

*Get Ready!***Moses Leads the People**

By: Linda Carlblom

**Text**

Exodus 12:31-16:36

Key Quest Verse

“Do not be afraid . . . the LORD will fight for you” (Exodus 14:13-14).

Bible Background

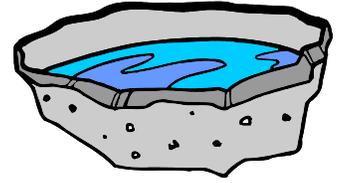
God gave the Hebrews a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire so they would know day and night that God was with them on their journey to the promised land. This showed His great power and His great love for His people. Moses perseverance helped lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The people were hostile and despairing, but Moses encouraged them to watch the wonderful way God would rescue them.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** God loves us and will take care of us.**Feel:** Safe in God's care.**Do:** Pray to God when they're afraid.**Leader's Devotion**

So often life's problems can overwhelm us. We feel totally incapable of doing anything, so we are paralyzed in fear, not even knowing where to begin to solve our dilemma. Strange as it may sound, that is the best place to be. For it is then that we move out of the way and let God take over. We have no other choice because we know we are in way over our heads. So, it was with the Israelites as they stood on the bank of the Red Sea with the Egyptian army fast approaching. It seemed hopeless. They turned on Moses, who only the day before had been their hero. They forgot how close God was, even though the pillar of cloud went before them.

Moses answered their terrified complaints. "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today . . . The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Then the angel that spoke to Moses stood behind the great throng of Israelites and the pillar of cloud also went behind them. It formed a visible shield of protection between the people and the Egyptian army as they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. What a loving God to do that for His people.

God says the same thing to us today when we face overwhelming circumstances. "Stand firm. Don't be afraid. Be still. I will fight for you." You need only to be still and trust.

Get Set!**Option A****HOLD IT BACK!**

Materials: A tub of water

Procedure: I have a tub of water here that I need some help with. I've been trying and trying to get the water on this side of the tub to stay there and the water on the other side to stay there. But, I can't get them to stay on their own sides. They keep mixing together. I want to have a dry section of tub in the middle. Can you help me? (Have children come help you try to hold the water apart.) You can't seem to do it either. Why not? Right. It's impossible. But wait. I remember a Bible story where that's exactly what happened. Let's listen.

Story Tie-In: Only God can hold water back like He did with the Red Sea.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B**I'M SCARED!**

Materials: None



Procedure: Have you ever had a bad, scary dream? What did you do? (Called my parents, hid under my covers.) How did that dream make you feel? (Afraid.) In our Bible story today, the Israelites were very afraid. The Egyptians were chasing them, but it wasn't a dream. It was real. Let's hear what happened.

Story Tie-In: We can pray when we're afraid, just like Moses did when he led the Israelites.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Remember last week we talked about the plagues and how Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites leave? Well, finally, he said yes! So, Moses led this huge crowd of people out of Egypt and into the desert. They had to leave so quickly, they didn't have time to let their bread dough rise, so it turned out flat like crackers. God was with them in this adventure. He put a big, tall cloud in front of them to show them which way to go. They went wherever this cloud led them.

Finally, the cloud led them to the Red Sea. But, Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting the Israelites leave and his army was coming after them! They were trapped by this huge sea, and it was too big to go around. How do you think that made the Israelites feel? (Afraid, angry.) They were scared and mad at Moses and said, "did you lead us out here so we could die? We should have stayed in Egypt!"

Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God is with us. He will fight for us." What do you think Moses did next? Moses prayed to God. God told him to hold his walking stick over the water and see what happened. So Moses obeyed. He held his stick out over the water and the water split apart like two huge walls of water. There was a dry trail right through the middle of the Red Sea for the people of Israel to walk safely to the other side without even getting their feet muddy. Isn't God awesome? But oh, no! Pharaoh's army started to cross right behind them! So, when all the Israelites had made it to the other side, God closed the Red Sea up and the walls of water fell right on top of Pharaoh's army. They all died and never caused the Israelites trouble again.

The Israelites were so happy and thankful for God's mighty protection. Our Bibles tell us that Moses' sister, Miriam, sang and danced and played a tambourine to praise God and to thank Him for taking such good care of them.

So, what can we remember to do when we're afraid like the Israelites were? (Let children answer.) We can pray to God, and He will help us.

Go!**Red Sea Snack**

FOOD: Check for food allergies!

Materials: Graham crackers, whipped cream colored blue with food coloring

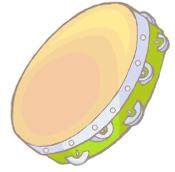
Quest Connection

God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross to safety.

