

Crossing The Red Sea

Exodus 14

MEMORY VERSE

EXODUS 15:2a

“The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him...”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

About fifty pieces of wadded paper and some large pieces of cardboard for shields.

A large tub of water, a spatula, a blow dryer, and a towel.

A pan of red Jello.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Paper Wad Wars

You will need about fifty pieces of wadded paper and some large pieces of cardboard for shields.

Divide your class into two groups. Have them throw the divided pieces of paper at each other without the cardboard shields first. When they have sufficiently hit one another, have them start over using the shields. Point out that if they are behind the shield, they are safe from the incoming paper bombs.

Explain that the Lord is our protection and shield. If we stand behind Him (live obedient lives as His children), He will protect us from the weapons of the enemy.

LESSON TIME!

Today we are going to learn about one of the most exciting events in the Bible--the crossing of the Red Sea. God delivered the children of Israel although deliverance seemed quite impossible. When God works on behalf of His people, there is no obstacle too great--*not* an Egyptian army and *not* an entire sea. **God is our Protector.**

EXODUS 14:1-9

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

"Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea.

"For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.'

"Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him.

Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.

So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

Moses and the children of Israel left Egypt. Pharaoh has, once more, hardened his heart and is now pursuing the children of Israel. Pharaoh had been humiliated and angered by the events surrounding the Israelite's deliverance, and he now sought revenge. Although the Egyptian army was much more powerful than God's people (who had no weapons and traveled with their families--women, children, and elderly), they lacked that which was most important: the presence of God on their side. **God is our Protector.**

When Moses looked up and saw the Egyptian army coming, he was not surprised. Not only did God tell Moses of the approaching Egyptian army, but God revealed his plan to judge the Egyptians.

Egypt had been full of pride against God, and now they faced judgment. If we, as the Egyptians, turn against God, all of our plans will be frustrated; and eventually, we will be judged. Instead, let us turn to God. He will go before us and cause us to triumph.

EXODUS 14:10-12

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, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?"

"Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

Pharaoh's army was close behind the children of Israel. They were being followed by hundreds of men on chariots who sought to capture them. Seeing the great Egyptian army behind them, the Israelites became overwhelmed with fear. They cried out to God, but did not trust Him. In their unbelief, they began to complain. They even accused Moses of making a foolish decision to leave Egypt. How quickly the children of Israel forgot the miracles God had wrought in Egypt. Now, blinded by their unbelief, they wished they were back in Egypt serving Pharaoh again, back in bondage where they imagined they would be safe.

The children of Israel did not know that God had a magnificent plan to rescue them. Their eyes were on the mighty Egyptian army and not on their all-powerful God. We, as Christians, will face circumstances in our life that could easily overwhelm us. May we choose to focus our attention on our mighty God and not on our circumstances.

EXODUS 14:13-14

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."

Moses was a good leader and pointed them to the Lord. The Bible says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" The mighty Egyptian army was not a match for God. In our time of need, may we realize that if the Lord is on our side, the strength of our enemies is insignificant. **God is our Protector.**

EXODUS 14:15-20

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. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.

"Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

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.

God did a mighty thing for His people that night. He used a pillar of cloud to go behind them and cause darkness for the enemy, but light for His children.

EXODUS 14:21-22

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.

God did another miraculous act in order to protect His children from the enemy that pursued them. God parted a mighty sea and allowed the Israelites to pass through on dry land. Can you imagine how it must have been to walk on dry land while the sea was restrained on either side of you. God is all-powerful! He can do anything He wants to accomplish His will. As Christians, we need never be afraid, for **God is our Protector.**

Note, the children of Israel had desired to go backwards in their hearts (back to Egypt); God's way was forward. God always moves us forward in our relationship with the Lord. As we move forward, God will show Himself strong on our behalf.

EXODUS 14:23-29

And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.

And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

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. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

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.

But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

The Egyptians tried to follow the Israelites into the sea; but, God confused them, and their chariots became difficult to drive. When the Egyptians began to realize that God was in control of the situation, they tried to escape. However, God caused the sea to close as Moses stretched out his hand.

Try to Part the Sea

You will need a large tub of water, a spatula, a blow dryer, and a towel.

Have different volunteers try to part the water in the tub using the tools you've brought. Of course, they will not be able to.

Explain what a miracle God performed for His children. Ask your students what they think it must have been like to witness and be saved by such a miracle.

EXODUS 14:30-31

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.

God enabled the Israelites, over two million people, to pass safely through the Red Sea. God cast judgment on Pharaoh and the Egyptian army who did not obey for follow Him.

God had demonstrated His great power to deliver—not only from the bondage of Egypt, but from the pursuing Egyptian army—a circumstance that seemed like certain death to the Israelites. God is able to deliver us no matter our circumstances.

May we not, as the Israelites, cry out in fear and complaining when faced with impossible circumstances; may we, instead, be filled with faith, remembering God’s past miracles. God who delivered us in the past will surely deliver us today and in the future. II Corinthians 1:20 states: “...who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,…” Even if it seems like the Egyptian army is pursuing you and the Red Sea is in front of you, you can “Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today” (Exodus 14:13). We can trust God fully. **God is our Protector.**

The Red Sea

You will need a pan of red Jello.

Make Jello jigglers out of your pan.

Cut the Jello in the middle and remove the center pieces first.

Explain how God divided the Red Sea for the children of Israel.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer thanksgiving for the Lord’s protection and deliverance. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity.