

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

By: Jessica Cooper

**Text**

Exodus 12:31-16:36

**Key Quest Verse**

“God sticks by all who love him, but it’s all over for those who don’t” (Psalm 145:20, The Message).

**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 provides.

**Feel:** Safe and protected, even in scary situations.

**Do:** Give praise to God every day.

**Leader's Devotion**

Moses' story started out as a baby against a king, learning about Egyptians versus Israelites, and now slaves versus a huge armed military. Moses must have been seen by many as the underdog. Can you imagine the fear and uncertainty many of the Israelites must have felt? If God didn't prove His power during the plagues, He certainly proves it here. Unarmed slaves and little babies simply do not overthrow power. Unless, of course, God is cheering for the underdog.

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**Get Set!**

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**Option A****A FEAST****Materials:** None

**Procedure:** As children enter, ask them to remain standing up. Ask your class about the biggest meal they have ever eaten. Ask, **Did it take longer to eat your big feast then it usually takes to eat your usual food?** They will most likely say yes. **How would you feel if you had to be ready to leave for a big trip, even if your belly was really full?** Let students reply. **In our Bible story today, God asked the Israelites to do just that! Let's find out why!**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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**Option B****HOLDING WATER****Materials:** A pan of water, tongue depressor, piece of paper, rock, clear glass

**Procedure:** Ask the students to try and hold back the water using the tongue depressor, paper, rock, their hands, etc. Of course, they aren't able to do it. Put the glass in the water. Say, **see how the glass is forming a wall that holds back the water? Can anyone hold water back without a wall?** Let students respond. **Of course not! It takes a big piece of cement like a dam to keep water from entering a certain area. But, of course God is powerful enough to push the water into walls. It tells us about it in our Bible story today!**

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**



*Get Set!*



### Bible Story

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

**Materials:** A staff or walking stick, crackers, honey

**Procedure:** Tell the class that you are going to play Moses today, and they are the Israelites, so they need to follow you. Refresh everyone’s memory of the plagues. Say, **the last plague was the worst. The oldest child in each family was going to die. But, God told Moses to have all the Israelites take a lamb and prepare it for dinner. They were to take some of the blood from the lamb and paint the door with it. Let’s all act like we’re painting the door.** Go to the doorway and pretend to paint it. **They did this so death would ‘pass over’ their home. The Israelites were kept safe! Then they ate a quick meal that is called the Passover, so they could be ready to leave when Pharaoh freed them. When Pharaoh’s son died, he told the slaves to get out of Egypt!** Lead the kids outside. **After they left, Pharaoh was very upset. He told his army to go get them back! The Israelites ran, but they came to a dead end, the Red Sea.** Lead your students in a little jog, and end up at a gate or doorway. **But, God knew what was happening and He told Moses to raise up his staff and the water opened up! The land was dry and they could cross!** Raise your staff and open the gate or doorway so kids can “safely cross.” **After the slaves were on the other side of the sea, the Egyptians started coming across, but God was smart! He let them all get part way and then closed the water in again.** Close the door or gate. **All of the Egyptian army died. Do you remember Miriam?** Let kids respond. **She started singing and dancing to praise God, because He was so good to them! Soon, everyone was singing and dancing! Let’s follow Miriam’s lead and praise God.** Sing and dance. **Well, Moses and his people were in the wilderness and had to get some food and water. So, they kept walking and walking.** Walk, pretend to brush off trees and climb over rocks. **Finally they were too hungry to keep going. Fall to the ground in hunger. Moses prayed to God to provide for them. That night, birds (called quail) flew down for them to eat! And, in the morning when they woke up, there was flaky white stuff on the ground. No one knew what it was, and they asked each other “man-hu?” That means ‘what is it’ in Israeli. Moses told them to eat it, that God had sent it. Act like you’re gathering food off the floor. They named the food manna, because it sounded like “man-hu,” and that’s what they had said before they knew it was from God. They said it tasted kind of like a cracker with honey on it.** Give each person a cracker with honey.

**Go!**



## The Passover\*

**HISTORY** – \*Not the complete, traditional Seder meal.

**Materials:** Plate and cup for each student, a pillow or cushion at each place setting, bread, a hand towel, wooden spoon, napkins, grape juice, a basin of water and a towel, parsley, salt water, matzah, raw carrots and celery, horseradish, charoset (mix 2 cups finely chopped apples, 2 cups chopped walnuts, 2 tablespoons grape juice, and 2 teaspoons cinnamon), Four “WHY?” question cards: “Why do we eat matzah only on the Passover?” “Why do we eat bitter herbs at this meal?” “Why do we dip our food twice tonight?” “Why do we lean on a pillow tonight?”

