

UNIT 4 | SESSION 3

Splash 1/19/25

MOSES PARTED THE RED SEA

EXODUS 13-15



KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 34:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made the way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again.

STORY POINT: God performed miracles to rescue the Israelites, and they worshiped Him.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The parting of the Red Sea is one of the most incredible accounts in Scripture. After God freed His people through the events of the Passover, He performed this amazing miracle to deliver them from danger and secure their hearts in worship to Him alone. In this passage, we see glimmers of an even greater miracle—the salvation of God’s people, once and for all time, through Christ’s miraculous sacrifice on our behalf.

Why did God lead His people into the hardships of the wilderness? What was God’s intention for rescuing His people from slavery?

While God led His people on a route that took longer and was different than expected, His divine purpose in doing so was for their good. But even more, He knew the waywardness of His people’s hearts and that the external threat of war would only intensify their inclination to doubt His provision. God led them to the perfect location to display His power and test their trust in Him.

In Exodus 7, God instructed Moses to tell Pharaoh, “The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness.” The parting of the Red Sea was certainly enough to inspire worship as the people watched the Lord bring deliverance through the most surprising of means. Just as Moses had spoken, the threat of the Egyptians on that day would never worry them again. God revealed His awe-inspiring power through the parting of the Red Sea, though such a rescue seemed impossible. Like the Israelites, we can know that God will receive glory and that all who place their faith in Jesus will live in the hope of His salvation. Just as God’s people walked through the sea on dry ground, anyone who turns to Christ for salvation will pass through judgment and into eternal life.

Consider the internal and external factors that keep you from giving God the worship He deserves. Pray for the same understanding from the boys and girls who will learn from you today, that they would turn to Christ and receive His miraculous offer of salvation.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach;
plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids
and open
the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids
the story of
the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to
love the God of
the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live
out the mission
of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Red Sea Maze" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ blankets, towels, or sheets; several per group
- ☐ music

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ blue construction paper, 1 piece per kid
- ☐ brown construction paper, 1 piece per kid
- ☐ sea creature stickers (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Moses Parted the Red Sea" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 4, Session 3" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Tea Party with Lottie" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ sticky notes



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ dry erase board and marker

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ sticky note
- ☐ music

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever been stuck and needed someone to help you? Maybe you were stuck on top of the monkey bars or were stuck on a word you didn’t know how to read. Who helped you?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Red Sea Maze” activity page.

SAY “Today, we’ll see how God made a way for the Israelites when they were stuck between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: RED SEA CROSSING



Form kids into two groups. Designate one group as the “Red Sea” and provide them with blankets, towels, or sheets. Guide the “Red Sea” to form two lines opposite each other. On your start, play music and direct the “Red Sea” to wave their blankets up and down. Line up the other team at one end of the “Red Sea.” When the music stops, direct the “Red Sea” to hold up their blankets, creating a wall on both sides. Direct group two to walk through the “sea” before you start the music again. Any kid caught in the “Red Sea” when the music begins is out. Play again, allowing groups to switch roles.

SAY “Today, we will learn how the Israelites faced an impossible situation at the edge of the Red Sea, but God provided a way for them to cross the sea on dry ground. We’ll see how **GOD PERFORMED MIRACLES TO RESCUE THE ISRAELITES, AND THEY WORSHIPED HIM.**”

☐ OPTION 2: RED SEA CRAFT

Before the session, print labels of the story point for each kid. Provide each kid with a piece of blue construction paper, a piece of brown construction paper, and a story point label. Guide kids to cut their blue construction paper in half. Then assist kids in folding each piece of the blue construction paper into thirds like a fan. Provide kids with glue and direct them to glue one edge of the blue construction paper at each end of the brown paper, length wise. The blue paper can be folded up to represent the walls of the sea or laid flat on the brown paper.

Then guide kids to glue the story point label to the center of the brown paper. Allow kids to decorate the blue paper with stickers of sea creatures or invite them to draw the creatures using markers.

SAY “After God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt, they came to the edge of the Red Sea. Let’s get ready to learn how God made a way for His people to cross the sea on dry ground.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY 🗨️ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am glad to see you. Today, we'll learn about an amazing miracle God performed to save His people. We'll see how God's great power saved Israel when they were trapped between their enemies and the Red Sea. **THE LORD PERFORMED MIRACLES TO RESCUE THE ISRAELITES, AND THEY WORSHIPED HIM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] As we hear our story, we can remember that every story we hear is true because God is true.

