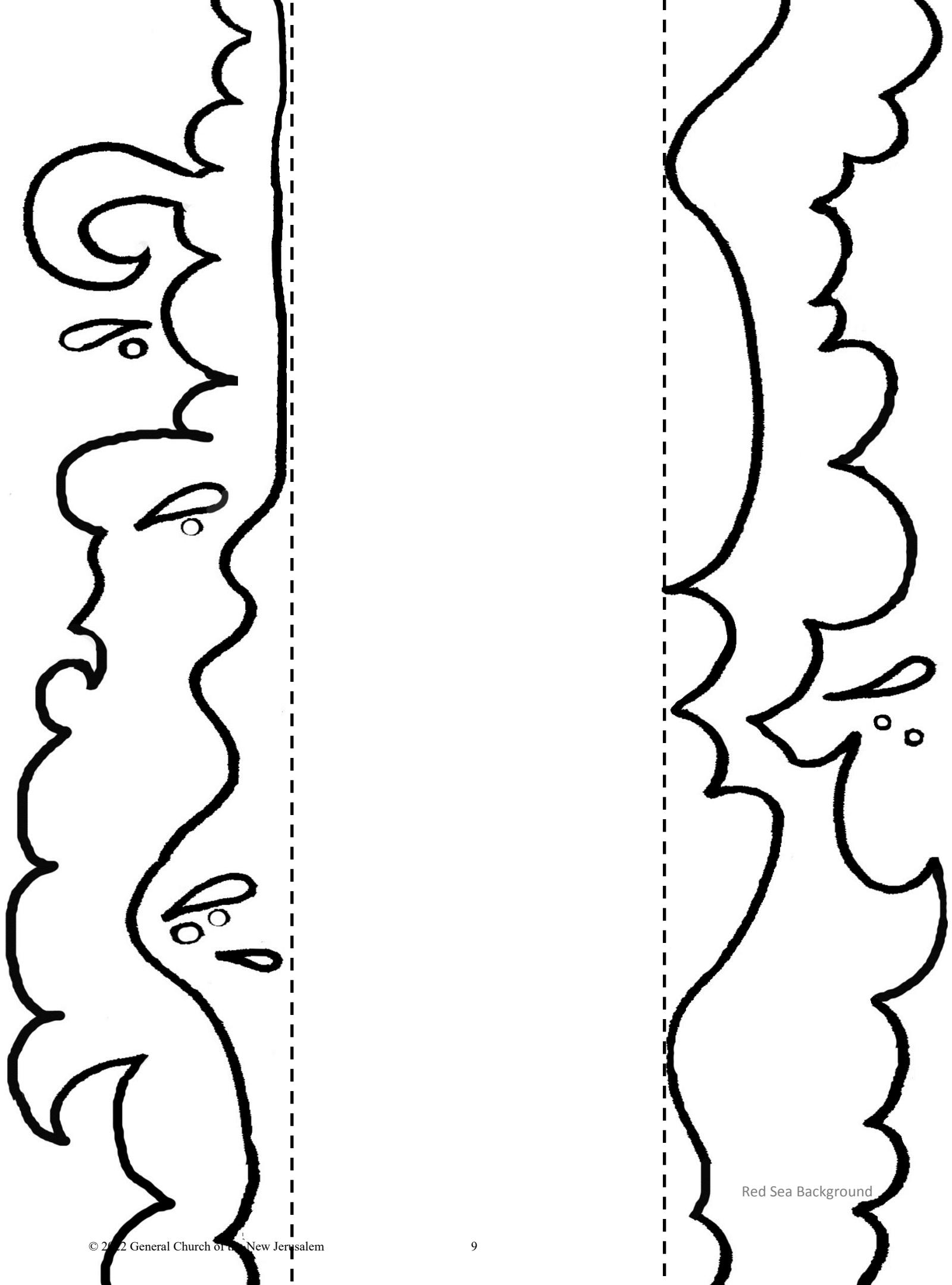
Roles: Moses, pillar of cloud, angel, children of Israel, Pharaoh, Egyptians

Set-Up: Create an open space. You will need an area for the children of Israel to sit and “camp”, an area for Pharaoh and the Egyptians to “camp” and an area to set up the “Red Sea”. Create the sea using your choice of a blue plastic tablecloth cut in half lengthwise, two blue or green sheets, or two towels. Four children should hold the sea in place and be ready to create walls of water by holding up the ends of the sheets or tablecloth.

