

# Just Us Little Guys

*A Series of Bible Study Lessons  
For Children 4-7 Years Old*

## Series 7

### Exodus: Moses - Promised Land

Lesson 1        Moses in the Bulrushes (Miriam)

Lesson 2        Moses and the Burning Bush

Lesson 3        Moses and Pharaoh (The Ten Plagues)

Lesson 4        The Passover

Lesson 5        Crossing the Red Sea

Lesson 6        The Ten Commandments

Lesson 7        The Promised Land

## Using these Lessons

### Each of these lessons:

- Is designed to work with children, ages 4-7 years old
- May be used separately, or in a series of lessons
- Is Bible-based and Christ-honoring

### Each of these lessons consists of 7 parts:

<u>Teacher Pep Talk:</u>	A few words of encouragement written especially for you, the teacher who will present the lesson. You'll also find a few Bible verses to review prior to teaching the lesson.
<u>What You will Need:</u>	A list of items you will need to present the lesson. Review over the suggested activities to see if you need any items for the ones you choose.
<u>Major Points:</u>	A list of the major points to be made during the lesson.
<u>Memory Verse:</u>	A verse of appropriate length for the age of the children.
<u>Lesson:</u>	Step by step ideas for presenting the Major Points to the children. Use your own words, embellish with your own stories or examples.
<u>Prayer:</u>	Pray with and for the children
<u>Suggested Activities:</u>	Games, crafts, or activities that allow the children to respond to the Lesson

### Teaching Tips:

Read over the **Teacher Pep Talk** and review the suggested **Bible Verses** in advance, so that the Bible truths will be in your own heart before you try to teach the children....

***This is the secret of being a good teacher!***

**Suggested Activities** are just that... **Suggestions!** You may think of even better games, crafts, drawings or activities to do with the children. If so, then DO THEM! Remember, you have different gifts and talents than anyone else. You may have different resources available. Ask God to help you be creative in ways to reach out to the children with His message!

The **Major Points** are the ideas that are to be conveyed to the children during the Lesson. These are stated in very simple terms, but they are vast concepts to propose. Children are AMAZING in that they can understand these very big things, even if they are stated in very simple words. Perhaps this is why our Savior instructed us that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to "such as these".

**Each time you teach children YOU SHOULD NOT FAIL TO DO THESE 3 THINGS:**

- LISTEN to them
- PRAY with and for them
- Let them see you READ from THE BIBLE

**LISTEN:** Sit on the floor with the children and ask them how their week went. Then LISTEN to the various children as they tell you something that is on their heart or mind. Often this takes time and effort, but the children NEED to be able to tell you about them, so that you can connect.

**PRAY:** At the beginning of your time together, pray with the children and for the children. You may wish to pray for some of their concerns or for your time together. Ask God to help you teach the lesson so that they will be blessed by it. Do this out loud. Children need to know that you pray and that they can pray as well.

**READ from the BIBLE:** Hold the Bible in your hands or in your lap and let the children SEE you read at least one verse from it. It is good for them to know that there is a reference where we may go to seek God's answers. If they see you read from it, they will learn that they may do so as well.

God bless you as you work with the children to present these great spiritual truths to them! May your work in the field bring a great harvest for the Kingdom of God!

With love in Christ,

*Sharon*

Special Note regarding the Old Testament Lessons: (Genesis and Exodus)

These are two great sets of lessons to help the children understand the sequence of the various events in the Old Testament Bible Stories. To help with this, plan a **TIMELINE** to be posted in your classroom.

The easiest way to do this is to stretch a piece of yarn, or clothesline, across one wall of your room. Explain to the children that it is a timeline, which begins at the beginning of time with creation and moves toward the present. (Many of them will know what a number line is; they are similar, as the time also increases as you go from left to right.)

As you learn the various stories, put up a piece of paper on the timeline for each one. Use one of the activity pages, if you like, for each lesson. This will help the children remember the story. Use clothespins to attach the paper to the timeline.

Each week or so, review the names of the stories on the timeline with the children. This will help them remember the stories and learn the order in which they occurred in history. You will be amazed at how much more they will learn if you use this method!

## Moses in the Bulrushes (Miriam)

**Teacher Pep Talk:** Not the most auspicious of beginnings... being placed in a basket and then deposited in a river... But, that is exactly what happened to baby Moses. In order to save him from Pharaoh's edict that all of the Hebrew male infants were to be killed, Moses' mother placed him in a basket of reeds, which she had covered with tar and pitch. With Moses' sister Miriam standing watch, she carefully placed the basket among the bulrushes at the bank of the river. When Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe, she found the basket and adopted Moses as her own son. The faithful Miriam then helped the princess find a nurse for Moses; happily, it was his own mother!

**You will need:** Bible  
Other items depending on the activities chosen

**Major Points:** Israel's Family (the Hebrews) Lived in Egypt  
Pharaoh Ordered the Hebrew Baby Boys Killed  
In Faith, Moses' Parents Hid Him  
Moses' Mother made a Basket for Him  
Miriam Watched over Moses in the Basket in the River  
Pharaoh's Daughter found the Baby  
Moses' Mother Took Care of Him

**Scripture Ref:** Exodus 1 and 2:1-10, and Hebrews 11:23

**Memory Verse:** Hebrews 11:23 *By faith Moses parents hid him...*

**Lesson:** **Israel's Family (the Hebrews) Lived in Egypt**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available – See series lessons instructions. The Genesis series ended with the story of Jacob/Israel being reunited with Joseph, his son, in Egypt.]*
- Jacob/Israel and his family had come to Egypt to escape the famine. It was a large family. They called them the Hebrews.
- They had stayed there for a long time (400 years!) That's a really long time! *(If we all held our fingers up it would be WAY more years than that! Let's count by hundreds to get to 400.)*
- In that long amount of time they had gone from being honored guests in Egypt to being full-time slaves in Egypt!
- The king (or Pharaoh) who had known them and liked them was gone... and now the new Pharaoh treated them as slaves.
- Not only that, but Pharaoh was just plain scared of the Hebrews. He thought there were too many of them!

### Pharaoh Ordered the Hebrew Baby Boys Killed

- Pharaoh wanted to get rid of the Hebrews, or at least to slow them down a little, so he ordered all their little baby boys killed.
- *What a terrible thing! Poor little Hebrew baby boys. What do you think? Should Pharaoh have done that? Why/ Why not?*
- During this time one special Hebrew family had a very special baby boy, his name was Moses. (*Repeat “Moses”*)

### By Faith, Moses' Parents Hid Him

- Moses had a mom and a dad, and a sister named Miriam
- The Bible says that **by faith** Moses' parents hid him from Pharaoh's order. (*Hebrews 11:23*)
- They didn't want to see their fine baby boy killed.
- *What do you think? Was that a good thing or a bad thing? It was a good thing. Even though Pharaoh had ordered the baby boys to be killed, the parents knew that was wrong.*
- They decided to do what was right because they believed in God. They didn't do the wrong thing that Pharaoh had ordered. Instead they hid their son and kept him safe.
- They trusted in God for his future (*and for theirs.*)

### Moses' Mother made a Basket for Him

- When the baby was 3 months old they realized they couldn't keep him hidden anymore. After all, he was getting pretty big!
- *[For this next part you will need a volunteer from the audience. ☺ Ask one child, preferably one who has a baby sister or brother at home, to come up and make crying noises like an infant. The child should get louder as you go along, trying to talk over them. Have fun... You may want to warn neighboring teachers about potential noise. ☺]*
- How many of you have ever heard a baby cry? (*Cover your ears and talk more loudly.*) How loud are they? (*Talk even more loudly.*) They can be pretty LOUD, can't they?! Especially if they are HUNGRY! Or MAD about something! It's pretty hard to hide a baby who is that LOUD! (*OK... thank you... that's enough crying for now!*)
- So, Moses' parents realized that they couldn't hide him forever.
- Moses' mother got a special basket made out of reeds and then covered the outside of it with tar so that it would float and be watertight. Then she put baby Moses in the basket and placed it carefully in the reeds next to the bank in the river.

### Miriam Watched over Moses in the Basket in the River

- Moses had an older sister, named Miriam
- Miriam stayed and watched over the basket in the river to see what would happen to baby Moses.

**Pharaoh's Daughter found the Baby**

- About that time, Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe
- As she was walking along the river, she saw the basket and she heard a baby crying (*Have someone make crying sounds. ☺*)
- She sent her servant girl to get the basket and bring it to her
- They opened the basket and found baby Moses inside!
- Pharaoh's daughter knew it was one of the Hebrew babies
- She felt sorry for him. (*Awwwww!*)

**Moses' Mother Took Care of Him**

- Miriam, who was still watching all of this, came and asked Pharaoh's daughter "Would you like for me to find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"
- Pharaoh's daughter thought that was a great idea
- So Miriam went and found one of the Hebrew women. GUESS which of the Hebrew women she went and found! (*Wait for some guesses.*)
- She went and found HER MOTHER... who of course was ALSO Moses' mother!
- Moses' mother came to the river to talk to Pharaoh's daughter
- Pharaoh's daughter asked Moses' mother to take care of the baby for her, and she said that she would PAY her to do so! (*Wow, so she got to keep her baby, and feed him, and she got paid for it too!*)
- So, Moses' mother took care of him until he was older, then she took him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son.
- She named him Moses because she "drew him out of the water." (*Moses sounds like the Hebrew word for "draw out."*)
- So, Moses' parents trusted God and God provided for Moses and for their safety. Moses became the son of Pharaoh's daughter, and grew up in the palace. Later God would use Moses to bring the Hebrew people out of Egypt.

Let's pray and thank God for taking care of us, like He did for Moses!

Prayer:      Dear God,

Thank you that you took care of Baby Moses!

Thank you that you take care of us!

Thank you for loving us!

We love you back!

Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Float or Sink?** *The children will determine if certain items will float or sink.*

Before Class: Arrange to have a sink or a dishpan of water in class on the day of the lesson. Provide towels to clean up splashes. Also bring several types of items that might float or sink. For example: wooden spoon, metal spoon, broom straw, leaves, a stick, small rocks, and aluminum foil (some shaped like a boat and some like a ball.)

During Class: Tell the children that sometimes objects float in water and sometimes they sink in water. Show them the array of items you have provided. Get their opinions on whether things will float or sink. Some will seem easy and some will be hard. Test each item in the pan of water. Decide whether the items float or sink.

**Make a Boat (or Basket)** *The children will form a “boat” or “basket” shape out of aluminum foil and see if it will stay afloat in water.*

Before Class: Arrange to have a sink or a dishpan of water in class on the day of the lesson. Provide towels to clean up splashes. Also bring a roll of aluminum foil.