## Quest Connection

The Israelites celebrated the Passover before they left Egypt.

**Procedure:** Before class, hide the bread (yeast). Have students try and find the yeast and, without touching it with their hands, scoop it into a napkin with the wooden spoon. **We rid the room of yeast to remember that the Israelites had no time to let their bread rise. They had to hurry and leave Egypt.** Pour each person a little bit of grape juice, just enough that they can drink it quickly. **We have a drink of our “wine” to start celebrating the Passover. Then we have little bit more.** Give each student a little bit more juice. **This glass of juice represents freedom from slavery.** When this is complete, have students line up to wash their hands. Wash your own in the basin, then wash your students hands and dry them with the towel. **We do this to remember that Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. We want to honor Jesus too, for all He’s taught us.** Have each person take a piece of parsley, a carrot and piece of celery and dip it in the salt water. **The parsley represents the slaves, because we don’t usually think of vegetables as being something all that wonderful, do we?! We dip it in salt water because tears taste kind of salty, and the slaves probably cried a lot when Pharaoh was mean to them.** Have everyone break off a small piece of matzah to eat. Pass out the four question cards, in the order noted above. To the first answer, **Matzah reminds us that when the Jews left the slavery of Egypt they had no time to bake their bread. They took the raw dough on their journey and baked it in the hot desert sun into hard crackers called matzah.** Next, **bitter herbs remind us of the bitter and cruel way the Pharaoh treated the Jewish people when they were slaves in Egypt.** Third, we dip bitter herbs into Charoset to remind us how hard the Jewish slaves worked in Egypt. **The chopped apples and nuts look like the clay used to make the bricks used in building the Pharaoh’s buildings. We dip parsley into salt water. The parsley reminds us that spring is here and new life will grow. The salt water reminds us of the tears of the Jewish slaves.** Finally, we lean on a pillow to be comfortable and to remind us that once we were slaves, but now we are free. Now we’ll take the parsley, carrots and celery again and dip them in the charoset to symbolize the mortar the Israelites used when they were slaves, and the sweetness Jesus reminds us of. Eat the parsley, carrots and celery, then another piece of Matzah.

## Close

Pour another cup of juice and say, **this juice reminds us that God forgives us of our sins, and makes us free!!**

**Go!****Stained Glass Goblet****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Clear plastic goblet (or cup) for each student, white glue, multicolored tissue paper, paintbrushes, scissors

**Quest Connection**

**To celebrate the Passover, most families have special dishware that they use only at the Seder meal.** Kids will make their own special glasses to remind them of the Israelites journey.

**Procedure:** Have students cut out small shapes to cover their goblet with. Starting at the bottom, glue the pieces to the cup. **DO NOT USE TOO MUCH GLUE OR THE COLOR WILL RUN.** When the cup is complete, use a paintbrush to paint a very thin coat over the top of the paper. Let dry.

**Close**

Explain to kids the Quest Connection. Say, **let's use our goblets to remember that God rescued the Israelites, and He will rescue us, too.**

**Go!****Red Sea Run****GAME****Materials:** Strips of cloth**Quest Connection****The Egyptians chased the Israelites.**

**Procedure:** Make two teams, the Israelites and the Egyptians. Tie a strip of cloth around each Egyptian's head. Designate a start and finish line a little ways apart from each other. Have the Israelites scatter around the "start" side and the Egyptians on the other. When you say "go," have the Egyptians chase the Israelites. The Israelites want to get to the finish line without being tagged by an Egyptian. If he gets tagged, he has to go back to the starting line. He cannot be tagged unless he is in the middle of the room (not behind the start or finish line). Once he is on the "finish" side, he should encourage his teammates to safely cross!

**Close**

**What was it like being chased? How did it feel when you got to the finish line?** Let students respond. **The finish line saved, you didn't it? Kind of like God saving the Israelites! Let's remember to always run to God when we're scared or need help.**

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**Go!**

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**Split Seas**

**FOOD:** Check for food allergies

**Materials:** A banana, graham cracker, and plate for each student, gummy bears or Teddy Grahams, fish shaped crackers

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**Quest Connection**

**Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea after God opened it up for them.**

**Procedure:** Cut bananas (the water) in half lengthwise. Lay a graham cracker (the dry ground) on a plate. Place the banana halves on either side of the cracker. Put fish crackers on the bananas and use the gummy bears or Teddy Grahams as the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

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**Close**

Prayer: **Lord, thank You for keeping the Israelites safe and protected even when things were hard. Help us remember that You'll do the same for us. Amen.**