If you have your Bible, please hold it up high. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let's prepare our hearts for what God wants to teach us today. Pray with me: 'Dear God, please open our ears to listen and our eyes to see the truth from Your Word. Give us hearts to believe that just as You rescued Your people from the Egyptians, You sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. Amen.' 🙏

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY 🗨️ Does anyone remember what sin is? [Allow responses.] Sin is disobedience to God and His commands. So, why does sin separate us from God? [Allow responses.] Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

God is without sin. He is perfectly good and always does what is right. Yet, God wants to be with us! In our story, we'll see how God rescued His people and showed that He was with them through a pillar of cloud. Through faith in Jesus, we can be with God forever. When we trust in Jesus and believe He died for our sin and rose again, we are no longer separated from God. 🙏

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY 🗨️ God's people lived in Egypt for more than 400 years. During that time, Pharaoh made them slaves and treated them badly, but God heard His people's cries for help and called Moses to rescue them. Last week, we saw how Moses told Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Did Pharaoh listen at first? [Allow responses.] No, Pharaoh was hard hearted. God displayed His great power through 10 plagues to show Pharaoh, and everyone in Egypt, that God is the one true God. Eventually, Pharaoh let Israel go. Today, we'll learn what happened after Israel left Egypt. We'll see how God performed miracles to save His people once again. 🙏



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 13:17–15:21. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Moses Parted the Red Sea.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

MOSES PARTED THE RED SEA

“When Pharaoh let the Israelites go, the Lord led them out of Egypt. He went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night. The pillar stayed right in front of the people so they knew exactly where God wanted them to go.

God led them away from the Philistines, because He knew the people were not yet ready for war. They were traveling past the edge of the Red Sea when **the Lord spoke to Moses: “Turn back and camp in front of the sea. Pharaoh will think you are confused and trapped, so he will pursue you. Then I will receive glory when people see what I do to Pharaoh and his army.”**

Just as God said, Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. He gathered his chariots, his horsemen, and all his army, and chased after them. While the Israelites were camped at the shore of the Red Sea, they looked up, and saw the Egyptian army coming after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord for help. Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD’s salvation. The LORD will fight for you.”

The pillar of cloud moved between God’s people and the Egyptians so that the two groups could not come near one another. Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and a strong wind blew all night turning the sea into dry land. The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on their right and a wall of water on their left.

The Egyptians tried to follow them, but the Lord made them confused. He also made their chariot wheels hard to control. They said, “Let’s get away from Israel—the LORD is fighting for them!”

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea, and the water crashed down on the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh’s army. None of the Egyptian army survived. When Israel saw the great power of the Lord that had saved them, they believed in Him and in His servant Moses.

Then Moses and all of the Israelites sang a song to the Lord:

“The LORD is my strength and my song;

he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him.”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Act it out: Form kids into two groups: the Israelites and the Egyptians. Invite them to act out the story as you tell it.

Clap a beat: Invite kids to clap to a beat while you read about the song Moses and the Israelites sang.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Christ Connection: The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made the way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ” When Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go, the Lord led them out of Egypt. He always went before them and guided their path. How did the Lord lead them? [Allow responses.] God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night. God did not leave His people to figure their own way. He loved them and helped them know the best way to go.

Then God told Moses to camp by the Red Sea. Pharaoh changed his mind, and he and his army chased after God’s people. The people felt trapped and afraid! Why didn’t the people need to fear? [Allow responses.] God would fight for His people! God had saved them from Egypt, and He would save them again. The pillar of cloud stood in front of God’s people, and the Egyptians could not get to them.

What happened next? What miracle did God perform to rescue His people? [Allow responses.] Through Moses, God parted the Red Sea, and the Israelites walked through on dry ground. God’s people were saved! **GOD PERFORMED MIRACLES TO RESCUE THE ISRAELITES, AND THEY WORSHIPED HIM.** Moses and the Israelites sang to God and praised Him.

The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made the way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY ” What does it mean to be rescued? [Allow responses.] The Bible tells us that Jesus, sent by God, came to rescue us from sin by dying on the cross and rising again. We are all sinners and face death because of our sin. But if we confess our sin, turn from our sin, and put our faith in Jesus, we are rescued from sin and given eternal life. Jesus died in our place so that we may live. I’d be happy to share more about how to trust in Jesus and how He can become your Lord and Savior. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 4, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we know that God is with us even when we’re scared?
2. How does Jesus’ love for us help us when we are afraid?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Optional

Remind kids that Lottie Moon served as a missionary in China for almost 40 years. Explain that some Chinese people were afraid of Lottie at first, or rejected what she told them about Jesus. Tell kids that even when she experienced rejection, Lottie continued to love the Chinese people and wanted them to know about Jesus. Tell kids that she did many things to gain their trust.