During Class: Discuss with the children how boats and baskets are shaped. (Perhaps show a basket or a picture of a boat.) *Basically they need a bottom and some sides.* Pull off pieces of aluminum foil for the children and allow them several minutes to shape their foil into a “boat” or “basket” shape. Bring the boats over to the pan of water, one or two at a time, to see if they will float. Let the children take their boats home.

**Basket Weave** *The children will learn to do a simple basket weave with paper strips.*

Before Class: Make copies of the activity sheet for each child in class. (You may copy them onto different colors of paper.) For younger children, make the cuts in the paper before class. Provide different colors of paper cut into strips about an inch wide. Also provide colors, tape, and scissors as needed.

During Class: If you would like to do so, have the children color the activity sheet before cutting on the lines. Older children may use scissors to cut the activity sheet on the dotted lines. Demonstrate for the children how to weave the strips of colored paper by alternating up and down through the cuts on the activity sheet. Let the children use different colored strips to make their own designs. Trim and tape the strips in place.

**Review the Timeline** *The children will review the Timeline that is in class.*

Before Class: Establish a Timeline for the Bible Stories in the Just Us Little Guys Series #6 (Genesis). You can use the activity sheets provided in each lesson to help build your Timeline. Stretch a piece of yarn or string along one of the walls in the classroom. Then use clothespins to attach completed activity pages on the Timeline to show how the people in the stories relate to each other in time.

During Class: Talk about the various people and events on the Timeline. Explain that Jacob/Israel and his family went to be in Egypt during a famine that lasted for 7 years. At that time Joseph (Jacob's son) was second in command to Pharaoh. But now 400 years had passed. There was a new Pharaoh, who didn't know Joseph and didn't care about his people, the Hebrews. Pharaoh treated them badly and even ordered that all the little boy Hebrews should be killed. Moses, who was a baby at the time, would one day grow up to lead his people out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land!

**Act it Out** *The children will act out part of the Bible story.*

Before Class: Bring a large basket to class. Also provide a cloth to cover the basket. Consider bringing tape (to mark off the river bank) or sheets to portray the river itself. During Class: Tell the children that you are going to act out part of the story of Baby Moses in the Bulrushes. Along with the children, set up the room to represent the part of the Bible story that takes place at the bank of the river. Choose a place for the river to run through the classroom. Mark off the bank with tape on the floor or put sheets on the floor to represent the river. To show where the reeds (or bulrushes) were, consider setting up chairs near the bank of the river. Choose actors to represent Miriam, Moses' mother, and Pharaoh's daughter. Other actors could be Pharaoh and Moses' father. Have someone volunteer to make crying noises for Baby Moses! Tell the story or read it from the Bible. Allow the children to act out the parts. Have Moses' mother place the basket in the bulrushes, have Miriam watch, and have Pharaoh's daughter find Moses!

**Skit: The Story of Baby Moses in the Bulrushes**

Many years ago in Egypt the children of Israel, who were known as the Hebrews, lived in terrible slavery. The ruler of Egypt, called Pharaoh, was afraid of the Hebrews because there were so many of them. So, he ordered that all of the little boy babies should be killed at birth.

About this time a Hebrew man and a woman (from the tribe of Levi) had a baby boy. When his mother saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer (babies can be noisy...you know) she got a basket of reeds for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister (Miriam) stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to take care of the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you."

So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses, (which means to draw out) because she said, "I drew him out of the water."

*(Based on the Bible verses found in Exodus 2: 1-10.)*



## Moses and the Burning Bush

**Teacher Pep Talk:** 400 years is a long time to wait... for anything. But that is how long the children of Israel had been waiting for God to deliver them out of slavery in Egypt. Hope can be an elusive thing. It is ever before us, but often seems just beyond our grasp. When our hope is rooted in God, however, it is rock-solid, whether we realize it or not.

Hope came to Moses in the wilderness during an encounter with God... one that was heralded by a burning bush which was not consumed. God would rescue His people out of slavery in Egypt, and He would use Moses to lead them out of bondage. God gave Moses a sign and told him His name. Hope in God is never futile.

You will need:

Bible

Other items depending on the activities chosen

Major Points:

Moses Saw a Burning Bush

Moses Approached and God Spoke to Him

Moses was on Holy Ground

God Told Moses His Plan

God Told Moses His Name

Scripture Ref:

Exodus 3

Memory Verse:

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses “I AM WHO I AM”.

Lesson:

### **Moses Saw a Burning Bush**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- Moses had grown up in Pharaoh's palace. He had been treated very well, because he was Pharaoh's daughter's adopted son.
- But Moses' people (the Israelites) were NOT treated well. They were slaves in Egypt.
- When Moses grew up, he found that he wanted to help his people... But what could he do? In the end Moses got in trouble trying to help. He had only made things worse. Moses left.
- Moses went to a place called Midian. There he met a priest of God, named Jethro. Jethro gave Moses a job and let him marry one of his daughters. Jethro was kind to Moses and taught him.
- One day, after Moses had been there for 40 years, he took Jethro's herd of sheep across the desert to a mountain.
- There on the mountain Moses saw something amazing! He saw a bush that was burning... but it didn't burn up!! What would you do if you saw something like that? *(Wait for answers.)*

**Moses Approached and God Spoke to Him**

- Moses did what any of us might have done if we had seen a burning bush... He went up closer to look at it!
- When Moses got closer, Moses heard God calling his name.
- God said "Moses! Moses!" What would you do if you heard God calling your name like that? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Would you answer God? If you did, what would you say? (*Wait for answers.*) Maybe you would say... "Here I am!"
- Well, that's just what Moses did! Moses answered God and said "Here I am!" (*How about that!?!?*)
- Then God said something really amazing...

**Moses was on Holy Ground**

- God told Moses not to come any closer.
- And He told Moses to **TAKE OFF HIS SHOES** because the place where he was standing was Holy Ground.
- Oh, my! How amazing! God said that it was holy ground and that Moses wasn't to come any closer AND he was supposed to take off his shoes. **[OPTIONAL:** I think we should take off our shoes right now... Just because we are telling this story.]
- *[Invite everyone to take off their shoes. Take some time to let them take off their shoes and to line them up against the wall. After everyone is seated again, tell the rest of the story.]*
- Look at all those wiggly toes! Those toes are a-mazing!
- Moses took off his shoes because he was on Holy Ground.

**God Told Moses His Plan**

- God told Moses to take off his shoes. But that is not all God told him. God told Moses his plan! God had a plan to rescue the Israelites and bring them out of Egypt and into a new land He had for them: A Promised Land flowing with "milk and honey."
- *That's great! The Israelites wouldn't be slaves anymore! Moses must have wondered how God was going to do this.*
- Then God told Moses "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people (the Israelites) out of Egypt."
- Wow! I wonder what Moses thought about that? God says, "OK... Now, go... Go on... Get on down there to Pharaoh's house and tell him to let my people, the Israelites, go." And Moses is just sitting there wondering things like... "Why did I ever come up here? What was I thinking? Why did I come to see this burning bush? Or even... "Where did I put my shoes?"
- Ever had a job you weren't sure you could do? (*Wait for answers.*) Moses seemed really worried about this new job.
- So, Moses says to God... "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

- But God told Moses, “I will be with you.”
- That’s really comforting, isn’t it? God promised Moses that He would be with him. And God can do anything!

**God Told Moses His Name**

- People had worshiped God. But no one had known His name.
- God had made Himself known to Abraham, and to Isaac, and to Jacob (Moses’ ancestors) but God had not told them His name.
- On this special day... on the burning bush day... when He talked to Moses... God did something very special. He told Moses His Name.
- Moses told God that if he went to talk to the Israelites they would ask for God’s name. He asked Him what to tell them.
- God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” Tell the Israelites “I AM has sent me to you.”
- Wow! That’s a great name... I AM. God is simply first and all powerful. He started everything. There was nothing before Him. There is nothing greater than Him. So, His name is I AM.

Let's pray and thank God that He is all-powerful and the beginning of everything!

Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you that you are the great I AM!  
Thank you that you are all-powerful and the beginning of everything!  
Thank you that you care about us and that you love us!  
We love you back!  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Take Off Your Shoes – The children will take off their shoes, just like Moses did.**

Before Class: Consider whether or not it is warm enough in your area at this time of year for the children to take off their shoes and be barefooted in class for a while. Ask permission from your supervisor to do this activity. Consider notifying parents as well. You may want to bring things like a large flat container of sand, a sheet, and towels. Consider bringing paper, pencils, and crayons so they may trace their feet and toes.

During Class: Either during the lesson, or after the lesson, tell the children that “God told Moses to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Moses took off his sandals. We are going to take off our shoes, just like Moses.” Invite the children to take their shoes off. Have the children place their shoes somewhere specific in your classroom (EX: lined up against a wall, or in a basket, etc.) Have the children come back and sit down. Do some exercises together with your toes... wiggle them, count them, make just your big toe point up, etc. If you have a box of sand, place a sheet on the floor under the box, and take turns standing in the sand and wiggling your toes. Brush your feet off on the towels. Use large pieces of paper to trace your feet and toes. Write the numbers of toes (1-10) on the paper. Eventually put your shoes back on!

**Painting Fire** – *The children will create a painting of the “Burning Bush”*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Also provide crayons and markers, or paints, brushes, and water and rags (to help clean up.) If using paints, cover the tables with either newspaper or plastic tablecloths. Make a sample of the finished project for the children to see. Have aprons or old shirts for the children to wear over their clothes, if you decide to use paints.

During Class: Remind the children that God spoke to Moses from a Burning Bush. Explain the project to the children and tell them that you are all going to paint (or color) the Burning Bush. Pass out papers, crayons, markers, or paints, brushes, and water. Try and make your paper seem that the bush is really on fire.