Procedure: Give each child a square of Graham cracker. **This Graham cracker is like the desert that Moses led the Israelites across to get away from Egypt and mean King Pharaoh. It was dry and hard. Then they came to the Red Sea.** Put a dollop of blue whipped cream on top of each cracker. **What would they do? (Pray.) They prayed and Moses stretched his walking stick out over the water and the water parted. Take your finger and make a line through the whipped cream on your cracker. You can part the Red Sea! The Israelites walked through on dry ground. What happened when Pharaoh's army came after them? (The water fell on them and they died.) You can make the water go back down again. Now lick your fingers and enjoy your snack!**

Close

Let's thank God for always taking care of us, even when we're afraid.

Go!**Praise Him Tambourines****MUSIC**

Materials: Paper plate, yarn, 2 or 3 jingle bells, crayons

Quest Connection

Miriam led the people in a song and dance with a tambourine. We can praise God with tambourines, too.

Procedure: Tie 2-3 jingle bells together with yarn, leaving about a three-inch tail yarn tail hanging. Give each child a paper plate. Let them decorate the plate with crayons. Poke a hole in the center of the plate and thread the yarn tail through. Tie a knot in yarn at the back of the plate to hold jingle bells in place. Be sure you don't secure the bells too tightly to the plate or they may not jingle as well. Tape the knotted yarn tail to the back of the plate for extra hold.

Close

Let's sing "Jesus Loves Me" and play our tambourines.

Go!**Parachute Play****GAME**

Materials: A blue sheet and a tan sheet or towels

Quest Connection

The Red Sea had lots of big waves. It scared the Israelites, because they didn't know how to get across it safely.

Procedure: Go outside, weather permitting, and spread the blue sheet out on the ground. Have children stand on each side of the sheet and hold the edge. The Red Sea may have had big waves in it. Let's make big waves with our sheet by carefully lifting it up and down. (Lift sheet up and down.) **This Red Sea looks too scary for the Israelites to cross, don't you think? What should we do when we're afraid? (Pray.) Right! Let's pray right now. Dear God, please help us not to be afraid. Help us to trust in You. Show us what we should do about this scary Red Sea. Amen. What did God do when Moses prayed and held his walking stick over the water? (He parted the Sea.) Let's lay the sheet down on the ground. God made a path through the water so the Israelites could walk through on dry ground, didn't He? (Lay the tan sheet or towels across the blue sheet to form a path all the way across it.) Let's walk across through the Red Sea on this dry ground like the Israelites did. Who would like to be Moses and lead us across? (Choose one child and have everyone follow him across the Red Sea. Repeat procedure if time allows so each child who wants to be Moses has a turn.)**

Close

When we are afraid, we can trust God to help us if we ask Him to.

Go!

Red Sea Banana Splits

FOOD: Check for food allergies!

Materials: Small paper plates, blue whipped cream, ½ banana per child, chocolate chips or raisins

Quest Connection

God split the Red Sea, because He loved the Israelites and wanted to protect them from the Egyptian army.

Procedure: Give each child a paper plate. Put some whipped cream on two sides of the plate. Slice ½ a banana in two lengthwise. Lay the flat side of each in the whipped cream. Put chocolate chips or raisins in the middle of the plate as if they are the Israelites crossing on dry ground.

Close

God loved the Israelites very much and wanted them to be safe. He loves us and will protect us, too.

Go!**Prince of Egypt****VIDEO**

Materials: Prince of Egypt video, a VCR and TV to play it on

Quest Connection

In our Bible story, Moses led the people out of Egypt right through the Red Sea. I have a video that shows what that may have looked like.

Procedure: Show the part of the video that shows Moses and the Israelites coming to the Red Sea. Stop after they make it safely across and the Egyptian army is swallowed up in the waters.

Close

WOW! Did you see how powerful God was? He really made the water in the Red Sea split apart and stand up like walls. This was only a movie about it. But, many years ago that really happened! Let's thank God for His power to be able to take care of us in any situation.

Go!**Discovery Area****EXPLORATION**

Materials: A tub of sand and a tub of water

Quest Connection

Moses led the Israelites through the desert and through the Red Sea.

Procedure: We have a tub of sand like in the desert and a tub of water like the Red Sea. You can walk your fingers (or plastic people) through the sand. Or, you can try to keep the water back on two separate sides like God did with the Red Sea.

Close

No matter where we are, God goes with us. He's always there to protect us and help us.

When I am afraid, I will . . .