SAY 🗣️ Lottie often cooked fresh-baked tea cakes, or cookies, for the children in her village to help people know they could trust her. The children in China began calling Lottie ‘The Cookie Lady.’ As she gained the trust of mothers, she had more opportunities to tell the mothers and their children about Jesus. 🗣️



Play the missions video. Then pray, thanking God for missionaries who tell others about Jesus around the world. Ask God to help people trust in Jesus because He is the only way to be saved from sin.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 34:17 together.

SAY 🗣️ God alone can rescue us from sin. Let’s practice our key passage together. 🗣️

Use sticky notes to cover some of the words of the key passage on the Key Passage Poster. Invite kids to say the key passage aloud, filling in the covered words. Repeat several times until the entire key passage is covered.



Lead kids to sing “He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗣️ Dear heavenly Father, we praise You for being a God who loves to rescue His people from trouble. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to rescue us from our greatest trouble: sin and death. You are good and deserve all worship. In Jesus’ name, amen. 🗣️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 14. Remind kids that God is in control of all creation and is the King of creation. Tell kids that in the Bible, we see God show His power over what He created, including water. Discuss how God was in control of the flood water in the time of Noah, the Red Sea in our story today, and the stormy sea in the time of Jonah. Tell kids that later in the Bible we read how Jesus walked on water and even calmed a stormy sea.

Consider pointing out the location of Red Sea (H9) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 14:15-16 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ God provided Moses with the plan to save His people. God told Moses to lift up his staff and hold out his hand over the sea. When Moses obeyed God's command, the sea parted and the Israelites walked through on dry ground. God made the way for His people to be saved.

Just as God's people passed through the sea safely, we can safely pass through God's judgment over sin when we trust in Jesus; He is the only way to be saved. The water or the Egyptians didn't harm the Israelites because they believed God's Word and crossed on dry ground (Hebrews 11:29). We are saved from sin and death when we trust in Jesus. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Did the Egyptians have any power against God? Why not? 🗨️

Remind kids that God alone holds all power and is able to defeat His enemies. Discuss how Pharaoh and the Egyptians set themselves up against God by disobeying Him and fighting against His people. Share how Jesus is victorious over His enemies and defeated sin and death when He died on the cross.

SAY 🗨️ How did God show He loved His people? How does God show His love for us? 🗨️

Tell kids that God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, guided them in the wilderness, fought for them at the Red Sea, and made a way for them to cross the sea on dry ground. Tell kids that God has shown His love for us by providing the way for us to be rescued from sin and death. Share how anyone who trusts in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit who guides believers and helps them live for God.

SAY 🗨️ Why did the Israelites worship God when they reached the other side of the sea? 🗨️

Discuss how Israel worshiped God because He saved them and revealed His great power. Tell kids that God alone is to be worshiped because He alone is God. There is no one like Him. Encourage kids to think of how awesome God is and reflect on how He alone can save people.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: NO NEED TO FEAR

On a dry erase board, create two columns. Label one column Fears and the other column God. Lead kids to provide some fears the Israelites may have had during the plagues, when they fled Egypt, when Egypt chased after them, etc. For example, kids may say, “scared to leave home” or “afraid that Egypt might catch them.” On the God side, invite kids to list ways God showed He was with His people such as “He loved them” or “He fought for them” or “He guided them where they needed to go.” Then invite kids to list some of their own fears and how God can rescue them from their fears as well.

SAY “We may have fears like the Israelites, but we can trust that God will be with us in our fears. When we trust in Jesus, God promises that He will never leave us—no matter what we face. Believers can always have hope that God will fight for them and give them His peace, comfort, and joy.”

☐ OPTION 2: PRAISE CHAIR



Play a game similar to “musical chairs” but include enough chairs for every kid. Form chairs into a circle. Use a sticky note to label one chair the Praise Chair. Tell kids that if they sit in the Praise Chair, they can share one reason to praise God. Play music and invite kids to walk in a circle around the chairs. When you stop the music, kids must sit in a chair. Play as time allows.

SAY “**GOD PERFORMED MIRACLES TO RESCUE THE ISRAELITES, AND THEY WORSHIPED HIM.** They sang a song of praise to God when they reached the other side of the sea. God alone is worthy of worship. He loves us, saves us from sin, and helps us in our troubles. We were created to worship God and find joy in Him. When we praise God, we are doing what He made us to do. Sometimes worshiping God may look like singing songs to Him, but we can also worship God in many ways. We can show God we love Him and honor Him by how we treat others, the way we obey our parents, how we play sports, or even how we do our homework. God is worthy of our praise!”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.