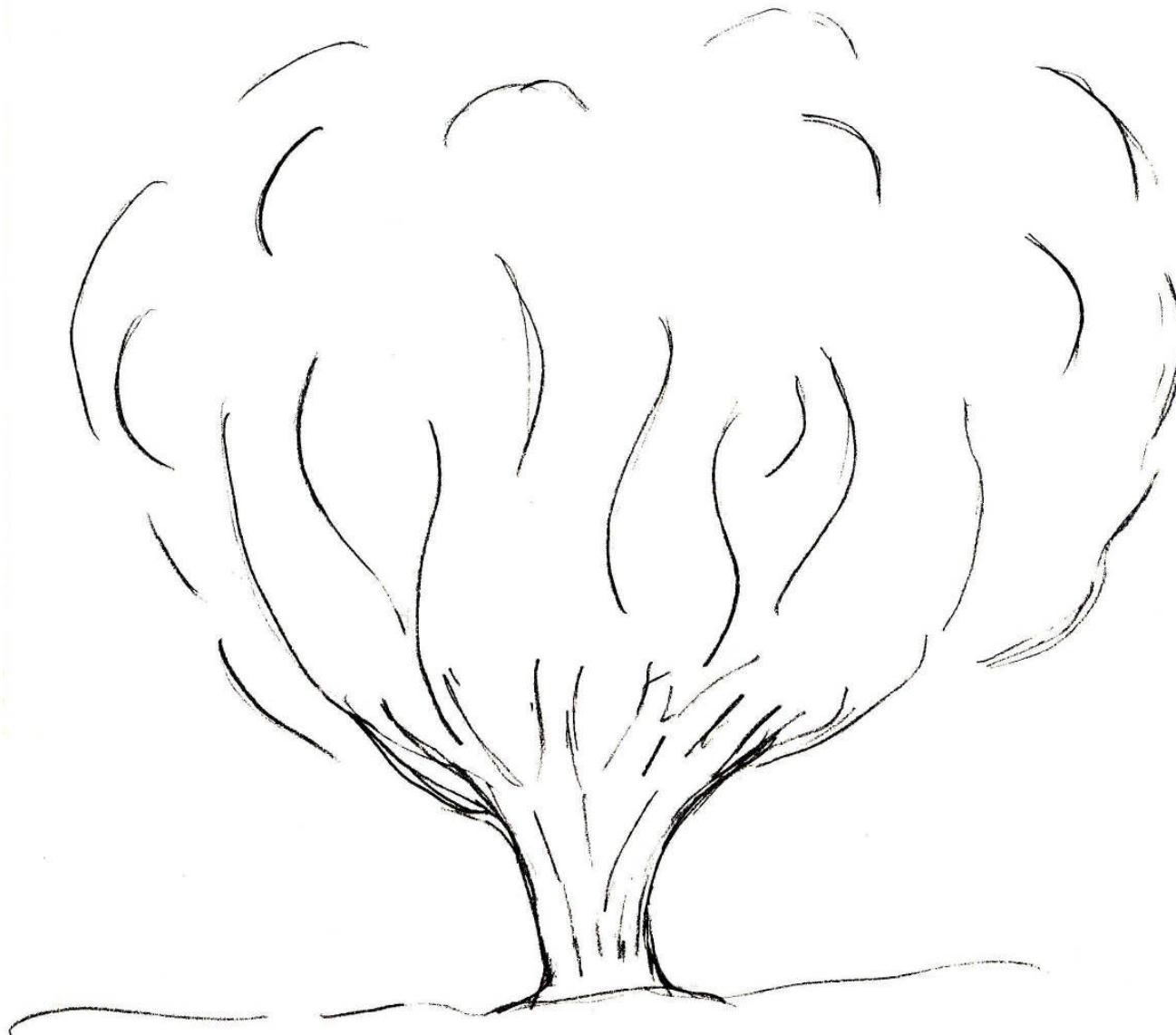
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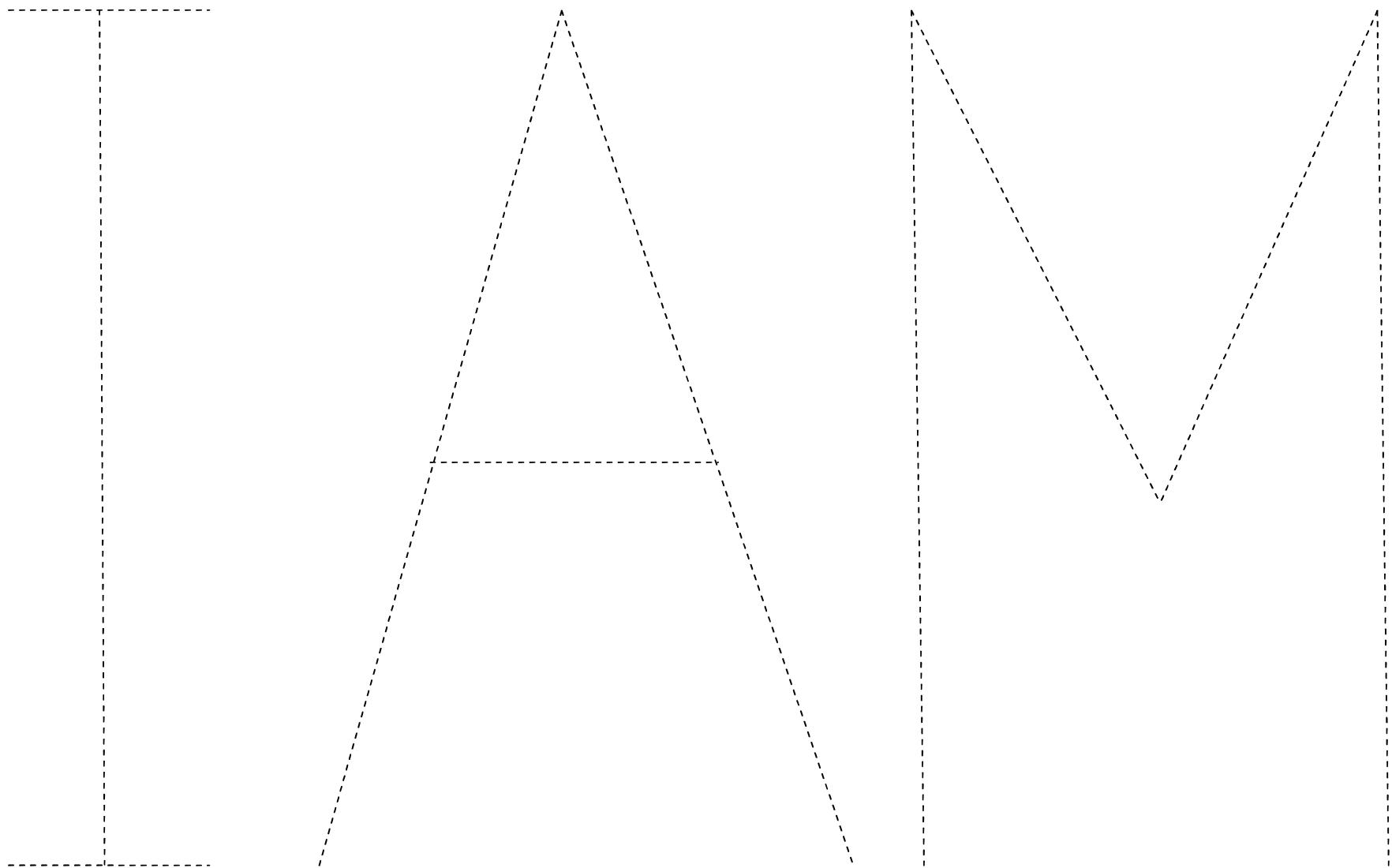
- One idea is to use the tip of the brush to make dots of different colors around on the Burning Bush (yellow, red, orange, brown... even some blue or green.)
- Another idea is to paint all of the bush one color, which you mix together, that looks like the color of fire (probably bright red or orange).
- Another idea is to paint individual flames on some of the branches of the bush or to make the whole bush appear to be one big flame with different colors in it.

**Memory Verse** – *The children will learn the memory verse and draw the name “I AM”*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Also provide crayons or markers. Older children may cut pieces of yarn to glue in straight lines on the letters. Do a sample of part of the activity sheet ahead of time and the rest in class.

During Class: Remind the children that in the Bible Story that Moses asked God what he should tell the Israelites if they asked him what God's name is. God responded “I AM WHO I AM.” God then told Moses that he was to tell the Israelites “I AM has sent me to you.” (*That's sort of a funny name, isn't it? I AM. But if you are God and you were here before anything else, and you created everything that was created, that's a really good name. In fact, it's the perfect name! “I AM!” Because, after all, God IS.*) Now practice the Bible verse with the children: God told Moses “I AM WHO I AM.” You say “God told Moses...” and the children respond “I AM WHO I AM.” Show how to do the activity. To make the words “I AM WHO I AM” just connect the dots along the lines.





## Moses and Pharaoh (The Ten Plagues)

**Teacher Pep Talk:** Stubborn... Pharaoh was stubborn. In fact, he was SO stubborn that, after he hardened his heart so many times, God finally hardened it for him. God had sent Moses to talk to Pharaoh to ask him to "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh would not. He would not let the Israelite slaves leave Egypt. So, in response, God sent 10 Plagues, each one worse than the last, until finally all of the people of Egypt begged the Israelites to leave! The final price of Pharaoh's stubborn heart had been exacted from all of Egypt... And that price had been too high to bear!

*[NOTES: For older children you may wish to discuss all 10 of the plagues in detail. If so, consider using two sessions to present all of the materials in this lesson. ALSO – For more information on the 10<sup>th</sup> plague and the PASSOVER, please see Lesson #4.]*

You will need: Bible  
Other items depending on the activities chosen

Major Points: God Sent Moses to tell Pharaoh "Let my people go!"  
Pharaoh Refused to Obey God  
God Sent Plagues  
Pharaoh Still Refused  
God Sent One Last Plague  
The Israelites Left Egypt

Scripture Ref: Exodus 7-12

Memory Verse: Exodus 7:16 "The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go..."

Lesson: **God Sent Moses to tell Pharaoh "Let my people go!"**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- Have you ever gotten a telegram? Or a FAX? No? How about an email? Or an "instant message"... Maybe not... Well, those are pretty "old-timey" now. OK... How about a "tweet" or a "text" on your phone? Yes? Great! Now you all know what I mean when I say that someone has "sent you a message."
- Back a long time ago, before the Internet and phones (and even before telegrams) you could still send a message to someone by messenger. A messenger actually hand carried a message from one person to another. Usually it was written down. But, sometimes, if the message was short and the messenger was trusted enough, it could just be said out loud to the person.

- One day, God sent such a message. God sent a man named Moses to talk to a man named Pharaoh. Moses was to tell Pharaoh a very short message. It was, “Let my people go!”
- You see, back in ancient Egypt, the Israelites had been slaves for nearly 400 years, and now it was time for them to leave and go to the land that God had promised to give their ancestors.
- So, God sent a messenger to the ruler of Egypt... Pharaoh.
- God sent Moses (his handpicked and trusted messenger) to tell Pharaoh, “Let my people go!”
- God’s people, the Israelites, had been there as slaves long enough. Now, God said, it was time to go.

