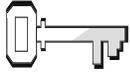


Miraculous Rescue!



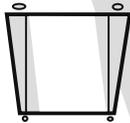
References

Exodus 13:17-22; 14;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 281-290



Memory Verse

“Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today” (Exodus 14:13).

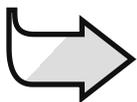


Objectives

The children will:
Know God had a plan to save Israel.

Feel confident of God’s care when they face a frightening experience.

Respond by asking God to care for them.



The Message

God has a plan to take care of me.

Monthly Theme

God reveals Himself to us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After the children of Israel leave Egypt, Pharaoh regrets that he has let them go, so he and his army chase after them. As they approach the Israelite multitude in the desert, the Israelites are terrified and complain bitterly to Moses. The pillar of cloud that is leading the Israelites comes between the Egyptians and God’s people. God opens the Red Sea, and all His people cross safely on dry land. Then God closes the sea, and all the pursuing Egyptians drown. The Israelites sing a great victory song to celebrate their miraculous deliverance.

This is a lesson about grace.

Even though the Israelites were already complaining, accusing Moses, and doubting God, their gracious God went out of His way to care for them and rescue them from their enemies. God is still the same today. He has a plan for our lives. Even though we might belittle and take for granted His untiring care for us, He cares and provides anyway.

Teacher Enrichment

Red Sea:

“The sea so called extends along the west coast of Arabia for about 1,400 miles and separates Asia from Africa. It is connected with the Indian Ocean, of which it is an arm, by the Strait of Babel-Mandeb. . . . The Hebrew name for this body of water is *yam suph*, which, when translated literally, is rendered *Reed* and not Red Sea. . . . It is unlikely, however, that the body of water crossed by Israel was what is today called the Red Sea. The actual location is less significant than the miraculous nature of the event associated with it, an event that would have been equally miraculous at any of the proposed sites. This event is the central point in Israelite history. All subsequent theology is dependent upon an understanding of God as the . . . ‘God who brought you out of Egypt’ (Ex. 20:2; Jer. 2:6; Hos. 11:1)” (*Today’s Dictionary of the Bible*, pp. 521, 522).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Cloud Care</i> B. <i>Part the Waters</i>	one flashlight for every two to three children; tape or rubber band for each flashlight; angel hair or cotton balls or batting; red cellophane or light-weight red fabric shallow basins or dishpans; water; straws, cardboard, or handheld paper fans
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container with cotton attached—to look like a cloud, music for "Wonderful, Wonderful" (<i>Sing for Joy</i> , no. 39) none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	one or more red helium balloons; one or more white helium balloons; walking stick or cane; Bible-times costumes; red bandannas, belts, towels, scarves, etc.; an electric fan or blow-dryer; Bible none Bibles; paper, pencils; chalk or white board; chalk/marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	" <i>Jesus Cares</i> " Collage	magazines, markers or crayons, poster board or large paper, scissors, glue, wide-tip marker, Bible
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Coupon Books</i>	markers, small rectangular shapes of paper in various colors

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they have anything to report about last week's lesson. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- flashlights (one for every two to three children)
- tape or rubber bands (enough to match the flashlights)
- cotton balls, cotton batting or "angel hair"
- red cellophane (or lightweight red fabric)

A. Cloud Care

Provide one flashlight for every two to three children. Place the red material tightly over the end of each flashlight, securing it with tape or a rubber band. Then cover it with the "angel hair." Place the children in small groups of two to three. Tell them that in our Bible story today God led and took care of the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God had a good plan to take care of His people. Let the children take turns holding the light and "leading" the others. They can lead with the light off to represent the pillar of cloud and on to represent the pillar of fire.

Debriefing

How would you like to be led around by a cloud and by fire? (That would be fun and different, etc.) **How does God guide and care for you?** (by the Bible, by using other people to help us, etc.) **When you don't know where to go or what to do, what will you remember?** (to pray, trust God, ask and listen to parents, teachers, etc.)

Today's message is:



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

Say that with me.

B. Part the Waters

For this activity you will need small shallow containers such as basins or dishpans half filled with water. Encourage each child to experiment with straws, fans, blowing with own breath, etc., to "part the waters."