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**Go!**

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**Special Guest****GUEST QUEST**

**Materials:** Someone (or a group of people) in your congregation with the ability to play a musical instrument

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**Quest Connection**

**Miriam lead the Israelites in praises to God.**

**Procedure:** Have your guest(s) play praise songs while your class dances and sings with them.

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**Close**

**Prayer: Thank You God for giving us music so we can praise You, just like Miriam and the Israelites did!**

**Go!****Potent Prayer Praise****CRAFT**

**Materials:** Assorted colors of Kool-Aid packets (red, blue, green and yellow perhaps) mixed with 1-2 tablespoons of water in small dishes, paintbrushes, blank paper, glue, markers, prayer and food cutouts for each child (see Teacher Resources)

**Quest Connection**

**God provided manna for the Israelites to eat in the wilderness, just like He provides food for us.**

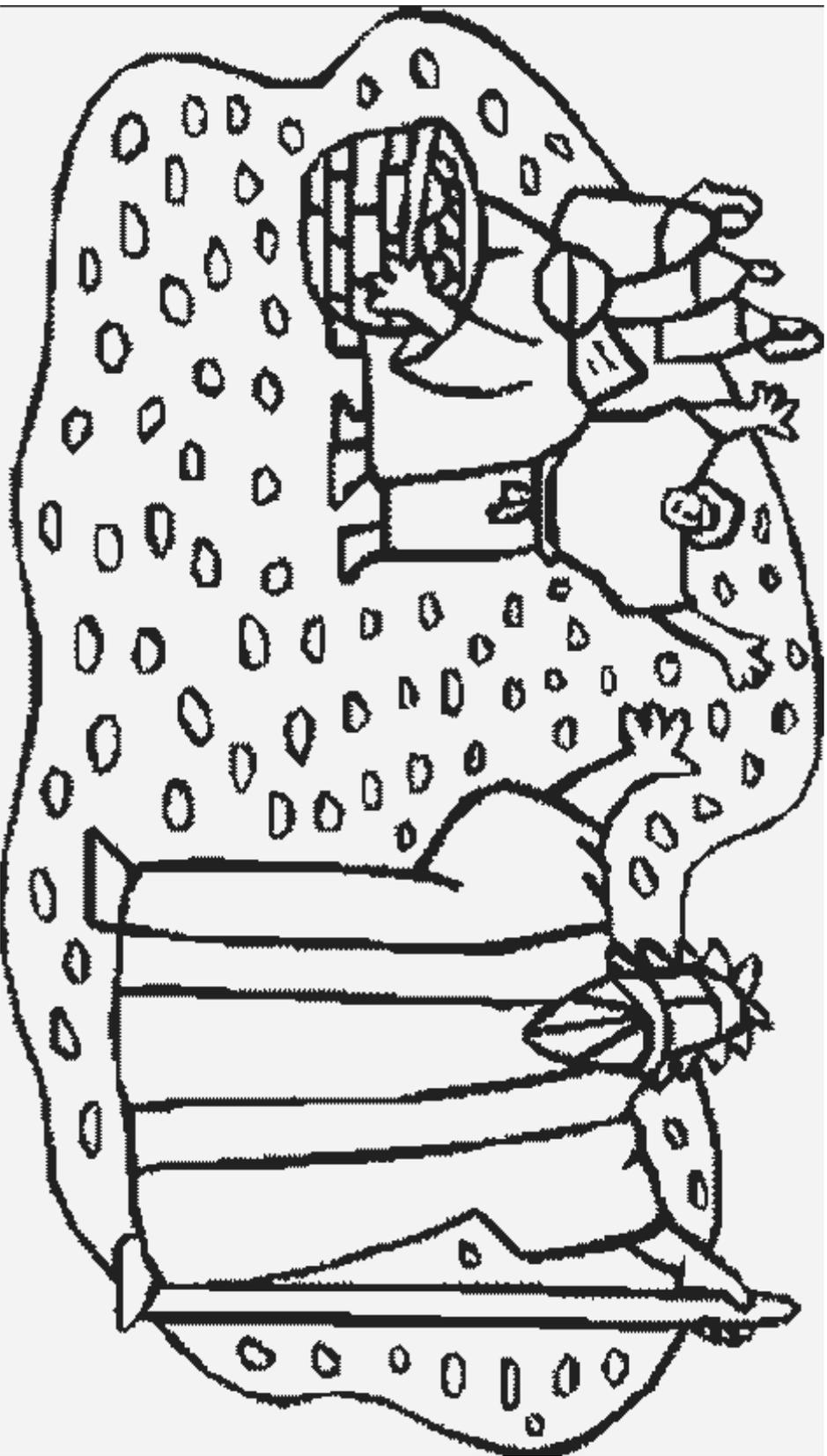
**Procedure:** Have children glue the prayer and food to their paper. They can then use markers or the Kool-Aid paints to color their food. When the paint dries, show kids how to scratch their painted food, and then smell it!