### Pharaoh Refused to Obey God

- So, Pharaoh gets a message from God through His messenger, Moses, to “Let my people go!” What do you think Pharaoh did?
- What would you do? I mean... Pretend you are Pharaoh, the king, and there you are just relaxing (in your palace) and you get a message from God telling you to do something you don’t want to do... What do you do? Do you obey? Do you say... “OK, God... whatever you want... After all, you are God.”
- That would have been the right thing to do. It is always the right thing to obey God and do what He says.
- Unfortunately, Pharaoh didn’t do that. Pharaoh said “No.”
- Pharaoh refused to obey God. He said, “Who is God, that I should obey Him?!” (*Wow, what a bad thing to say... Mistake!*)

### God Sent Plagues

- God knew all along that Pharaoh wasn’t going to say “yes.” In fact, God had told Moses ahead of time that Pharaoh was going to say “no.” So, God wasn’t surprised at all that this happened.
- God sent plagues on the land of Egypt... Ten of them! [**Count to 10 together.**]
- Each plague that God sent was worse than the last one.
- Each time God would send His messenger, Moses, back to tell Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” But each time Pharaoh refused.
- The plagues that God sent affected the Egyptians, but not God’s people, the Israelites. [**OPTIONAL: Discuss the first 9 plagues.**]
  - God turned the water of the Nile to blood
  - God sent frogs
  - God sent gnats
  - God sent flies
  - God sent a plague on their livestock
  - God sent boils (that broke out on men and animals)
  - God sent hail
  - God sent locusts
  - God sent darkness that covered the land for 3 days

### Pharaoh Still Refused

- Each time God sent a plague Pharaoh would call for Moses and ask him to stop the plague.
- Usually Pharaoh would promise to let the people go. But as soon as the plague stopped, Pharaoh would change his mind.
- The Bible says that Pharaoh “hardened his heart” and would not let the Israelites leave, even though he had promised to do so.
- God knew all about Pharaoh and what kind of man he was. God knew that Pharaoh was going to refuse.
- **[Optional]** In fact God said of Pharaoh “*I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*” (**Romans 9:17**)
- With each plague Pharaoh became more and more hardened. While other people, including all of Pharaoh’s advisors, wanted to let the Israelites go, Pharaoh still stubbornly refused.
- Eventually, the Bible says, that **God** hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

### God Sent One Last Plague (or Judgment)

- Up to now God had sent 9 plagues [**Count up to 9 together.**]
- There was one more plague to come.
- It was the WORST one of all.
- God warned all of His people about it. They were to take certain steps to avoid this plague, or it would affect them as well.
- God’s people, the Israelites, obeyed all of God’s instructions, so that the plague would not affect them.
- That night each of the firstborn sons in Egypt died. (But not the in the Israelites’ households, who had obeyed the instructions.)
- From the poorest to the richest, every family in Egypt was affected. Even Pharaoh’s firstborn son died!

### The Israelites Left Egypt

- About midnight a loud wailing came from all over Egypt, because there was not a house without someone dead.
- During the night Pharaoh called Moses (and his brother Aaron) to the palace. He told Moses to take God’s people and GO!
- So, finally Pharaoh let God’s people go!
- God had instructed the Israelites to ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold and silver items, and for clothing.
- The Egyptians gave them all of these things!
- The Egyptians wanted the Israelites to hurry and leave! (*They were afraid WORSE would happen if the Israelites stayed!*)
- So, the Israelites left in the middle of the night, and they took with them all the gold, silver, and clothing they had been given.
- When they left, the Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years!
- God kept His promise to bring His people out of Egypt!

Let's pray and thank God that He kept His promise to bring His people out of Egypt!

Prayer:      Dear God,

Thank you that you kept your promise to bring your people out of Egypt.

Thank you that you always keep your promises.

Thank you for loving us.

We love you back.

Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Nine Out Of Ten – *The children will learn more about the first 9 plagues.***

Before Class – Think up ways of demonstrating or acting out the first 9 plagues (in your classroom). Bring any needed items with you to class that day.

During Class – Discuss the first 9 plagues in a little more detail than you had time during the lesson. Tell the class you will act them out a little. (**Suggestions follow.**)

**God turned the water of the Nile to blood** – Add red food coloring to a glass of water.

*(This won't make it undrinkable, but it will give the class a picture of how it looked.)*

**God sent frogs** – Ask someone to make a frog sound, or have the class hop like frogs.

**God sent gnats** – Explain that gnats are very tiny; let the children pretend to swat gnats. *(Make sure you only swat the gnats that land on you... not on your neighbor! ☺)*

**God sent flies** – Ask the children to make buzzing sounds like flies; try to "catch" a fly.

**God sent a plague on the livestock** – Talk about different kinds of livestock (cows, goats, sheep, etc.) Make sounds for different kinds of animals. Guess the animals.

**God sent boils** (that broke out on men and animals) – Explain that these are sores.

**God sent hail** – Explain that hail is ice that falls from the sky. These were BIG pieces. Pretend to walk around and "dodge" big pieces of falling ice. (Be careful!)

**God sent locusts** – Locusts buzz around and eat everything. Ask for volunteers to buzz around the room pretending to look for things to eat. *(Don't eat the chair legs! ☺)*

**God sent darkness** (that covered the land for 3 days) – Have the children sit while you darken the room. (**Consider covering windows earlier.**) Discuss how you feel when it is dark. What if the sun didn't shine at all for 3 days? That might be very scary.

**Moses: The Messenger – *The children will play a game and learn about messages.***

Before Class – Consider writing down messages for your messenger to remember and to carry back to the group. For at least one of the messages, you might consider using the one God gave Moses to tell Pharaoh: "Let my people go!"

During Class – Have the children sit as you tell them that "Moses was God's messenger to Pharaoh." Explain that you will all learn a little more about messages and how the messenger can be very important. Ask for two volunteers. One stands on the far side of the room. One is the messenger. The messenger goes to the person on the far side of the room. That person whispers a sentence (*which may have been written down on a piece of paper earlier by the teacher*). The messenger must remember the message and bring it back to the group. Then the messenger says the message out loud. Did the messenger get it correct? How hard is that? Ask for other volunteers. Play again!

**Let My People Go!** – *The children will practice and learn the Memory Verse.*

**Before Class:** Write on a banner or large piece of paper the words “Let my people go!” Bring the banner with you to class. If your class has children in it who can already read, they will enjoy getting to read the banner. Those who do not read yet, will enjoy getting to learn to “read” a few new words. Consider displaying the banner in your classroom.  
**During Class:** Ask the children to sit down while you get ready for this activity. Ask for two volunteers to hold the banner. Also ask for one volunteer to be Pharaoh. Now tell the children that you are going to pretend to be Moses (who acted as God’s messenger to Pharaoh.) The rest of the children can pretend to be Hebrews! Now (as if you are explaining to Pharaoh) say, “*The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you; Let my people go...*” As you say the words, **point** to explain who you are talking about. **For example:** When you say “The LORD,” point up. When you say “the Hebrews”, point at the children. When you say “me”, point to yourself. When you say “you”, point at “Pharaoh.” And when you say “Let my people go” point to the children. Have all the children say “Let my people go!” with you. Talk about the words “Let my people go.” “Read” each word from the banner. Talk about how these words were God’s message to Pharaoh. Did Pharaoh listen? (*No, he didn’t.*) Now have someone else volunteer to be Moses and say the verse out loud again. Don’t forget to point!

**Make your Own Banner!** – *The children will create a banner saying “Let my people go”*

**Before Class:** Make copies of the activity sheet for each child in class. OR Create a “banner”, by stapling two pieces of construction paper together lengthwise (with one staple at the top and one staple at the bottom of the sheets.) OR Cut long sections of butcher paper for each child. Provide markers, crayons, glitter, etc. Make an example.  
**During Class:** Explain that we should always listen when God tells us to do something. Moses was worried at first about going to Pharaoh to talk to him, like God had asked him to do, but he obeyed God anyway. Pharaoh didn’t want to do what God asked him to do, and so he did NOT obey God. Which one did what was right? (Moses.) Hand out the banners. Distribute the markers and crayons. Use the activity sheet or ask the children to write “Let my people go” on their banner. (Help the younger ones.) Show the children the example you made. Explain how you did yours and how theirs may be the same or different. Allow the children to create and decorate their banners.

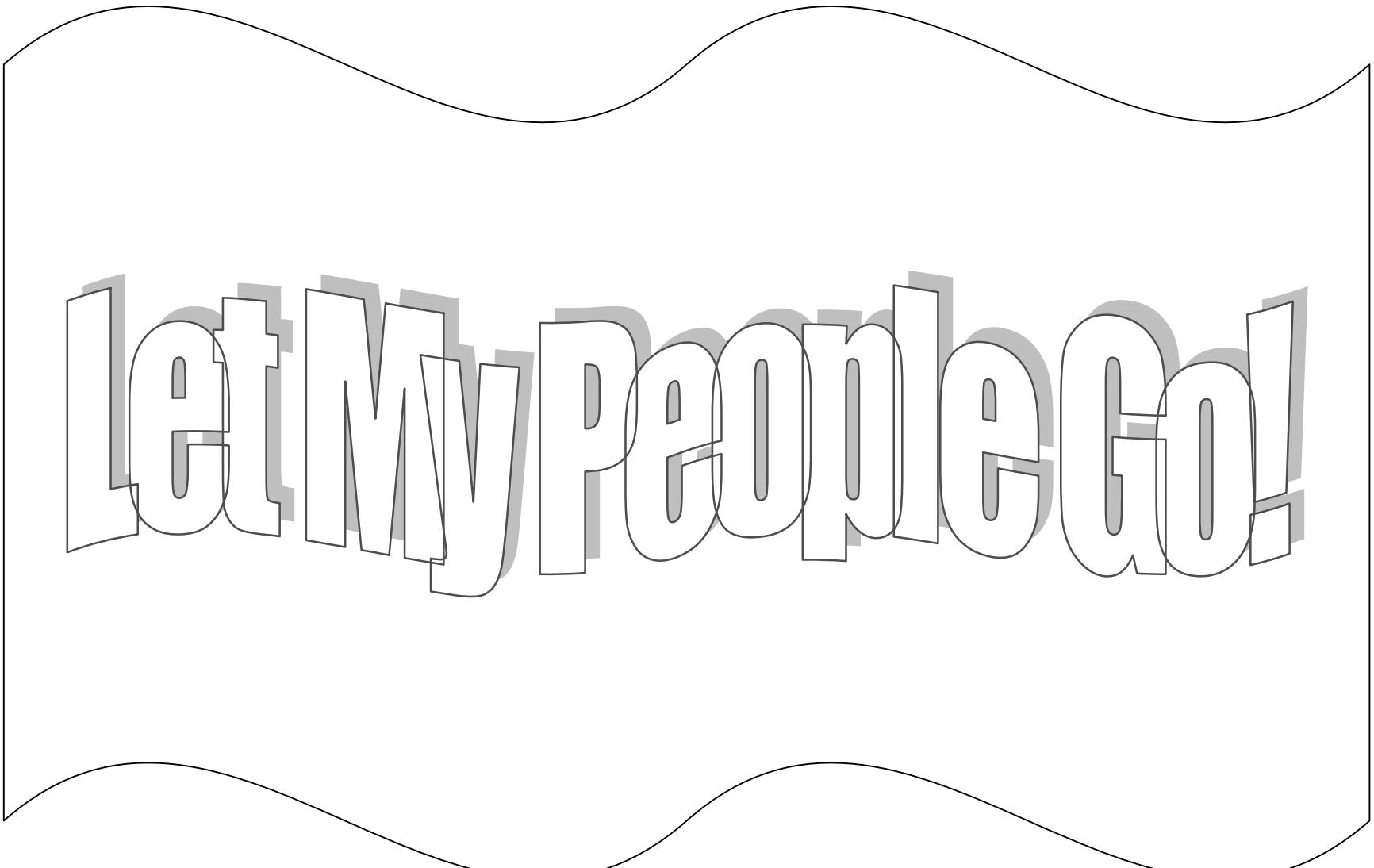
**Ten Plagues** – *The children will do an activity sheet about the various plagues.*

**Before Class:** Make copies of the activity sheet for each child. Provide crayons or markers for the children to color in the various sections on the sheet for each plague.

