

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Bondage: The Exodus*

Lesson Objective:

This week we study the Exodus, or the Israelites rescue from Egyptian bondage. The lesson covers the last plague, the death of the first-born, the Passover, and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. These are the main aspects to the story in the curriculum this week. The Exodus is a huge theme in the rest of Scripture as it points ultimately to God's own rescue of us from our bondage of sin.

Teaching Points:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God's people, the Israelites, were servants to the Egyptians. The Egyptians were very mean and cruel to the Israelites.
- God commanded Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses had help from his brother Aaron.
- God would use Moses to tell Pharaoh what he wanted: For Pharaoh to let God's people go so that they could worship Him. Pharaoh did not believe God and did not want to let the Israelites go free.
- God demonstrated that He was in control, and not Pharaoh. God sent plagues to show that He was in control. In the last plague, many Egyptian children died — even Pharaoh's oldest son.
- God instructed his people to observe a ceremony called "Passover." This was a very special time for the Israelites and it's a ceremony they still celebrate today.
- God led the Israelites by a cloud of smoke during the day and a column of fire at night.
- God rescued the Israelites at the Red Sea by parting it for them to walk through; however, the Egyptians did not make it through. God closed the sea on the Egyptians before they could get to the Israelites.

Scripture: Exodus 12; 13:17-14:31

Story: *Vos The Child's Story Bible*, Pages 69-74; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 58-65; *Jesus Story Book Bible*, Pages 84-99; *The Beginner's Bible*, Pages 103-119; *The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 56-75

Scripture Memory for February:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel (*cup your hands around your ears*)

The Lord our God, the Lord (*point up towards the sky*)

is one. (*index finger extended up signaling a "1"*)

You (*point towards kids or audience*)

shall love (*cross hands and arms across the middle of your chest*)

the Lord your God (*point upwards*)

with all your heart (*make a heart sign in the middle of your chest*)

with all your soul (*take both hands, fingers straightened and point back to yourself*)

and with all your might (*flex arms out to the side*).

Craft: Parting the Red Sea

Supplies: Blue cardstock, brown paper strip, Moses, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Place blue paper fish-side up.

2. Fold left and right edges in along dotted lines (on back of paper).

3. Glue brown strip to center of paper (parted sea).

4. Glue tab at base of Moses in the middle of the parted sea - crease to make Moses stand.

5. Children may color Moses and add rocks to the dry passageway in the sea.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Review

Last week we discovered that God sent eight more plagues after Moses turned the Nile River into blood. Plagues were a punishment to Pharaoh and Egypt. God wanted Pharaoh to let His people go so they could worship Him. But Pharaoh remained stubborn and would not obey God. The last plague from last week was darkness that filled the whole land. No one could see during the day and of course at night. Pharaoh was annoyed with the darkness and all the plagues, so he promised to let God's people go. But as the darkness lifted, Pharaoh's heart changed. He decided to keep God's people in Egypt! Pharaoh lied! Pharaoh was also very angry with Moses, and said, "Get out of here. Never come back to my palace again!"

Pharaoh thought He was in charge. No one could be more powerful than him, not even the God of the Israelites. But Moses knew God was more powerful than Pharaoh, and anyone else for that matter. What came next was the harshest and most serious plague; God was going to make sure Pharaoh would let His people go.

The Last Warning

Our story picks up in Exodus 11. This is what God told Moses about the next and final plague, "I have one more way to punish Pharaoh and the people of Egypt. After this, Pharaoh will send all of you away from Egypt. When he does, he will force you to leave completely. Tell the men and women of Israel to ask their neighbors for things made of silver and gold."

Although Pharaoh had told Moses to never come back to his palace, Moses went one last time. "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight tonight I will go through all Egypt. Every firstborn son in the land of Egypt will die. The firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, will die. Even the firstborn of the slave girl grinding grain will die. Also, the firstborn farm animals will die. There will be loud crying everywhere in Egypt. It will be worse than any time before or after this,'" Moses said to Pharaoh. God had promised that not one Israelite or their animals would be hurt. Moses went on, "Then you will know that the Lord treats Israel differently from Egypt. Then all your officers will come to me. They will bow facedown to the ground before me. They will say, 'Leave and take all your people with you.' After that, I will leave." Then Moses stormed out of Pharaoh's palace.

