

God Makes a Way

The parting of the Red Sea and the 10 Commandments

Exodus 14; 16:11-16; 17:1-7; 19-20; 34:1-9, 29-32

Character Trait: Leadership

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that God provided His people with the Ten Commandments for their good.
- Children will discuss how leaders guide and encourage them.
- Children will share specific ways they can become better leaders.

Supplies:

- *God Makes a Way* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Black construction paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Red, yellow, and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pens and/or pencils
- Ten Commandments *(from the story, posted somewhere for the children to see)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine that they are in front of a large river, lake, or sea.

SAY: Now, imagine that an army is chasing you. Where can you go? How can you get away? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Tell the children to open their eyes.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn more about God's people, how they fled Egypt, and how God helped them when they were caught between the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What kinds of things happened when Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go?** *(God turned the water into blood, filled the Egyptian houses with frogs, and filled the skies with gnats and flies. God killed the animals of Egypt, covered the Egyptian people with sores, and sent hail to crush their crops. God sent locusts to eat what fruit remained. Then, God killed every firstborn son in Egypt where there was not blood from a lamb on the doorpost.)*
- **Why did God tell the Israelites to call this event Passover?** *(The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of His people's houses told Him to pass over and not kill the firstborn sons inside.)*
- **When did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go?** *(After his own son died)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God Makes a Way* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- After Pharaoh's son died in the tenth plague, he let the Israelites leave.
- They were near the Red Sea when Pharaoh changed his mind again and chased after them.
- When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's chariots, they were terrified.
- But God told Moses to raise his staff toward the Red Sea.
- God sent a strong wind and parted the sea!
- A dry path appeared, and the Israelites walked straight through the Red Sea!
- There was a wall of water on each side of them.
- They arrived safely on the other side.
- Pharaoh and his army followed them into the sea.
- God told Moses to stretch out his hand.
- Then the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army all drowned.
- God led His people through a wilderness.
- He fed them and gave them water.
- They camped at Mount Sinai, where God told Moses to meet Him on the mountaintop.
- Surrounded by fire and smoke, Moses climbed to the top, and God came down to meet him.
- Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets:
- Don't worship other gods.
- Don't make idols.
- Treat My name with respect.
- Treat the Sabbath day as a special day.
- Respect your parents.
- Don't murder.
- Be loyal to your husband or your wife.
- Don't steal.
- Don't lie.
- Don't envy people or what they own.
- Now the people knew how to obey God.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

How did God help the Israelites escape Pharaoh at the Red Sea? *(God told Moses to raise his staff. Then, God sent a strong wind and parted the sea. A dry path appeared for them to walk on.)*

What happened to Pharaoh and his army when they tried to follow the Israelites through the sea? *(God told Moses to stretch out his hand. Then, the sea rolled back again, and Pharaoh and his army drowned.)*

In what other ways did God care for His people? *(He led the Israelites through the wilderness, fed them, and gave them water. He also gave them the Ten Commandments.)*

Where did God meet and give Moses the Ten Commandments? *(Mount Sinai)*

What did the Ten Commandments teach God's people to do? *(They taught the Israelites how to obey God.)*

In what ways were the Ten Commandments for their good? *(Answers will vary but should include that they provided instruction and guidance to help the Israelites live well together and with God.)*

SAY: God did not just provide His people with freedom from slavery. He provided for their need for food and water and gave them guidance, too. He guided them through the wilderness and later provided the Ten Commandments, which taught them how to love and obey God. God provided these rules to His people for their good. God did this for the Israelites many, many years ago, and He still provides guidance for us today, too, through His Word, the Bible.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received instructions on how to love and obey God. Later, God's own Son, Jesus, would also show people how to love and obey God. God is good. He always provides us with the guidance we need.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

But Moses told the people *(cup hands around your mouth)*,
"Don't be afraid *(shake head from side to side)*.
Just stand still *(stand up straight and still)*
and watch the LORD rescue you today *(cross arms at wrists and move upward to release)*.
The Egyptians you see today *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
will never be seen again *(cover your eyes with your hands)*.

Exodus 14:13 (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Have the children line up, side-by-side, in a straight line outside. Create a finish line a short distance away from the children. Explain that when you shout "Green light!" they may run as fast as they can towards the finish line. However, when you shout "Red light!" they must stop and freeze. Anyone who continues moving is "out" of the game. Continue this process until one child reaches the finish line and wins the game.

SAY: Raise your hand if you thought it was difficult to stop when "Red light!" was called.

Tell the children to put their hands down. Then, call on a few volunteers to share why this was difficult. *(Answers will vary.)*

SAY: Now, imagine just how scared and worried the Israelites must have been when the Red Sea in front of them forced them to stop!



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: God provided the Israelites with the Ten Commandments to help them know how best to live. We are God's people, too, and can use these to help guide our actions also. Some of the rules tell us what not to do. They tell us to stop! Some tell us to be careful and choose our actions wisely. Still others give us specific instructions that we should go and do.

Provide each child with a black piece of construction paper. Then, instruct them to cut large circles out of red, yellow, and green paper. Demonstrate how to glue them down onto the black paper *(so that it looks like a traffic light)*. Next, provide each child with a pen or pencil. Instruct them to write each one of the Ten Commandments inside the appropriate colored "light." Use the chart below for reference:

RED **Stop! Don't...**	• Don't worship other gods. • Don't make idols. • Don't murder. • Don't steal. • Don't lie. • Don't envy people or what they own.
YELLOW **Be careful to...**	• Treat My name with respect. • Respect your parents. • Be loyal to your husband or your wife.
GREEN **Go! Do this...**	• Treat the Sabbath day as a special day.

For younger children...
The red and green circles can be cut out and labeled with the Ten Commandments in advance.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by encouraging them to write down specific ways they can respect their parents, respect God, and treat the Sabbath day special.

SAY: Traffic lights help keep everyone on the road safe. They tell drivers when to go, when to slow down, and when to stop. The Ten Commandments helped keep God's people safe, too, by teaching them how to live life God's way.

Character Trait: Leadership

(10 minutes)

SAY: Leadership means serving as an example and encouragement to others. Moses showed leadership by leading the Israelites to freedom and by sharing the Ten Commandments that God provided with them.

Encourage the children to think more about leadership by asking the following:

- **What people in your life provide an example of a good leader for you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How do they guide and encourage you?** *(Answers may vary.)*
- **Why are leaders important?** *(Answers will vary but may include because they teach, help, and inspire us.)*
- **In what ways are you a leader now?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Your choices, words, and actions are powerful. You can be a good or a poor leader for those all around you.

Think of one specific way that you can become a better leader for others in your life. *(Provide a few moments of silent thinking time. Then, invite a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include speaking words of love and kindness towards others, treating others with respect, and making choices that follow the example that Jesus set for us.)*

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: God was faithful to lead His people through the wilderness and continued to guide them by providing the Ten Commandments. Sometimes it may feel like we are wandering through the wilderness, too. We face struggles, pain, and difficult decisions, but God always provides guidance and help for us. We can learn about His ways by reading the Bible. We can seek wisdom from others, and we can talk to God in prayer.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for being faithful to provide for our needs, including our need for guidance. Help us to act with integrity so that we can be leaders that guide others to You.
Amen.

Notes