**During Class:** Discuss the 10 plagues and how each plague was worse than the last. Hand out the activity sheets. Have the children draw/ color in each of the squares as you go along together, OR set up centers around the room where you do a square or two at each one. Be creative! (Use markers/ watercolors/ stickers/ glitter/ glue, etc.)

**Younger Children:** Count to 10 together. Write the numbers 1-10 in each square.

**Older Children:** Have them follow these directions with you: 1) Draw the Nile; color it red. 2) Draw a frog. 3) Draw some gnats. (Tiny dots.) 4) Draw some flies. (Larger dots.) 5) Draw a sheep (Or glue on a cotton ball) OR Draw a cow. 6) Color a circular sore (Icky!) 7) Draw hail falling out of the sky. 8) Draw a locust (It looks sort of like a grasshopper.) 9)Darkness – Color the square dark. 10) Death – Draw a cross.



**let My People Go!**

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

## The Passover

**Teacher Pep Talk:** You are going to teach about The Passover! How wonderful! This is one of the most poignant stories in the Old Testament, and it also foretells of the coming of Jesus and of His death on the cross. Little Guys will pick up the tie in with the Gospel story long before some adults will. You are in for a treat with this lesson!

Passover is still celebrated today by those of the Jewish faith. This event, coinciding with the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague, marked the evening that the children of Israel were finally brought out of slavery in Egypt. On the night of the Passover, God delivered His people out of bondage and started them on their journey toward the Promised Land.

*[NOTE: For more information on the Ten Plagues, please see Lesson #3.]*

You will need:      Bible  
                          Other items depending on the activities chosen

Major Points:      God Would Send One Last Plague on Egypt  
                          The Firstborn Child in Each Family Would Die  
                          But God Intervened for His People (the Israelites)  
                          Passover Lamb was Slain  
                          Blood on Top and Sides of Doorframe  
                          God Passed Over the Houses with the Blood  
                          The Israelites Left Egypt!

Scripture Ref:      Exodus 12:1-40

Memory Verse:      Exodus 12:13 "...when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Lesson:               **God Would Send One Last Plague on Egypt**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- God's people (the children, and grandchildren and great-great-great-great grandchildren of a man named Israel) had been in slavery in Egypt for 400 years. (*That's a long time!*)
- God had promised that He was going to bring His people out of Egypt and send them to a new land... a Promised Land.
- And NOW...finally... finally... finally... it was time.
- God had already sent 9 plagues on Egypt, because the ruler of Egypt (Pharaoh) would NOT let God's people go.
- And NOW God was going to send one last plague...one that was worse than all the other plagues had been.
- God said that after this plague... they would let His people go.

### The Firstborn Child in Each Family Would Die

- But what could be so bad? They had already had 9 plagues
- They'd had flies and gnats, and sores and boils, and hail and darkness, and this and that...
- And NONE of those things had been bad enough for Pharaoh to let God's people go.
- So... What was there left for God to do to them?
- Are you ready? (Because it is very sad...)
- The 10<sup>th</sup> plague was that the firstborn child in each family would die... (*Wow! That is REALLY terrible. Can you imagine?*)
- The firstborn child, in every family, would die... all over Egypt.
- All in one night!

### But God Intervened for His People (the Israelites)

- This was a terrible, awful, scary thing.
- And the people of God (the children of Israel) KNEW that this terrible, awful, scary thing was going to happen.
- They did NOT want it to happen to them!
- But God intervened for His People.
- God gave them a way to avoid this plague.
- God told them exactly what to do to keep anyone in their household from dying.

### Passover Lamb was Slain

- God gave His people instructions about what to do
- They were to get a lamb (or small goat) for each family
- They were to take care of it in their home for 2 weeks
- Then they were to slaughter the lamb at twilight (evening)
- And they were to roast it and eat it that night as they waited for the LORD to release them from slavery
- But that is not all that they were supposed to do...

### Blood on Top and Sides of Doorframe

- When they slaughtered the lamb, they were to take some of its blood and place it on the top and both sides of the doorframes of the house where they would eat the meal.
- That night they were to stay in the house where they ate.
- God said that the blood would be sign for them on the houses where they were.
- God said, "I will see the blood, and pass over you."
- Because the blood of the Passover Lamb was on the door of the house, the people inside would not die.
- [*You may choose to show how the lamb's blood represents Jesus' blood, either now or after the lesson. See Activities.*]

### God Passed Over the Houses with the Blood

- That night God passed through Egypt
- Everywhere God saw the blood on the doorposts, He passed over that house
- But in every home where there was no blood on the door, the destroyer (destroying angel) killed the firstborn child
- The 10<sup>th</sup> plague killed every firstborn child in Egypt that night.
- But in the homes of the children of Israel, no one died.
- Whoever had obeyed God's command and put the lamb's blood on their doorframes, the LORD passed over them and they were safe in their homes.

### The Israelites Left Egypt

- What do you think happened next? (*Wait for answers.*)
- What happened when all the Egyptians suddenly realized that someone in their house was dead? (They cried... They were sad... They went to tell other people... But all the people, who they went to tell, had someone dead in their house too!)
- The Bible says that, “*...there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.*” Exodus 12:30
- All of a sudden, the Egyptians realized it was another plague.
- They wanted the Israelites (God's people) to leave!!!
- Otherwise they thought they might all die.
- They sent the Israelites out of Egypt that night (while it was still dark!)
- And so the children of Israel (the Israelites) left Egypt!
- God had brought His people out of slavery in Egypt.
- Just as He had promised.
- Now, they would head towards the Promised Land.

Let's pray and thank God that He always keeps His promises!

Prayer:      Dear God,

Thank you that you always keep your promises.

Thank you for saving your people.

Thank you that you love us.

We love you back.

Amen

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Learn the Bible Verse** – Children will learn the memory verse for today.

*Repeat verse with the children and do the accompanying hand motions.*

“When I see the blood...” (Put right hand over eyes as if looking into distance)

“I will pass over you.” (Make sweeping motion over head with left hand)

**Gospel Message Tie-In** – The children will learn how the story of the Passover Lamb foreshadows the Gospel Story of Jesus' death for us on the cross. [NOTE: You may choose to do this activity either during the formal lesson or during the activity period.]

**Before Class:** Determine how you will represent a doorway from ancient Egypt in your classroom. Some suggestions include: Use a chalkboard to draw a doorway; Have a large sheet of paper onto which you draw a doorway with markers; Or cut out long strips of brown paper to create a picture of a doorway on the wall. You will also need something with which you can represent the "blood" of the Passover Lamb. Suggestions include: water based paint (such as Tempera Paint), red markers, chalk, crayons etc. Remember to bring in drop cloths, towels, rags, etc to keep the rest of the room clean.

**During Class:** Tell the children that the story of the Passover Lamb also paints a picture of something very important that happened later. It is a story that tells about how Jesus came and died for us on the cross.

Have the children sit in front of your representation of the doorway. Point out the parts of the doorframe (the top and the sides.) Remind them that in the story the people were to slaughter the lamb. The Bible says that they were to save some of the blood (in a bowl), take some of the blood out on a hyssop branch, and then put it on the top and sides of the doorframe.

Stand in front of your picture of the doorway. Use your brush to take some of the red paint from the bowl and put it on the **top** of the doorframe. Explain that if you were doing that with a hyssop branch instead of a paintbrush some of the blood would have dripped down onto the **ground**. Put a little red paint on the "ground" under the center of the doorframe. Then put paint on **one side** of the doorframe, and then the **other side**. Let the children look at the picture for a minute. Ask them what they see.

The motion you made while putting the red paint on the doorframe was **like a cross**. First you put red at the top, which dripped to the bottom; then you went from one side to another, creating the basic shape of a cross. Draw a cross in the doorframe with a pencil, so that they can see it better. This was a picture of things that were to come.

When Jesus died on the cross, the people put a crown of thorns on His head, and pierced His hands and His feet. The places on the doorframe with the blood look similar to where His wounds would have been on the cross.

When the Israelites put their faith in God and placed the blood of the Passover Lamb on their doorframes, they were saved. They didn't face judgment like the rest of Egypt. When we put our faith in Jesus (and what He did for us on the cross) we don't face judgment anymore. God sees Jesus' blood, which was shed for us, and we are saved; just like when He saw the Passover Lamb's blood and the Israelites were saved.

The children of Israel were brought out of slavery in Egypt that night, and when we believe in Jesus we are brought out of slavery to sin. – *Talk about these things with the children as you feel led.*

**Passover Doorways** – *The children will recreate the Passover doorways*

Before Class: You may choose to do this activity by using the provided Activity Sheet. If so, provide a copy of the sheet for each child, along with crayons or markers. **OR** you may choose to allow the children to create their own doorway with paper and brown strips of construction paper. If so, provide 3 narrow strips of brown construction paper and sheet of paper for each child. Provide glue and markers (or paint and brushes.) If using paints, provide old shirts or aprons for the children to wear and cover the tables with newspaper/ tablecloth. NOTE: *If possible, hang the papers up with tape, etc for the children to add the paint to their doorways. If you do so, be sure to cover the floor!* During Class: Explain that you are each going to recreate a doorway like the ones the children of Israel had in Egypt on the Passover night. Give each child a piece of paper and 3 strips of brown paper (2 long and 1 short). Have them recreate a doorframe on their paper, by gluing down the brown strips. When dry enough, hang up the papers, and allow the children to put red watercolor paint on the top and sides of the doorframe. [See Gospel Message Tie-In Activity for teaching ideas.]

