



Date: _____

Series: God Saves and Protects Us
Summer Year 1, Lesson 11

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Bible Event: Exodus 13:17 – 15:21

Take Home Point: *GOD LEADS US TO SAFETY – *Thank God*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Just as God rescued the Israelites, God rescues us through Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that God keeps each and every one of us safe. In the Bible, he kept people safe by doing things like parting the Red Sea to keep the Israelites safe from Pharaoh's soldiers. Today God keeps us safe by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross. By knowing that Jesus died for our sins, we are safe from the punishment of our sins. Kids will take home the point *GOD LEADS US TO SAFETY – *Thank God*.
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of Moses*, produced by Sony Music Entertainment and Time-Life Video and Television, 1995.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's word. Briefly summarize the story, and then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called onstage.

For today's Bible event, place two parallel strips of masking tape on the floor approximately five feet apart. Cut 12-inch long strips of blue streamers (one or two per kid) for kids to wave as they create the Red Sea. Additional props include a staff for Moses, tambourines and other rhythm instruments, chariots made of wagons, wheelchairs, or sleeping bags, and an optional box fan with red, orange, and yellow streamers attached to the grate to create the pillar of fire.

Remember last week, when we talked about the ten horrible plagues that God sent down on the Egyptians? (Invite kids to count to ten.) The last plague was the saddest. The oldest boy in every family died and Pharaoh finally told Moses to "Go, go, go" and take the Israelites out of Egypt. They left and got to the Red Sea and then Pharaoh changed his mind! He decided to send his army to bring the Israelites back and this is what happened...

Split kids into two groups. Have each group line up along the masking tape lines facing each other. Distribute the blue streamers and have the children practice making waves and being water. Tell them that they are the Red Sea!

The Israelites made it to the Red Sea and then they were stuck! The water was full of big waves. (Have children make big waves.) **Pharaoh's soldiers were getting close and they yelled "We're going to get you!"** (Children repeat line.) **The Israelites said, "Oh no!"** (Children repeat.) **And the water raged.** (Make waves.) **Moses looked up to the heavens and said, "What should I do, God?"**

God said to Moses, "Tell your people to keep going! Raise your staff and stretch your hand out over the Sea. I will make the water split in two and make a dry path for the Israelites to follow." Moses did what God told him to do.

Presenter raises staff and stretches his arm over the water. Have the children make the waves slow down and then, all together, take the streamers up above their heads and lay them on the ground behind them.

The Sea parted and the Israelites started walking through. To keep them safe, God sent a pillar of fire. (Turn on fan near the "entrance" of the parted Sea.) **This fire stayed at the opening of the Sea while the Israelites were going across and kept Pharaoh's soldiers from following them in.**

Invite the children on the right side of the Sea to be the Israelites and have them walk through the parted Sea. Have them return to their side of the Sea and hold their streamers again. As the Israelites cross the Sea, have them say the following phrases:

"Look, the water's parted!" "God has saved us!" "Let's hurry to the other side!"

Once all of the Israelites were safely across, God made the pillar of fire disappear! Pharaoh's soldiers immediately charged into the Sea!

Invite the children on the left to be Pharaoh's soldiers. Some can ride on chariots and others can start walking through the Sea. As they enter the Sea, have the children repeat the following lines.

"Your God can't save you!" "We're going to get you!" "Ready, set, charge!" But something happened! As soon as Pharaoh's troops entered the Sea, the water started coming back down!

Have the children on the right side begin waving their streamers over the Israelites. Have helpers and other adults fill in on the left side. The "soldiers" can fall down and get wiped out by the water, if they like.

All of Pharaoh's soldiers died in the Red Sea that day. But the Israelites made it safely to the other side.

The Israelites knew that God had kept them safe that day. Afterwards, they danced and celebrated and praised God for what he had done.

Distribute various rhythm instruments for children to play while they dance or play Follow the Leader to music. One song option is "Horse and Rider Fell Into the Sea."

Close the lesson with the take home point ***GOD LEADS US TO SAFETY – *Thank God!***

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone:

- A blue-frosted graham cracker square,
- Kids break it in two,
- Set them apart,
- March some Teddy Grahams through

Drama Zone: Provide dress-up clothes of people who keep us safe like police, firefighter, nurse, doctor, etc.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss things they're afraid of and assure each other that God keeps us safe.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of the Israelites Cross the Red Sea from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #32, "Through the Red Sea," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Copy the attached template onto cardstock. Fold the cardstock on the lines so the edges meet in the center. Provide two inch pieces (or smaller) of blue streamers for the children to glue or tape onto the front of the "card" to make the Red Sea. When children open the flaps of the "card," (the parting of the Sea), see if they recognize that the words are printed in the shape of a cross. Provide markers and crayons for them to color the blank person to look like themselves.

Play Zone: Play a version of "Red light, Green Light." Have the kids take turns being the leader, who is "Moses" with a staff. When Moses says "Open Sea," the kids may move forward, and when he calls "Closed Sea," they must stop.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "Israelites Cross the Red Sea" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onstage holding a big stick. He wants to be all-powerful like Moses was in today's Bible event. He thinks his "staff" will help him be powerful and part the swimming pool so all of the kids will think he is neat. The presenter explains that it wasn't the staff that made Moses powerful. Bubba is disappointed. He needs to be powerful so he can stay safe from bad guys and bullies. How is he going to show people that he is powerful?

Bubba decides that maybe he'll ask God to send a pillar of fire down to follow him around and keep him safe. No one will mess with him if a big ball of fire follows him around all day. The presenter explains that God doesn't really work like that. He's not going to send any fire down to help Bubba. Again, Bubba is disappointed. How is he going to stay safe?

The presenter explains to Bubba that he doesn't need any props like a staff or ball of fire to be safe or powerful. All Bubba needs is God. If God's love is in Bubba's heart, then he'll be safe. God sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for our sins. Because of that, we will always be safe from sin and the punishment of our sins. When Jesus died, he rescued us from our sins and we became safe.

So, whenever we're afraid or sad about our sin, all we have to remember is that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to keep us safe. Remember: ***GOD LEADS US TO SAFETY – Thank God.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you. *(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you. *(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you, *(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you! *(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such, as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Quantity (4)

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- masking tape
- blue streamers in 12 inch strips
- staff
- box fan with red, orange, and yellow streamers
- tambourines and rhythm instruments
- chariots made out of wagons, wheelchairs or sleeping bags
- the song *"Horse and Rider Fell Into the Sea"*

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham cracker squares
- blue frosting
- Teddy Grahams

Drama:

- hero dress-up clothes (police, firefighter, nurse, doctor)

Craft:

- attached template copied onto cardstock
- blue streamers in small pieces
- scissors
- glue or glue sticks
- crayons

Play:

- staff

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #32, "Through the Red Sea," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- big stick or staff

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