God had told Moses before that Pharaoh would remain stubborn. Pharaoh would not listen to Moses and he would not obey God. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

The Passover

God then told Moses to share some very special and important instructions with His people, "Every person is to have lamb to eat, and if a family does not have enough people to eat the whole lamb, then they will invite over friends and neighbors." The lamb could not be sick or hurt — it must be perfect. As soon as the sun goes down, the lamb will be killed and roasted over a fire. Each home must take some of the blood and wipe it on the sides and tops of the doorframes. Not only must the whole lamb be eaten, God also wanted the Israelites to be fully dressed "as if you were going on a trip. You must have your sandals on, and you must have your walking stick in your hand. You must eat in a hurry." The Israelites must be prepared to leave at once.

God told Moses this meal would be called the Lord's Passover. God then told Moses what would happen one more time. "That night I will go through the land of Egypt. I will kill all the firstborn of animals and people in the land of Egypt. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. But the blood will be a sign on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. Nothing terrible will hurt you when I punish the land of Egypt." This is why it was called the Passover because God would pass over the homes that had the blood of the lamb on the outside. The blood of the lamb would save the people in the home.

This would be a sad day for the Egyptians and a wonderful day for the Israelites. God was going to rescue His people, but because of Pharaoh's stubbornness, it would be painful for the Egyptians. God told Moses and the Israelites to "always

remember this day. Celebrate it with a feast to the Lord. Your descendants are to honor the Lord with this feast from now on" ... "because on this very day I brought you out of the land of Egypt." God wanted His people to always remember. "You must keep this command. This law is for you and your descendants from now on. Do this when you go to the land the Lord has promised to give to you. When your children ask you, 'Why are we doing these things?' you will say, 'This is the Passover sacrifice to honor the Lord. When we were in Egypt, the Lord passed over the houses of Israel. The Lord killed the Egyptians, but he saved our homes.'" Every year when Israelites would gather for the Passover feast, they would remember how the Lord saved them out of the land of Egypt.

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together. He told them exactly what God had instructed. To obey God, meant death would pass over the house of each Israelite family. To obey God, meant life. After hearing Moses' instructions, the people bowed down and worshipped God.

The Tenth Plague

The Bible tells us at midnight the Lord killed all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt just as he said. The firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, died. Even the firstborn of the prisoner in jail died. All the firstborn farm animals died. Pharaoh, his officers and all the Egyptians got up during the night. Someone had died in every house. There was loud crying everywhere in Egypt.

During the night Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. He said to them, "Get up and leave my people. You and your people may do as you have asked. Go and worship the Lord. Take all of your sheep and cattle as you have asked. Go. And also bless me." The Egyptians also asked the Israelites to hurry and leave. They said, "If you don't leave, we will all die!"

The people of Israel took their possessions and left Egypt; just as God had promised. The people of Israel did what Moses told them to do. They asked their Egyptian neighbors for things made of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord caused the Egyptians to think well of the Israelites. The Bible tells us there were about 600,000 men walking. This does not include the women and children. Many other people who were not Israelites went with them. A large number of sheep, goats and cattle went with them.

The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. On the day the 430 years ended, the Lord's people left Egypt. That night the Lord kept watch to bring them out of Egypt.