**Seder Meal** – *The children will pretend to have a Passover Meal (or Seder).*

Before Class: Bring to class items you will need to recreate a Passover Meal (called the Seder.) You will need large pieces of cloth to make “cloaks” like the Israelites wore on that night. Also you will need a large table in your room (consider 2 card tables with a tablecloth on top.) And you will need some things to eat. Suggestions for food items include: pita bread and hummus, Cheez-It crackers and water, red Kool-Aid, or grape juice. (*If you would like to prepare traditional unleavened bread, there is a recipe below.*) During Class: Explain to the children that you will recreate the meal the Israelites ate on the night they were delivered from slavery in Egypt. First “prepare the meal” together. Then you will do the following things... Just like the Israelite did on that evening.

**Dress Up** – Put on pieces of fabric for cloaks.

**Stand Up** – Move the chairs to the side of the room and stand at the table.

**Eat Up** – Eat the “meal” you prepared together.

Talk about that while they were eating their meal that night, God went through Egypt and, when He saw the blood on the doorframes of their houses, He passed over them. The firstborn children in their homes did not die that night, like in the Egyptian homes. Discuss that the Jewish people (the descendants of Israel) still celebrate the Passover today to remember what God did for them on that night so long ago.

**Unleavened Bread Recipe**

2 cups flour

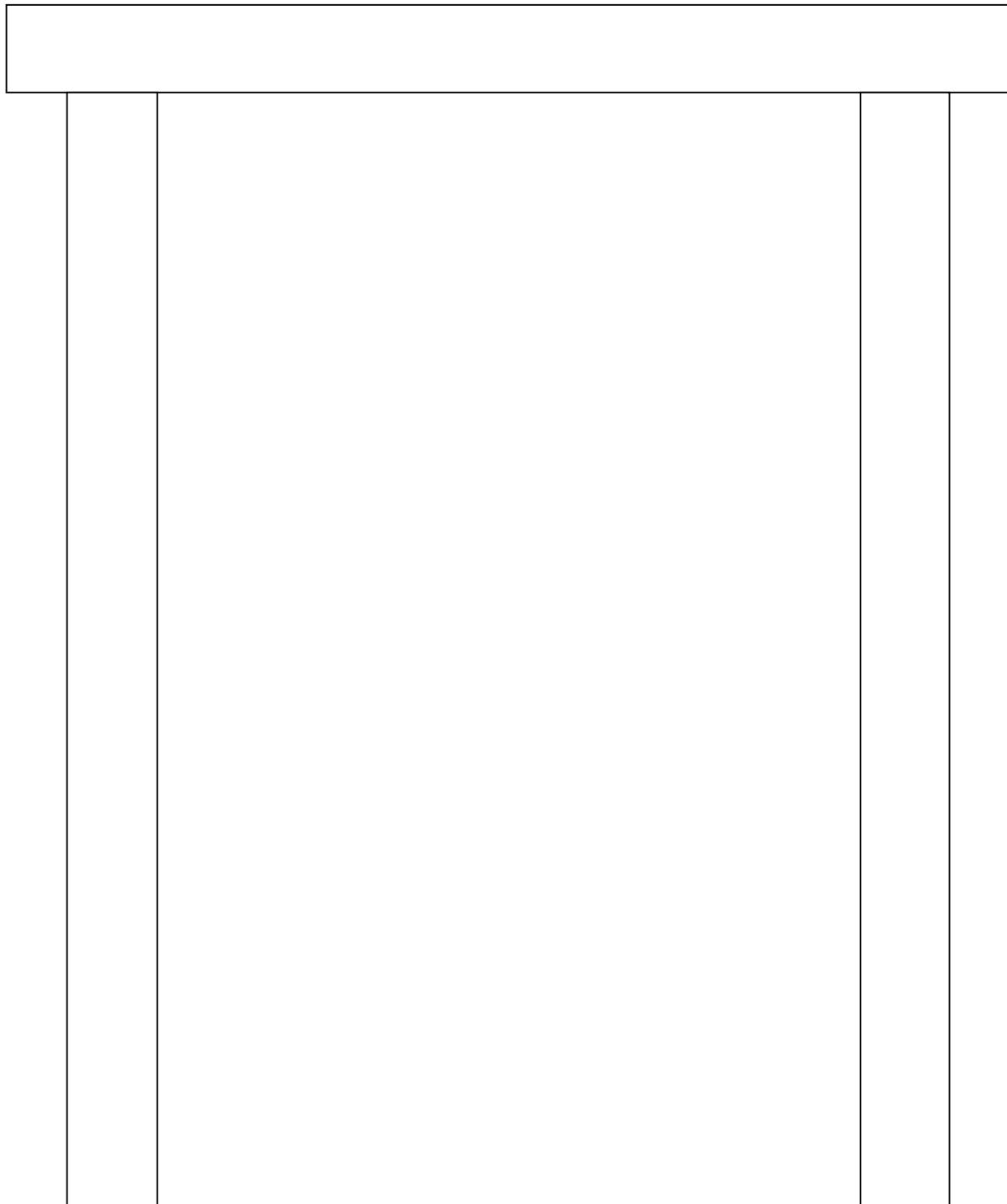
1 tsp salt

1 T sugar

1 T olive oil

2/3 cups water (approximately)

Mix together the dry ingredients. Add the olive oil and enough water until the dough forms a ball (not so much that it's sticky.) Knead the dough briefly. Allow the dough to set for 10 minutes. Form into a long roll. Cut off small sections (10-12). Roll each section flat. Cook one at a time in a pan on the stove until done (light brown in spots.) *You may need to use a little butter or oil in the pan, if you don't use a non-stick pan.*



## Crossing the Red Sea

**Teacher Pep Talk:** Moses and the Israelites were between a rock and a hard place (literally!) They stood on the shores of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army closing in on them through the mountains. Unless God delivered them, they were doomed. But God set a column of fire between them and the Egyptians, which kept them safely apart. And then God did something else that was miraculous... He parted the Red Sea! The children of Israel walked through on dry land, with a wall of water on the left and a wall of water on the right. When the Egyptians tried to follow them... It didn't work so well.

**You will need:**

Bible

Other items depending on the activities chosen

Be sure to check out the SNACK IDEAS

**Major Points:**

The Israelites Left Egypt

Pharaoh Changed His Mind

The Israelites Were Stuck

God Parted the Red Sea

The Israelites Walked Through on Dry Land

The Egyptian Army Drowned

God Saved the Israelites!

**Scripture Ref:**

Exodus 14

**Memory Verse:**

Exodus 14:29 ...*the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground*

**Lesson:**

### **The Israelites Left Egypt**

- [Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]
- [Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]
- God's people (the children of Israel) had left Egypt!
- They had been in slavery in Egypt for 400 years and now they were free!
- God had brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand!
- He had sent 10 Plagues to Egypt
- Each one was worse than the last
- Finally Pharaoh had let God's people go!
- The Israelites left in the middle of the night
- They left with all of their possessions, and all their animals, and all of the things the Egyptians had given them as gifts

### **Pharaoh Changed His Mind**

- Pharaoh had let them go...but once they were gone...
- Have you ever changed your mind? (Wait for answers.)

- [Consider doing activity “*Changing Your Mind*” at this point.]
- Well that’s what happened to Pharaoh. He changed his mind.
- At first it seemed like a good idea to let the Israelites go.
  - They had all those plagues, each worst than the last
  - All the firstborn children had died in one night!
  - They thought that something even worse might happen
  - So they sent the Israelites away in the middle of the night
- But after they were gone, the Egyptians were all by themselves
  - No more slaves...
  - No one to make bricks...
  - No one to do their work for them...
- And besides... all the plagues were gone!
- Pharaoh changed his mind
  - He didn’t want to lose those slaves after all
  - He was pretty mad that he had let them go
  - He decided to get them all back or *kill them all!*
- So, Pharaoh took his army to go and get the Israelites back!
- He knew where they were, and he thought they were trapped

### The Israelites Were Stuck

- There is an old saying that you can be stuck “Between a rock and a hard place.”
- That’s what had happened to the Israelites
- They were between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea
- Pharaoh and his army were coming to get them
- What were they going to do?
- There was no place for them to go!
- Moses prayed to God

### God Opened the Red Sea

- God knew where they were
- He had led them there, so that He could provide for their escape
- God performed a miracle
- God put a cloud of fire between the Israelites and Pharaoh to separate them and to protect the Israelites through the night
- Then God sent a strong east wind to blow over the sea
- God opened the Red Sea before them

### The Israelites Walked Through on Dry Ground

- The Israelites (God’s People) walked through the sea on dry ground!
- The Bible says that there was a wall of water on the left and a wall of water on the right
- Can you imagine?
- They walked through the Red Sea on dry ground

### **The Egyptian Army Drowned**

- The Egyptians saw what the Israelites had done
- They followed the Israelites into the sea in their chariots
- God threw the Egyptians into confusion
- The wheels came off their chariots
- Then.... All of the water went back where it belonged!!!
- All of the Egyptian army drowned

### **God Saved the Israelites**

- The Israelites were safe on the shore
- God had protected them
- God delivered them from their enemies!
- God did a miracle to save them!

Let's pray and thank God for being able to deliver us from our enemies.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for delivering your children safely.

Thank you that you can deliver us from our enemies.

Thank you for loving us!

We love you back.

Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**[NOTE: You may choose to do this activity during the lesson, where indicated.]**

**Changing Your Mind – *The children will learn firsthand about changing your mind.***

**Before Class:** Prepare two sacks (or boxes) which you will bring to class. One sack should be large and very pretty. The other sack should be small and not so pretty. In the large, pretty sack put some stickers or some very small candies (such as M& M's). In the small, plain sack put some much larger candy or some gum.

**During Class:** Ask for a volunteer from the students. Show the child the two different sacks. Tell the child that he/she can have one of whatever is in the chosen sack. Ask the child which sack he/she would choose. (Wait for an answer.) Perhaps the other students have ideas about which one they would choose. Maybe you should let everyone vote... (They will probably choose to have what is in the large, pretty sack.) Give the children, who chose the pretty sack, one of the tiny candies (EX: One M&M each). Now tell the children that YOU are going to have some candy too... Take your candy out of the small sack. (It should be something wonderful.) All of a sudden you will notice that the children may want what is in the small, plain sack. Ask them, "What happened? Did you change your mind? Why?" Remind them that Pharaoh changed his mind too. He had let the Israelites go, but later he wanted them back. (*By the way, you may have to come up with some extra candies or gum to take home!*)

**What's On the Bottom of the Sea?** – The children will discuss (and then draw) what you might find on bottom of the sea.

**Before Class:** Obtain examples of items you might find at the bottom of the sea. For example: sand, rock, coral, and seashells. (You might just bring pictures of these.) Provide paper and pencils or crayons/markers for drawing.