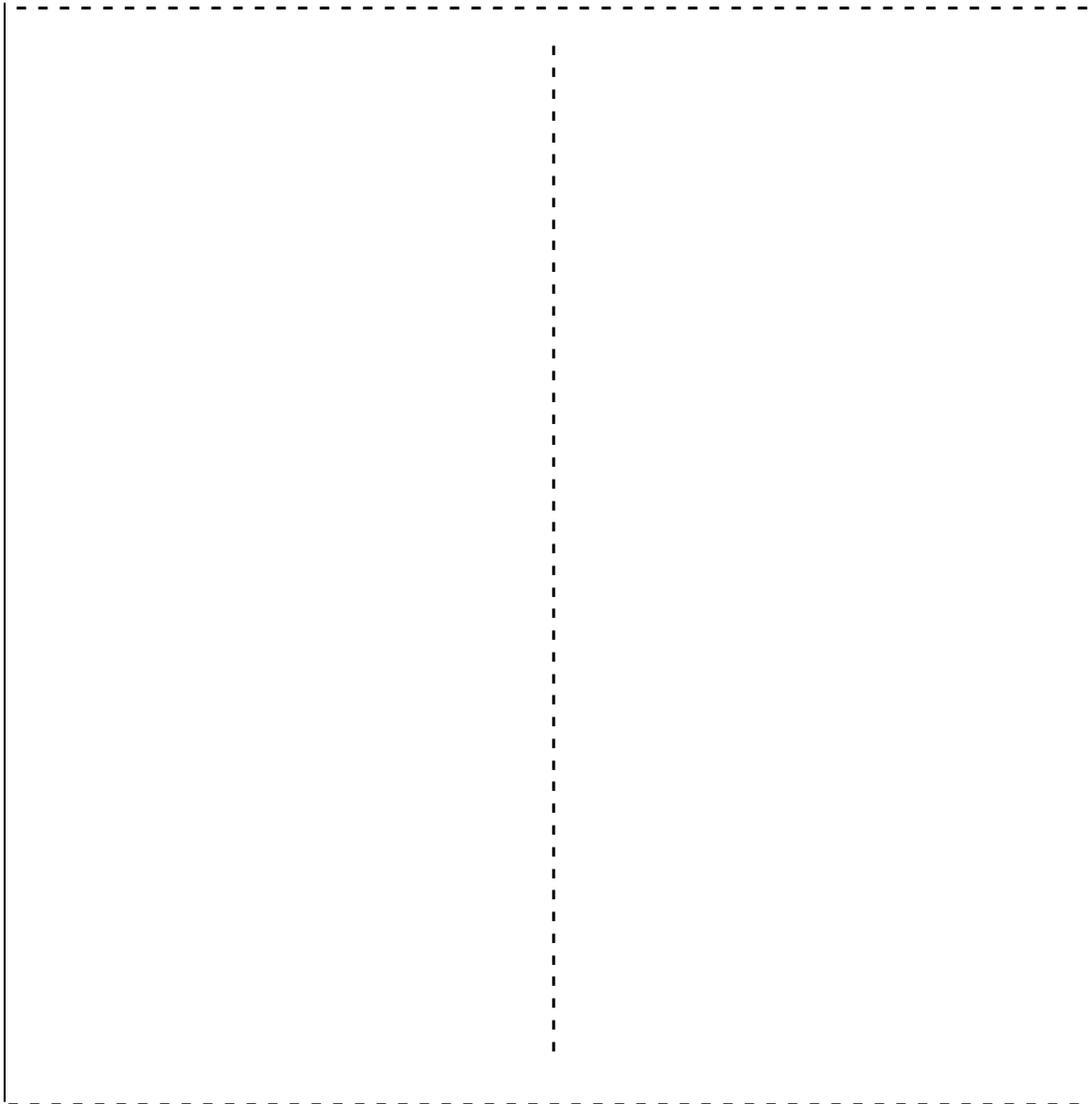
**“Do not be afraid . . . the LORD will fight for you”
(Exodus 14:13-14).**

Moses' sister, Miriam, praised God by dancing and singing with a tambourine after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. Draw yourself praising God with her.



**“Do not be afraid . . . the LORD will fight for you”
(Exodus 14:13-14).**

Color above and below the square brown like sand. Color the rest of the page blue like water. Cut along the dotted lines. Fold the flaps back on the solid lines. Tape a piece of sandpaper that's a little larger than the square to the back of the page to fill in the space you cut. As the flaps are lifted like the walls of the Red Sea, the children can walk their fingers through on the sandpaper. For extra effects, add stickers of fish and put blue saran wrap over the water portions of the picture.



**“Do not be afraid . . . the LORD will fight for you”
(Exodus 14:13-14).**

Journal Page

I know God loves me and will always take care of me. But, sometimes I still feel afraid. This is a picture of something I can do the next time I feel that way . . .

**“Do not be afraid . . . the LORD will fight for you”
(Exodus 14:13-14).**