God's People Go

God's people left Egypt quickly. But they had never left Egypt before; they had no idea where they were going. But the Lord showed them the way. During the day he went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. And during the night the Lord was in a pillar of fire to give them light. They could travel during the day or night. The pillar of cloud was always with them during the day. And the pillar of fire was always with them at night. A pillar is a tunnel that goes up and down, from the sky to the ground. It went way high into the sky. And at the bottom it spread out like a big cloud (show it widening). During the daytime, it looked like a big cloud. The Israelites followed it. But at night, when it was dark, it became a pillar of shiny, bright fire. Then God's people could see it clearly. When the Israelites saw the pillar, they knew God was with them. The Israelites kept on walking until they got close to a big sea called the Red Sea. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to camp for the night near the Red Sea. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are lost, trapped by the desert.' Pharaoh has remained stubborn, so he will chase after them. But I will defeat Pharaoh and his army. This will bring honor to me. Then the people of Egypt will know that I am the Lord." The people of Israel did just as they were told.

Pharaoh was told that the people of Israel had already left. Once again Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. Not only was Pharaoh upset but so was his army. "What have we done? We have let the people of Israel leave. We have lost our slaves!" they exclaimed. Pharaoh went after the Israelites. He took over 600 chariots from Egypt to go get the Israelites back. Pharaoh eventually caught up with the Israelites while they were camped by the Red Sea. The Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army coming after them. They were very frightened and cried to the Lord for help.

They said to Moses, “What have you done to us? Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in the desert? There were plenty of graves for us in Egypt. We told you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone! Let us stay and serve the Egyptians.’ Now we will die in the desert.”

But Moses answered, **“Don’t be afraid! Stand still and see the Lord save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again after today. You will only need to remain calm. The Lord will fight for you.”**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Command the people of Israel to start moving. Raise your walking stick and hold it over the sea.” As soon as Moses held his walking stick over the sea, something incredible happened. The sea split down the middle and the Israelites began to cross the sea on dry land.

The ground was not wet or even muddy! As the Israelites began to cross over, the angel of God protected them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of the people and stood behind them. The cloud came between the Egyptians and the people of Israel. It made the Egyptians confused and kept them from the Israelites. All day and all-night Moses held his hand over the sea. The Lord kept the sea split – a wall of water on both sides – so His people could walk on dry land.

Finally, all the Israelites had crossed over the Red Sea. And eventually Pharaoh, his chariots, and army followed the Israelites into the sea. But something strange happened. The wheels to the chariots got stuck. The Egyptians panicked and shouted, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them and against us Egyptians!”

Then the Lord told Moses, “Hold your hand over the sea. Then the water will come back over the Egyptians, their chariots and chariot drivers.” So, Moses raised his hand over the sea and the water crashed down on the Egyptians. All of Pharaoh’s army that had followed the Israelites into the sea were covered. Not one of them survived.

The people of Israel crossed the sea on dry land. There was a wall of water on their right and on their left. So that day the Lord saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. And the Israelites saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore. When the people of Israel saw the great power that the Lord had used against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord. And they trusted the Lord and his servant Moses.

Israel Rejoices

The Lord saved Israel that day. God’s people saw the great work God had done. They knew God had saved them. Only He could make a dry path in the sea. The Bible says they had a great big celebration. God saving His people would change them forever.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- God’s people were in bondage in Egypt. (Yes)
- God sent Moses and Aaron to rescue His people. (Yes)
- Pharaoh had a stubborn heart and refused to let God’s people go. (Yes)
- The last plague was the death of the firstborn whose homes did not have lamb’s blood on the door posts. (Yes)
- Pharaoh never let the Israelites go. (No! After the death of the firstborn, he let the Israelites go.)
- God told the Israelites to eat a lamb to remember God’s saving them. (Yes)
- The Israelites were to eat fully dressed, ready to leave at once. (Yes)
- The Israelites left Egypt and made a map. (No! God used a pillar of clouds and a pillar of fire to guide them.)
- The Israelites camped near the Red Sea. (Yes)
- The Israelites built boats to cross the Red Sea. (No! God made the sea split so the Israelites could cross.)
- God protected the Israelites while they crossed the sea. (Yes)
- The Egyptians also made it across the sea and captured the Israelites. (No! God made the sea come down and it drowned the Egyptian army.)
- Pharaoh refused to obey God and let His people go. (Yes)