Debriefing

Say: **Have you ever been caught in a big wind? How did it feel?** (uncomfortable, scary, fun, etc.) **Sometimes big winds, such as hurricanes, hurt property and people. In today's Bible story God used a big wind to help His people. It blew a dry path through the big Red Sea so God's people could escape from the Egyptians. What does this tell you about our God?** (He is powerful; able to control nature; He can do anything; He cares about people.) **When you are in trouble, what will you remember? Our message today is:**



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- shallow basins or dishpans
- water
- straws, cardboard, or handheld paper fans

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

"God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13)

"He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 40)

"He's Everything to Me" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 43)

"Anywhere With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 45)



Mission

Use *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Our lesson today tells about something unusual that God used to care for His people. The offering that we bring today will help people all over the world know how much God loves and cares for them too. While we sing "Wonderful, Wonderful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 39), bring the money that you want to share.**

You Need:

- offering container with cotton attached—to look like a cloud
- music for "Wonderful, Wonderful" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 39)



Prayer

Ask the children if there is anything in their lives for which they feel a need for guidance and help. Have the children choose a prayer partner, then say: **Ask your partner how you can pray for him or her—in what way does he or she need God's guidance and help? Then pray for each other, that God will guide and take care of your partner.** Model this behavior for the children by choosing a partner and praying in everyone's hearing for him/her. If everyone is evenly paired, then join a group of three, in which each person prays for one other person until all have been prayed for. In closing, say a general prayer to thank God that He has a plan to take care of us.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- one or more red helium balloons
- one or more white helium balloons
- walking stick or cane
- Bible-times costumes
- red bandanas, belts, towels, scarves, etc.
- electric fan or blow-dryer
- Bible

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Moses, Israelites, Pharaoh, Egyptians, God, two or more students to be the Red Sea.

Setting the Scene

Dress as many students as you choose in Bible-times costumes. Give the walking stick to Moses. Dress or drape your students who are acting as the Red Sea in red items.

Position your students who are playing the Red Sea near one end of your room. Instruct them to hold their hands out and grasp each others' wrists as if to prevent passage through the Red Sea. Instruct the Israelites to always follow Moses, and the Egyptians to always follow Pharaoh.

As you read or tell the story, prompt Moses, Pharaoh, the Israelites, and God to repeat their lines after you say them. Tell the "Egyptians" that when they are touched by any student playing the Red Sea, they have to fall down and pretend to be dead.

Begin the story with the lights out.

Read or tell the story.

Free at last! After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, the Israelites had been ordered out of the country by Pharaoh. But how were they to know where to go? *[Hand the red balloon to the student playing God. Tell the student to lead the Israelites around the room.]* They were personally led by God, in the form of a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud by day. *[Turn the lights on and switch the red balloon for the white one. Tell the student playing God to lead the Israelites around while you narrate, and then to stop in front of the children play-*

ing the Red Sea.]

God said, "If I lead them straight to Canaan, they'll be afraid of the Philistines. I'll take them through the desert instead."

It didn't take Pharaoh long to realize what he had done. Pharaoh moaned, "All our slaves are gone! Who's going to work for us?" So he gathered his army and 600 of his chariots to chase the Israelites.

The Israelites were camped near the Red Sea. *[Tell the Israelites to sit down in front of the students who are playing the Red Sea.]* They saw and heard the sounds of the Egyptian army coming after them. They were terrified! *[Tell the Egyptians to come closer and make noise. Tell the Israelites to act terrified.]*

The Israelites said to Moses, "Why did you bring us here? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert."

But Moses said, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water. The Israelites will go through on dry ground. The Egyptians will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."

Then the pillar of cloud moved from in front of the Israelites to behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. *[Tell the student playing God to take both balloons and move between the Egyptians and Israelites. Have the student hold the white balloon closer to the Egyptians and the red balloon closer to the Israelites.]* Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the Egyptians and light to the Israelites.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. *[Instruct Moses to stretch out*

his rod. Turn on the fan or blow-dryer.] All that night a strong east wind blew over the Red Sea, blowing a path of dry land through the middle. [Instruct the students playing the Red Sea to slowly put their arms down and permit a passage as the wind blows on them.]