**During Class:** Discuss how God parted the Red Sea and how the Israelites walked across the bottom of it on dry ground. Ask the children what they might expect to see on the bottom of the sea. Explain that it might be the same kinds of things you would find on a beach. Examples include: Sand, rock, coral, seashells, etc. Show your examples (or pictures) of seashells, sand, and such. Let the children hold them to look at them, if possible. Pass out the sheets of paper, pencils/crayons/markers. Ask the children to draw some of the things you might expect to find, if you were to walk across the bottom of the sea. Let them look at the seashells, if they want to draw one.

**BIG PICTURE IDEA:**

**Walls of Water** – The children will recreate large walls of water, with hand drawn fish on them, and then walk past the walls of water as a group.

**NOTE: This activity will probably take more than one class period...** So you might want to divide it into two parts... ☺ (Sorry, couldn't resist a little Red Sea humor there!)

**Before Class:** Obtain a large blue sheet of paper to put on the wall of your room **OR** use a blue sheet, blanket, or towel. Drape the sheet or blanket over some twine to suspend it. Use clothespins at the top if necessary. (**OR** Consider having two sheets and hanging them up near each other, so that the children can walk in between them.) Provide paper, markers, and scissors. You will also need tape or pins to put up the fish.

**During Class:** Show the children the blue paper (or sheets) which you have placed in the room. Explain that you are going to pretend you are the Israelites walking past the wall of water (or between the walls of water.) But FIRST you need to make some fish to put in the water... so that it looks more like sea water! Pass out the papers, markers, and scissors. Ask the children to draw some fish or other things that you might find in the water. When they are finished, have them cut out their fish and help them pin or tape them up on the wall of water. After everyone is done (maybe after snack time) have the children line up and walk past the wall of water (or between the two walls of water.) If possible, take a picture of them in front of the wall. This is such a fun activity, that you may have to leave it up for a while, so that parents and others can see it.

**Draw a Fish – NOTE: This works well with the Walls of Water activity**

**Before Class:** Use the activity sheet provided or provide paper or construction paper (of different colors). Also provide pencils, crayons, or markers, along with scissors.

**During Class:** Tell the children that there were many fish in the Red Sea. Today we will draw some fish. Allow the children to use the paper, pencils, crayons and markers to draw different kinds of fish that you might find in the sea. You may want to provide a lesson on how to draw a fish. See Activity Sheet.

**ADDITIONALLY:** Some children may wish to draw or color starfish, seashells, coral, etc. If you have brought examples or photos of these to class, allow the children to use those as examples to draw their own pictures and color them.

**Write Your Name in Sand** – *The children will use glue and sand to write their names.*

Before Class: Provide sheets of paper, glue, and clean sand. You will need newspapers or a plastic tablecloth to cover the tables. You may want to provide small paintbrushes to use for “writing” with glue. Have water and cloths for clean-up.

During Class: Demonstrate how to write or print your name with glue. Use a small container of glue and draw lines with it, or to use a brush and dip it in glue. Then put your paper on the covered table and lightly sprinkle sand on top of it. Let it sit for a few seconds, and then lift it up gently, letting the extra sand fall away. Allow to dry.

**Dry Ground** – *The children will use an activity sheet to write “dry ground” in sand*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Provide glue and clean sand. Cover the tables with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth.

During Class: Discuss how the children of Israel walked across the bottom of the Red Sea on Dry Ground. It was probably sandy. Today you will be working with sand. Using the activity sheet provided, have the children put glue on the letters saying “Dry Ground.” Put a line of glue between the dotted lines in each letter. Then sprinkle the papers with dry sand, letting the sand stick. Allow ample time for this to dry.

**SNACK IDEAS** – If you have ever used any of my lessons, you know that I don’t usually give out snack ideas. But these are such fun that I had to share them with you.

**Pane of Glass Jell-O** (with optional fish!)

- Use Very Berry Jell-O (or some other variety of gelatin) to make regular Jell-O according to directions on the box.
- Place mixture a long thin pan – like a baking sheet. (So that it is not very deep.)
- Put in Fruit Snacks shaped like fish
- Allow to cool according to package directions
- Cut into rectangular shapes and serve on white paper plates to the children
- Looks like the “pane of glass” of an aquarium



**Jell-O Jigglers “Walls of Water” (...with optional fish!)**

- Using Very Berry Jell-O (or some other variety of blue gelatin) make “Jigglers” according to the directions on the box.
  - Four 3 ounce boxes dissolved in 2 ½ cups of boiling water
  - Do NOT add the cold water (as with regular Jell-O.)
  - Place the mixture in a shallow pan, so that the liquid is at least ½ to 1 inch deep.
  - OPTIONAL: Add Fruit Snack shaped like fish, after it cools a few minutes.
- Allow Jigglers to cool in the refrigerator.
- Cut Jigglers into small squares. (Try to get some of the fish in the squares.)
- At Snack Time - Serve Jigglers on a white paper plate to the children. Allow them to stack up the Jigglers to make “walls” of water on their plates.
- NOTE: Graham cracker crumbs make great “sand”
- AWESOME!



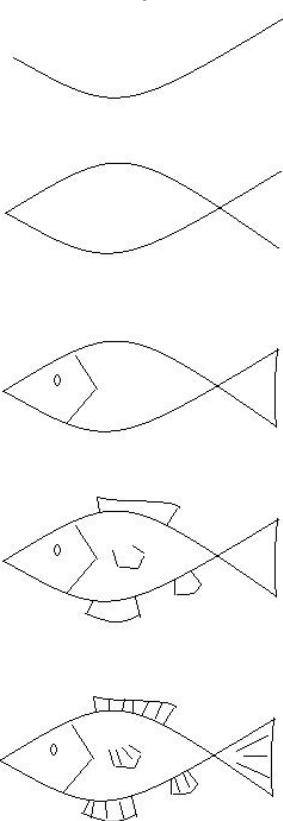
Jell-O Jigglers to represent the “Walls of Water” during the parting of the Red Sea. When this idea came to me, I was driving . I started laughing so hard that I almost had a wreck! I’m still laughing! Note the graham cracker crumbs for the dry sand. Thanks to Lauren, my beautiful daughter-in-law, for that fun addition!  
#1) Taking Jigglers out of the pan.  
#2) A serving of Walls of Water.  
#3) One idea for the Serving Platter.



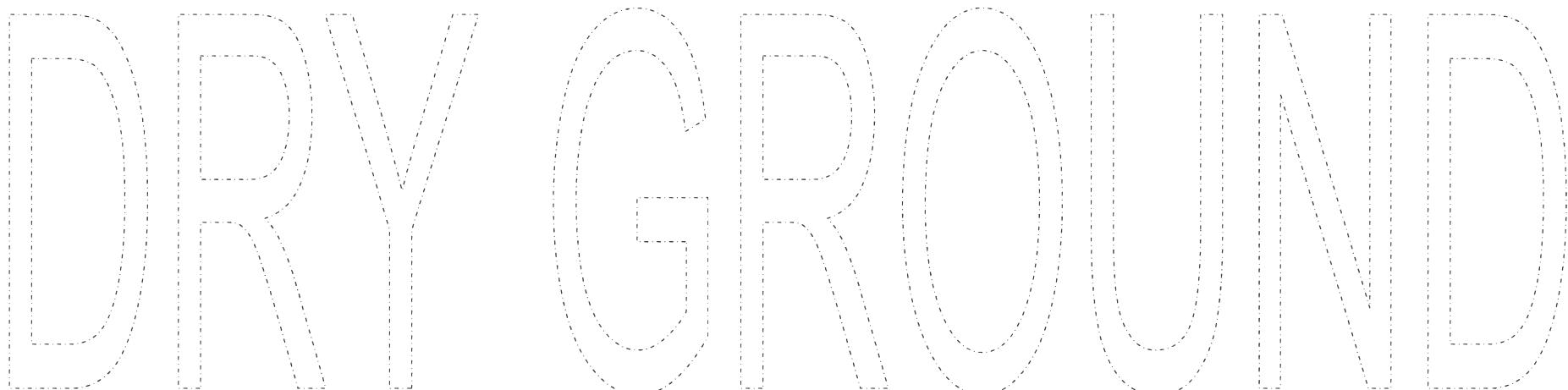
**Blue Jell-O and Goldfish**

Serve regular blue Jell-O along with Goldfish Crackers as a snack.

Example:



Exodus 14:29 ...the Israelites went through the sea on...



## The Ten Commandments

**Teacher Pep Talk:** God had miraculously led His people (the Israelites) out of Egypt and safely through the Red Sea. Now at long last the Israelites had arrived at the mountain of God. They were glad to be there, but when they actually heard God speak to them, they were afraid. So the people sent Moses to speak with God and to come back and tell them what He said. Moses went up on the mountain to speak to God. When he returned he had with him the 10 Commandments on 2 stone tablets, written by the very finger of God!

**You will need:**

Bible

Aluminum Pie Pan or metal cooking pan, wooden spoon

Kazoo(s) OR empty paper towel rolls OR other noise maker(s)

Other items depending on the activities chosen

**Major Points:**

The Israelites Arrived at the Mountain of God

God Wanted to Speak to His People

God Told His People The Law (10 Commandments)

Moses went up on the Mountain of God

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments

**Scripture Ref:**

Exodus 19-20, and 31.

**Memory Verse:**

[The LORD gave Moses the two tablets of the covenant law...]

Exodus 31:18 “*the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.*”

**Lesson:**

### **The Israelites Arrived at the Mountain of God**

- *[Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]*
- *[Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]*
- God's people (the children of Israel) had left Egypt!
- They had been in slavery for 400 years and now they were free!
- God had brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand!
- They traveled until they came to the mountain of God, where Moses had originally seen the Burning Bush
- There they planned to worship God, just as God had told Moses

### **God Wanted to Speak to His People**

- The Israelites were God's people
- God wanted to set them apart from everyone else
- God wanted to give His people His Law
- God's Law would help people to know right from wrong
- So, God came down to the mountain in a dense cloud
- God wanted the people to hear Him speaking
- Wow! God was going to speak directly to His people.

- What do you think God would sound like? (*Wait for answers.*)
- What do you think God might say? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Let's see what the Bible says happened.

