



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Rescues His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13–15

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Maybe this has been one of those weeks for you.

You know, a week that showed up carrying a conflict with your spouse or friend. An unexpected budget-busting bill. A nagging cough, sputtering car engine, maybe a misplaced pair of glasses.

Or perhaps you hit the jackpot and absolutely everything that could go wrong did go wrong ... twice.

However tough your week, it probably pales compared to what Moses found in his week: the Red Sea at his back and an Egyptian army thundering at him from the front. Worse, he was surrounded by people screaming for him to do something.

Read Exodus 14.

The good news for Moses is the same good news we have for you: God rescues His people. Maybe not on their timeline, and maybe not in the way they expect, but He never fails to come through.

That broken tooth (thank you, peanut brittle) doesn't lessen His love for you. The exploding microwave? You won't be warming up leftover lasagna anytime soon, but there's still a spot for you in heaven.

In all the most important ways, you can stand with Moses, who looked at oncoming chariots and said this to his people: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the Lord will save you today" (Exodus 14:13).

As you prepare this lesson for your kids, remember to ask the Holy Spirit to let its truth sink deeply into your heart too.

The Lord rescues those who stand with Him.

Including you.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

God worked through Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Soon after, Moses received the law from God on Mount Sinai, along with instructions for the construction of the tabernacle. Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years.

WHAT?

God led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the desert to the Red Sea. Then Pharaoh chased after God's people with his army, but God parted the sea so the Israelites could escape on dry ground. Then the waters came back and swept away Pharaoh's army.

WHERE?

The exact location of the Red Sea crossing is unknown, but many scholars favor the Bitter Lakes region north of the Gulf of Suez, the northwestern branch of the Red Sea. The Bitter Lakes may have been connected to the Red Sea at the time.

WHEN?

The exodus happened approximately 400 years after Jacob's family came to Egypt. Following the exodus, the Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert after failing to trust God before taking possession of the Promised Land.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The Red Sea crossing demonstrates God's power to deliver His people and foreshadows the even greater deliverance made possible at the cross. In the exodus, God brought His people from slavery to freedom. At the cross, Jesus brings us from death to life.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: disposable straws (1 per kid), medium or large container, water, towels (2), small objects that will float (such as a disposable bowl or small bath toy)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crossing the Red Sea Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Wind and Water

Set-up: Set out disposable straws (one for each kid) and fill a medium or large container with water. Place a towel underneath for spills. You can set out small objects that will float (such as a disposable bowl or small bath toy).

Play: Let the kids take turns blowing through their straws into the water to see how the wind affects the water. They can also set an object that floats on the water and use the straw to blow it and make it move.

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, we thank You for this chance to be together today and discover more from Your Word. Help us to trust in You and Your great love for us. You are our rescuer—help us learn what You want us to know about how You want to rescue us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible special? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

Tell the Bible story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 111-115

The Red Sea

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What were God's people called?** (*Israelites*)
- **Where were the Israelites held captive and treated badly?** (*Egypt*)
- **How did God lead His people to the Red Sea?** (*a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night*)
- **What amazing miracle happened when Moses held up his walking stick?** (*God sent a strong wind to part the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk through.*)
- **How did the Israelites respond after God saved them?** (*They sang songs of praise to God.*)
- **What would you sing a song of praise about to thank God for?**
- **Do you believe God still rescues His people? How has He rescued us?**
- **What does this story show us about God?**

In today's story, God rescued His people from slavery and brought them to freedom. Through Jesus, we can be rescued and freed from sin, and we can have a relationship with God! We can praise God like the Israelites did after He rescued them.

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Pillar of Cloud and Fire

SUPPLIES: paper towel roll (1 per kid); glue; red, yellow, and orange tissue paper; cotton balls (several per kid); glue dots (optional)

Set out paper towel rolls, glue, tissue paper, scissors, and cotton balls.

In our story, we learned about how God led His people—the Israelites—to safety! God led them in a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night. Do you know what a pillar is? Allow the kids to answer.

A pillar is like a tower.

God never left His people. He was always right there with them, leading them and guiding them. He rescued them! He is with us too. To help us remember our story and how God rescues His people, we're going to make a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. You can tear the tissue paper into pieces, then glue the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper on one side of your stick. What does that look like? Yes, fire! Then you can (carefully!) pull apart some cotton balls and glue them to the other side of the stick. That will be the cloud. Leave a little space at the bottom to hold on to the stick. Then you can hold it up and take it home to remind you of how God helps His people.

Encourage the kids to tear the tissue paper into pieces and glue them on one side of their rolls. Then have them glue cotton balls on the other side. They may need help gluing the cotton balls on the other side (especially if the tissue paper side still has wet glue). Remind them to leave a little space at the bottom of both sides of the roll for their fingers to hold on to the rolls. You can write their initials in that small space to help kids know which roll belongs to them.