The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. [Instruct Moses to lead the Israelites through the sea.]

The Egyptians chased after the Israelites. But when they got into the middle of the sea, the wheels started coming off their chariots, and they had trouble driving. Pharaoh said, "Let's turn around and get away from them. The Lord is fighting for them."

But it was too late. The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sea. The water will flow back together and cover the Egyptians." [Instruct Moses to stretch out his hand. Instruct the children playing the Red Sea to tag the students playing the Egyptians, who must then fall down dead. When all the Egyptians are down, the students playing the Red Sea should resume their original stance.]

Moses stretched out his hand toward the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back together and the entire Egyptian army drowned. The Israelites were safely on the other side. They saw the great power of the Lord and they trusted and praised Him.

[Instruct Moses to lead the Israelites in shouting "Praise the Lord!"]

Debriefing

Ask the children: **Why did God allow the children of Israel to go through a scary experience such as being trapped by a big sea and a huge, terrible army?** (See Exodus 14:17, 31.)

Can you think of any time you felt trapped? (Accept answers.) **How did you feel when this happened to you? What did you do? How did God bring you through this experience?** Share a per-

sonal experience, or talk about a friend's or relative's scary experience.

What should we do when we are afraid? Read aloud Philippians 4:6. **Do you always remember to pray immediately when you are afraid?**

Say: **Let's take a moment right now to thank God for bringing us through a "Red Sea experience."** Pray a brief prayer, mentioning the incident(s) reported. **Let's say our message together:**



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

Memory Verse

Write today's memory verse in large letters where all may see. "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today" (Exodus 14:13). Use the following motions to teach it:

Stand firm and you will see	(Stand at attention.) (Hand above eyes as if looking at something.)
the deliverance	(Hands toward heaven and look up with a smile.)
the Lord	(Use thumb and index finger of right hand to form an L. Hold L hand against left shoulder. Move hand from left to right diagonally ending at the waist.)
will bring	(Hands reach out in front of the body.)
you	(Point to someone.)
today.	(Hold one arm, palms toward the floor, across chest. Rest the elbow of the other arm on the fingers of the first arm and move that arm down to mimic the action of the sun across the sky.)

You Need:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- chalk/white board
- chalk/marker

Bible Study

Divide the class into three groups: cloud, water, staff. Ask the tallest person in each group to serve as a scribe and record (write) what they discover. Give each group the following texts to look up. They are to determine the use or significance of their item and report it to the rest of the class.

Cloud

- Numbers 12:5 (God spoke from the cloud.)
- Psalm 99:6, 7 (God spoke from the cloud.)
- Exodus 13:21 (To lead them; to provide light at night.)
- Psalm 105:39 (As a covering [probably to protect them from the desert sun]; to give light at night.)
- Numbers 9:17-22 (To tell them when to go and when to camp.)

Water

- Exodus 14:29-31 (Parting of the Red Sea. The Lord saved Israel; the people feared the Lord and trusted Moses.)
- Joshua 3:7, 15-17 (Parting of the Jordan River. To show the people that God was with Joshua as He was with Moses.)
- 2 Kings 2:7-15 (Elijah and Elisha both using Elijah's coat to

part the Jordan. The watching prophets saw the spirit of Elijah in Elisha.)

Staff

- Exodus 14:16 (Moses holds his staff over the sea and it parts.)
- Exodus 4:1-5 (Moses' staff turns into a snake and back into a rod, so the people will believe God appeared to Moses.)
- Exodus 7:14-18 (Moses uses the staff that turned into a snake to turn the Egyptian water into blood.)
- Exodus 17:1-7 (Moses uses the staff to strike the rock and produce water.)