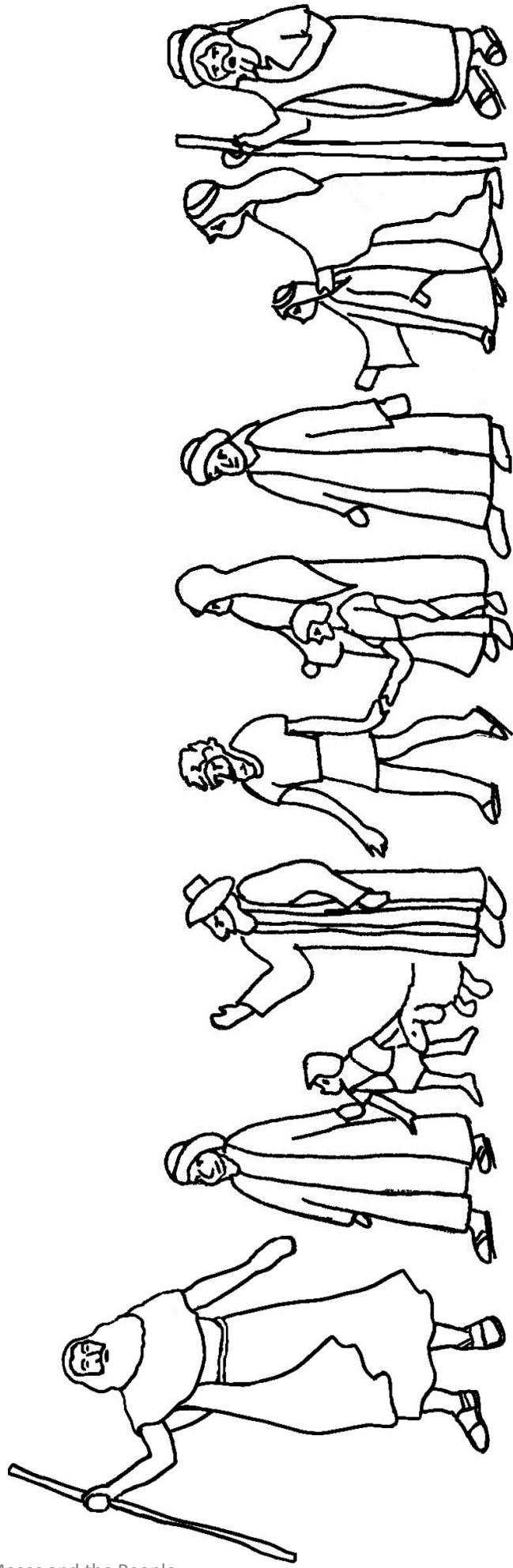
Props: Rod for Moses, white hand towel or washcloth for pillar of cloud, simple angel costume, blue plastic tablecloth cut in two lengthwise, or blue sheets or towels. *Optional:* hobby horses for Pharaoh and the Egyptians

Teacher reads the story aloud, pausing to direct the action. Start with the children of Israel camping by the sea.