**Close**

**Now whenever we smell Kool-Aid, we can remember that God provides for us, just like He provided for Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness.**

## Manna from God

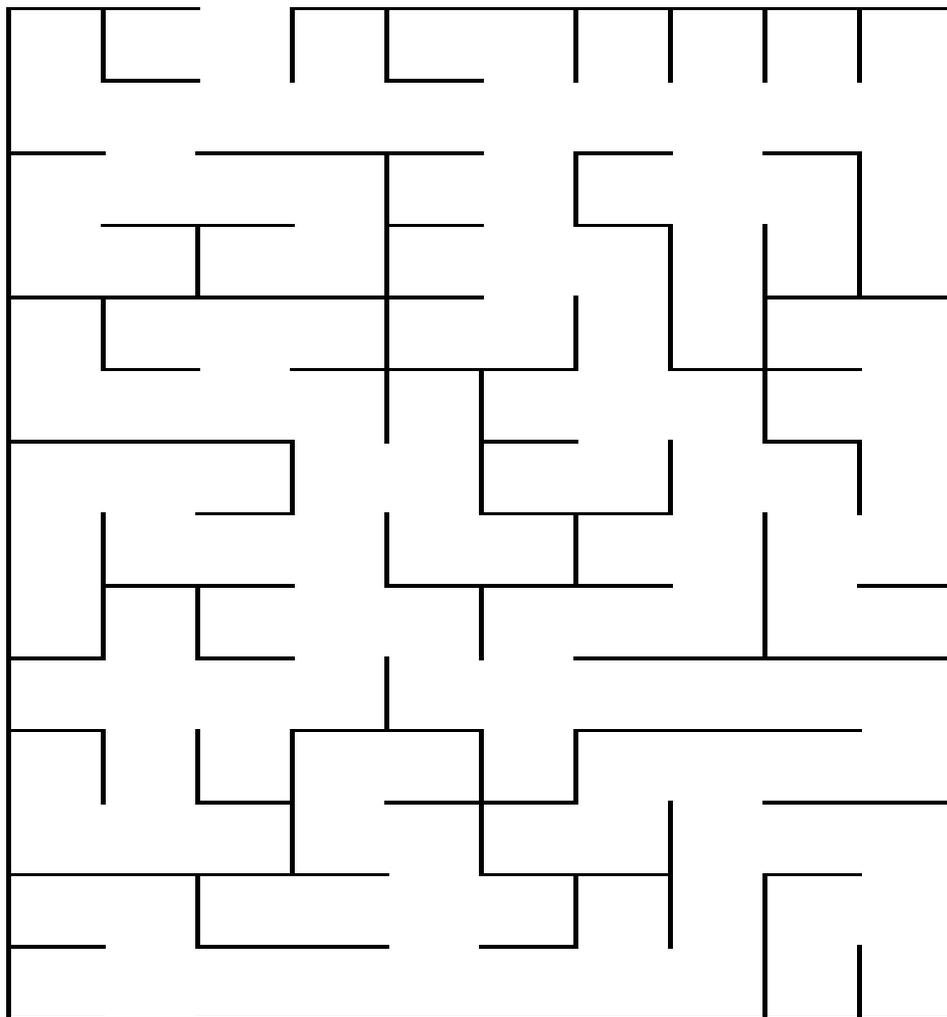
Make little pieces of 'manna' out of brown construction paper. Glue them onto the paper.



“God sticks by those who love him, but it’s all over for those who don’t.

Psalm 145:20

Help the Israelites escape from the Egyptian army and get to the instruments so they can praise God for His help.



**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.**

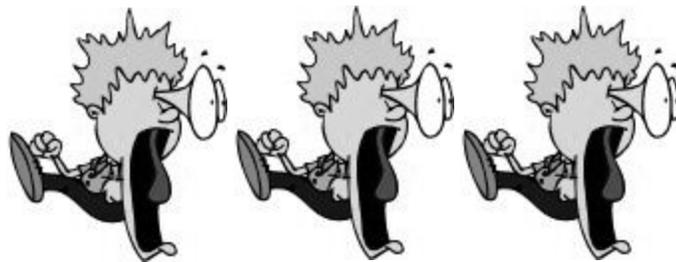




# Journal Page



Write or draw about a time you were scared and God helped keep you safe.



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