Debriefing

Ask each group to report what it learned. Write their answers on the board. Ask: **Which of these things did the Lord use to show His power?** (all of them) **Which of these things did He use for the benefit of the Israelites?** (all of them) **Were the water, the staff, and the cloud part of God's plan for the Israelites?** (yes) **God has a plan for us too. Let's say today's message together:**



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

3

Applying the Lesson

“Jesus Cares” Collage

To prepare in advance, write the words “Jesus Cares for Me” across the top of a piece of poster board or other large paper. In class, give the children the magazines and ask them to cut out one or more pictures that illustrate a way God cares for them or for people in general. (Example: pictures of people eating show He provides food for us; pictures of families show He provides families to care for us, etc.) After they have found and cut out a picture, students should glue it to the poster board and write a short caption about the picture. (Example: Jesus gives us food.) Adults assist as needed. Emphasize that it’s OK for pictures to duplicate themes or ways of caring.

Display the completed collage in the room for the rest of the month.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How many different ways does God have of taking care of you?** (Take answers.) **Can we always see His care?** (The Israelites didn’t see it when they were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army.) **How do you know that you are special to God?** Read aloud Matthew 10:29-31. **Whenever you start to worry, remember that God loves you more than the birds. And remember today’s message. Let’s say it together:**



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

You Need:

- magazines
- poster board or large piece of paper
- glue
- scissors
- wide-tipped marker
- markers or crayons
- Bible

4

Sharing the Lesson

Coupon Books

Provide the children with markers and small rectangular shapes of paper in various colors so they can make and decorate “coupons.” Encourage the children to decorate each “coupon” and either write or draw pictures to indicate different types of “grace” they want to give someone else to show that they care for and love that person. Ideas include: a car wash, get your bed made, do the dishes, rake your yard, play quietly while Mom talks on the phone, etc. These coupons may be taken and offered to family or friends during the following week. Explain that the gift they are giving away is much like the grace God gives us all the time. We don’t do anything to earn it or deserve it. He just gives it to us because He loves and cares for us.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are you going to tell the person to whom you give the coupon?** (I am doing this because I care about you. God helps us and saves us because He cares about us.) **How do you feel when you do a caring act for someone else?** (happy, glad that I did it, etc.) **How do you think God feels when He shows His love and care to someone?** (He is happy because He feels deep love for those whom He created.) **What is today’s message? Let’s say it:**



GOD HAS A PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

You Need:

- markers
- small rectangular shapes of paper in various colors

Closing

Sing together “God Knows Me” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 47). In your prayer, thank God for His plan of salvation and daily care.

You Need:

- *Sing for Joy* songbook

Miraculous Rescue!

References

Exodus 13:17-22;
14; Patriarchs
and Prophets,
pp. 281-290

Memory Verse

“Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today” (Exodus 14:13).

The Message

God has a plan to take care of me.

Briana and her sister were so excited! Their parents were taking them and their little brother on a long trip across the country to visit relatives. They had never been to that place before, but Dad had said that if they followed the directions from the GPS, they would be all right. A long time ago God’s people, the Israelites, went on a journey to a place they had not been before. They had God’s powerful Spirit to guide them. We don’t know what it was like for children back then, but it may have been like this:

The evening breeze off the Red Sea was refreshing. Asher welcomed the chance to rest his aching legs. What a whirl the past few days had been—sacrificing the lamb, sprinkling its blood on the doorpost, then roasting it and eating it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It was the last meal he’d eaten in the only home he’d ever known.

He remembered the rest of that night. God’s angel had swept through the land of Egypt and had killed the firstborn in Egyptian homes. Pharaoh had been furious. He had ordered the Israelites out of the country immediately. Asher had felt excited but anxious at the same time about leaving in the middle of the night,

not knowing where they were going.

Then he realized that God Himself was leading them by the pillar of fire at night that turned into a pillar of cloud as the sun rose and day dawned.

Now the cloud had stopped by the Red Sea, and the Israelites were enjoying the rest.



Asher wondered what might happen next. He didn’t have to wait long.

“Look! Out there on the horizon! Can you see it? Can you hear it?” A messenger ran through camp. “The Egyptians are coming!”

Asher and others jumped to their feet. Way out on the edge of the desert they could see a cloud of dust. They could hear the roar of a mighty army. Asher’s heart jumped into his throat. Pharaoh must have changed his mind. The army was coming to take them back to Egypt!