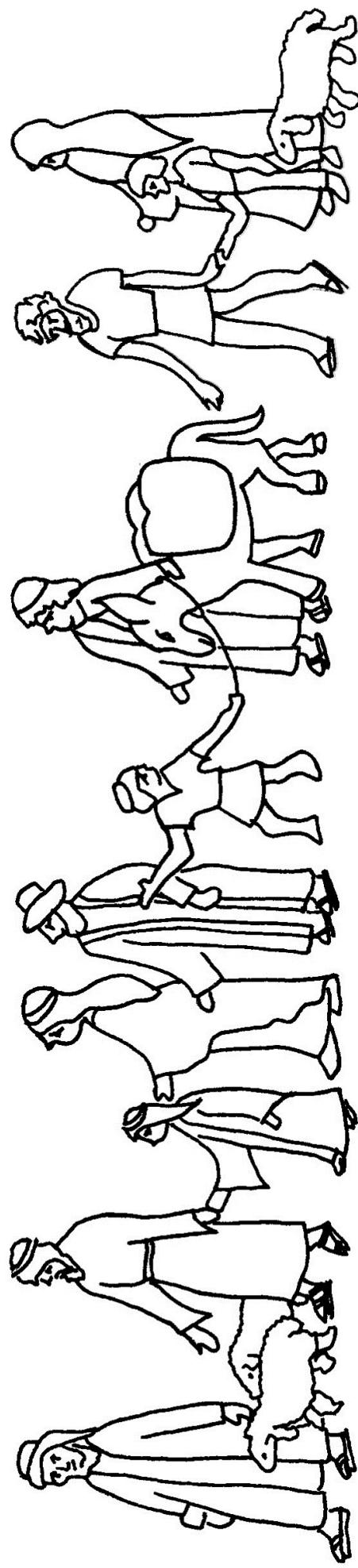
Story to Read	Actions
The children of Israel camped by the sea. And Pharaoh king of Egypt pursued them with his horses and chariots.	Children of Israel sit down in a “camp” by the “sea”. Pharaoh and the Egyptians “chase” them on horses and sit down near them. The Angel of God and the pillar of cloud should stand between the children of Israel and the sea.
The children of Israel said to Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt?”	Children of Israel stand up around Moses and complain to him.
Moses said, “Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you.”	Moses stands up with his rod in his hand.
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.	The Angel and the pillar of cloud move away from the sea and stand between the children of Israel and the Egyptians.
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.	Moses holds his rod up over the middle of the Red Sea. Students holding the corners of the “sea” lift up their corners to create walls wide enough apart for the children of Israel to walk through
So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.	Children of Israel walk through the walls of water to the other side of the sea.
And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.	Egyptians go after them and stop in the middle of the sea.
Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea....” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.	Moses holds up his rod over the sea from the far side.
And when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth.... Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.	The sea walls are flattened and laid on the ground. Try not to cover the Egyptians to prevent injury. The Egyptians should lie down on the ground as if dead.
So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. So the people feared the Lord and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.	Children of Israel “cheer” and show happiness that Pharaoh and his army are defeated.



Red Sea Background



Moses and the People





The Red Sea Parts

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

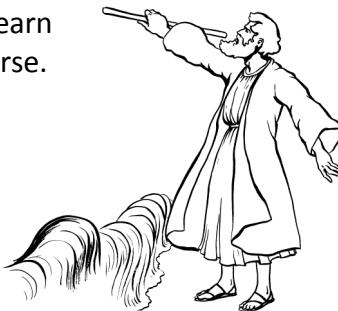
Dear Parents,

Today we learned that the Lord protected the children of Israel from the Egyptians and led them safely across the Red Sea with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He protects us too through the true ideas we learn from His Word. These ideas can shine out in our minds and lead us to do good actions. When we do what the Lord teaches, He will protect us and lead us to heaven.

Please help your child learn this week's Memory Verse.

Memory Verse

Do not be afraid.
Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.
(Exodus 14:13)



PARENT NOTE

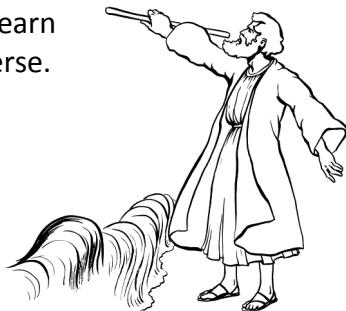
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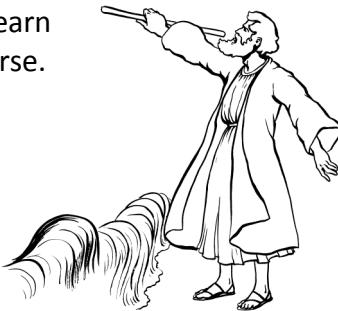
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