Panic swept through the crowd. “Where’s Moses?” the people wailed. “Why did he bring us out here to die? Was it because there were no graves in Egypt? It would have been better for us to be slaves in Egypt than to die out here in the desert.”

“Do not be afraid,” Moses said firmly. The sound of his voice quieted the crowd. “Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Asher watched as the cloud that had been resting by the Red Sea moved. It passed over the Israelite people and out into the desert. Finally, it rested between the Israelites and the Egyptians.

Moses walked to the edge of the Red Sea and held his staff out over the water. Gently at first, and then more strongly, Asher felt a wind blowing toward the water. With astonishment he watched the wind blow the water aside. It was leaving behind a dry path through the sea!

“Come,” ordered Moses. “The Lord is preparing a way of escape for you. He will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his horsemen.”

Joyfully the people rushed forward. The wind continued to blow a dry path as thousands of Israelites stepped into the dry seabed. Asher hurried to follow the others across the dry seafloor. A wall

of water stood on either side of him. The pillar of fire illuminated the way.

All night the huge crowd of Israelites hurried through the sea. As the last of the crowd reached the far side, they could hear the Egyptian army pursuing. Asher looked back to see the army rushing toward them. But something amazing was happening. Wheels were coming off their chariots! There was confusion, and then it looked as if they were trying to turn around and go back to Egypt!

Just then Moses stepped up to the bank of the sea. As dawn broke he once again stretched his hand across the sea. The waters flowed back together! In an instant the sounds of the Egyptian army were quieted. The soldiers, and their chariots, were all gone under the waves.

The Israelite community just stared, too stunned to say a word. Then the roar erupted. "Sing to the Lord!" the people shouted. "The Lord is my strength and my song!" Asher joined them, shouting with all his might. God had saved them!

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, find a quiet place where you can see the sky clearly. Lie down while you look at the sky. Do you see clouds? Try to imagine that you are looking at the pillar of cloud that cared for the Israelites. Then read your Bible lesson story together.
- Read Exodus 14:13. Teach the verse to your family.
- Sing "Anywhere With Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 45).

Sunday

- During family worship, read Exodus 13:17-22.
- Find a map of the Israelites' journey in a Bible. Ask your family to help you trace the journey. Copy or trace the map. Save it for tomorrow.
- Review your memory verse.

Monday

- Read Exodus 14:1-10 together during worship.
- On the map made yesterday, color the mountains, desert, and the Red Sea. Add names of the important cities and the route the Israelites traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land.
- Say your memory verse to an adult.
- Sing "All Through the Day" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 49). Thank God for leading you every day.

Tuesday

- During family worship, read Exodus 14:11-22.
- God had a plan to save Israel. Find one step in Exodus 13:16. Another step is found in Exodus 13:17. Now read Exodus 14:21, 22 to find another. Draw some steps on paper. On each, write a step in God's plan. Remember, God also has a plan to take care of you.
- On the map used Monday, trace the Israelites'

travels. Say your memory verse as you do so.

Wednesday

- Read Exodus 14:23-31 together in family worship today.
- Make a collage or drawing of what it was like to cross the Red Sea. Cut out pictures of people, fish, etc., and paste them on paper against a background of water. Add a cotton "pillar of cloud" above the sea.
- Look online or in a book or encyclopedia about sea life. Learn something new.
- Say your memory verse. Tell what it means in your own words.

Thursday

- During family worship, say your memory verse. Some Bibles read "Stand still." Read Psalm 46:10. What do you think this verse means? Tell about a time it was hard for you to "stand still."
- Pray with your family that you will "stand still," that you will have confidence that God will take care of you.
- Sing together "In His Time" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 42).

Friday

- For worship today, tell your lesson story to your family. Use your map, step diagram, and Red Sea picture.
- Read Psalm 106:7-12 together. Then read Psalm 107:6 and 8. Count how many times the words of verses 6 and 8 are repeated throughout Psalm 107. When you pray, praise Jesus for His goodness during the past week. Mention at least one specific thing for which you are thankful.
- Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.