**God Told His People The Law (10 Commandments)**

- *[Prepare to use noisemakers, etc during this portion of the lesson. Children may help make the trumpet noise with kazoos, or by making trumpet noises with the empty paper towel rolls.]*
- First, God had the people wash themselves and to stay back away from the mountain. (They weren't even to touch it!)
- Then, God descended on the mountain in a thick cloud
- There was thunder (*Stomp feet to make sound of thunder.*)
- There was lightning (*Use pie pan for crashing sound.*)
- And a LOUD trumpet blast (*Make loud trumpet sounds.*)
- And God came down to the top of the mountain in FIRE
  - And smoke billowed up from the mountain
- Guess how the people felt right then! (*Wait for answers.*) How would you feel if you saw all that?
  - That's right! They felt SCARED!
  - Have you ever felt scared? (*Listen to a story or two.*)
  - Well, these Israelites were very scared!
- And THEN God spoke out loud to the people
- God told them His Law; We call them the Ten Commandments.
  - *[Count to 10 together. Hold up your fingers and count.]*

**Moses went up on the Mountain of God**

- But the people were still very scared!
- They told Moses, "YOU go to talk to God! (We'll wait here!) Then you can come back and tell us everything that God said."
- So, Moses went up on the mountain of God to talk to Him
- Moses stayed there for 40 days and nights
- And God gave Moses His law

**God gave Moses the Ten Commandments**

- God told Moses all of the Law
- God even wrote it down for Moses on two stone tablets
- Moses brought the two tablets down the mountain to share them with the people
- The stone tablets contained God's Law
- The Bible says that the two stone tablets had been written by the finger of God!

Let's thank God that He appeared to His people and gave them His Law!

Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you that you appeared to your people.  
Thank you that you gave them your law.  
Your law helps us know right from wrong.  
Thank you for loving us.  
We love you back.  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Count to Ten** – *The children will practice counting to 10.*

Before Class: There are many ways to do this activity. Consider bringing to class some fun things to use to count to 10. (EX: Cotton balls, golf balls, seashells, leaves, sticks, blocks, big things, little things...) You might want to place them in different containers (bowls, sacks, etc.) Consider making stations with them around the room. NOTE: An egg carton (with 2 of its holes cut off) makes a lovely holder of 10. Older children may want to learn that 5 and 5 make 10, or that 2 "fives" make 10, or that 5 "twos" make 10.

During Class: Explain that you are going to count to 10 together. Practice with the children saying the numbers out loud. Hold up your fingers to count. Consider counting your toes. Count some different things together. Allow the children to count to 10 by using the different items that you brought to class. (EX: place one cotton ball in each part of an egg carton with 10 spaces, as you count to ten.)

**Stone Tablets** – *Create a picture of the 10 Commandments on the two stone tablets.*

Before Class: Decide which version of this activity will work best with your students. Make a copy of the appropriate activity sheet(s) for each child in class. Provide pencils, crayons or markers. You may also need scissors and glue. Practice writing 1-10 in Roman Numerals, so that you can show the older children how to do it. The Roman Numerals (1-10) are: **I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X**

During Class: Pass out the activity sheet(s) to the children. Explain that you will make a replica of the stone tablets, which Moses brought down from the mountain of God! Allow younger children to write 1-10 on the tablets representing the 10 Commandments. Older children may write 1-10 in Roman Numerals. This can be the end of the activity.

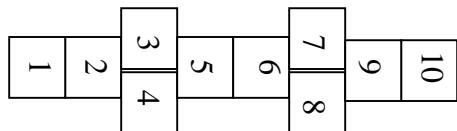
If you would like to have the children paste the commandments on the tablets, allow them to cut the activity sheet with the Ten Commandments and paste them on their stone tablets. Read the Ten Commandments out loud with the children.

**NOTE:** *You may want to send home a copy of the activity sheet (with the 10 Commandments on it) with the children; instead of actually having them cut out and glue the commandments on the stone tablets.*

**Jumping Jacks, Hopscotch, Etc.** – *Energetic ways to learn to count to 10.*

**Before Class:** If you want to play Hopscotch, bring masking tape or chalk to class to mark out squares on the floor.

**During Class:** Use energetic ways to learn to count to 10. These include Jumping Jacks, and Hopscotch. For hopscotch, lay out a grid on the classroom floor as in the diagram. Have the children count from 1 to 10 as they jump forward. Can they count from 10 to 1 as they go back? Have fun!



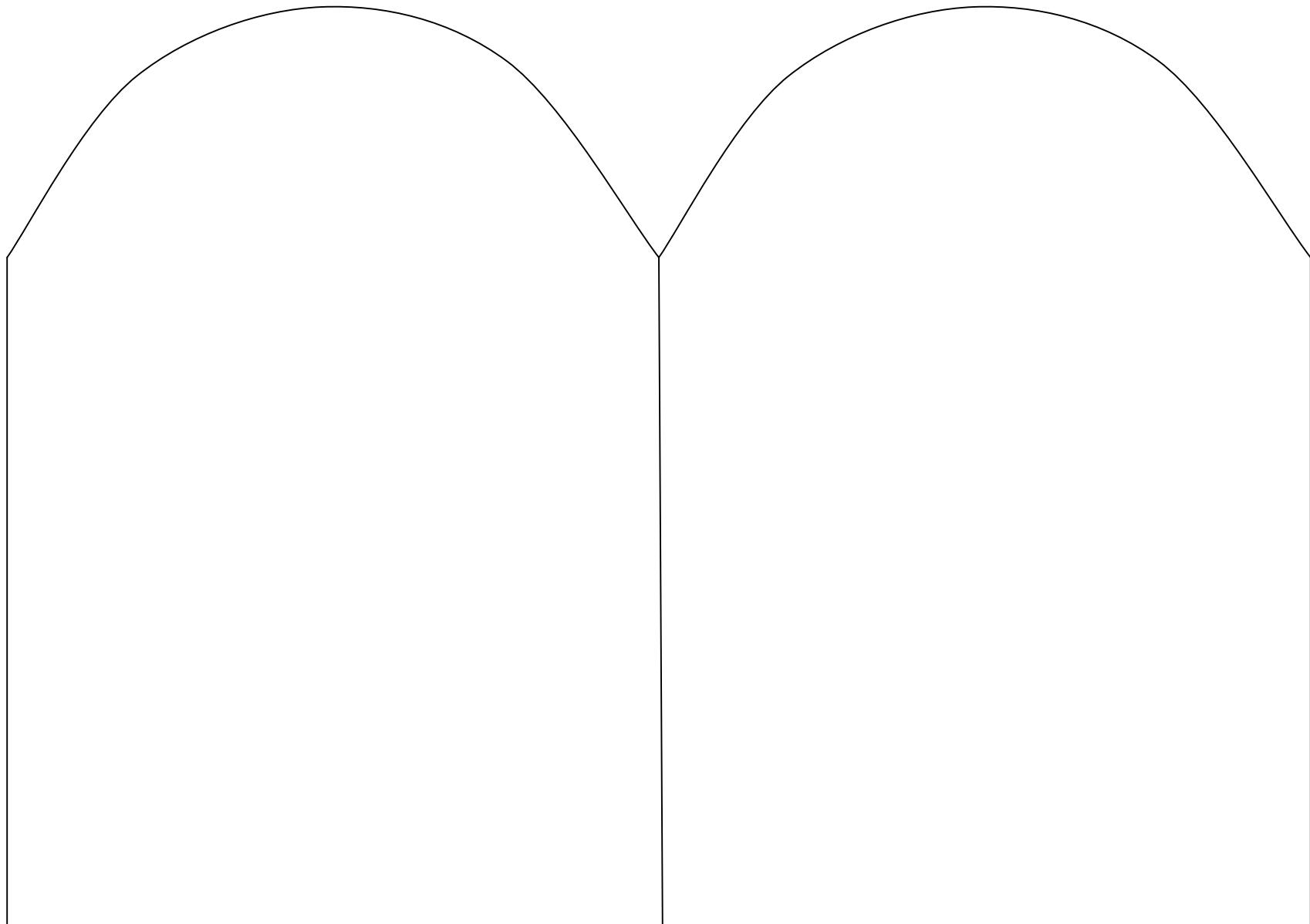
**Thunder and Lightning Noises** – *The children will recreate the sounds heard by the Israelites at the Mountain of God. NOTE: May be done during the lesson or afterwards.*

**Before Class:** Bring to class noisemakers that would be good for making the sounds of thunder, lightning, and a loud trumpet blast: (the 3 sounds described in the Bible as having taken place before God spoke to the Israelites at the Mountain of God.)

Noisemakers for thunder/ lightning may include: pots and pans, wooden spoons, aluminum pie pans, etc. For trumpet sounds, consider kazoo(s) or paper towel rolls that the children may pretend are trumpets. (Empty toilet paper rolls will work too.)

**During Class:** Either during the lesson, or afterwards during Activity Time, allow the children to practice making thunder and lightning sounds as well as trumpet sounds. As a group, recreate some of the sounds that the Israelites might have heard on that day.

*Remember that this might get noisy! ☺*



1 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

2 You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them

3 You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

4 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God.

5 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

6 You shall not murder.

7 You shall not commit adultery.

8 You shall not steal.

9 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

10 You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## The Promised Land

**Teacher Pep Talk:** After 40 years wandering in the Wilderness for their disobedience and lack of faith in God, now the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land. There was just the Jordan River to cross. Just like He parted the Red Sea, God would part the Jordan River. Once again the Israelites would walk through on dry land. Moses would see the Promised Land from a mountaintop, but would not cross over into it. Joshua would lead the people into the Promised Land.

**You will need:** Bible  
Other items depending on the activities chosen

**Major Points:** The Israelites Had Disobeyed God in the Wilderness  
Moses Would See the Promised Land, but Not Go In  
Joshua Would Lead the People Now  
God Parted the Jordan River  
Twelve Stones were Taken from the River Bed  
The Israelites Crossed Over on Dry Ground

**Scripture Ref:** Deuteronomy 31 – Joshua 4.

**Memory Verse:** Deut. 31:3 *The LORD ...will cross over ahead of you.*

**Lesson:** **The Israelites Had Disobeyed God in the Wilderness**

- [Be sure to start with your Bible sitting on your lap.]
- [Review the Timeline in the classroom, if available.]
- While on their way to the Promised Land, the Israelites had disobeyed God... Not once... Not twice... but LOTS of times!
- So, God made them wait for 40 years in the Wilderness before going into the Promised Land (sort of like “time out” for adults.)
- During those years, all the adults, who had disobeyed God, died
- Now their children were all grown up
- It was these children who would now enter the Promised Land

**Moses Would See the Promised Land, but Not Go In**

- Moses had gotten older too!
- When they left Egypt, Moses was 80, and they had been in the Wilderness for 40 years! So, now how old was he? (120)
- Wow! 120! That's really old! I hope I live that long! Would you want to live that long? What do you think you would look like if you were 120 years old? (Wait for some answers.)
- God said that Moses would not enter the Promised Land

- *[You see, once while they were in the Wilderness, Moses had disobeyed God too! Because he had disobeyed, God said that Moses would NOT enter into the Promised Land.]*
- But God, who is always good, allowed Moses to see it
- Before Moses died, God had Moses come to the top of a mountain where He showed Moses all of the Promised Land
- How do you think Moses felt when he saw it? (*Happy, relieved, or maybe even a little sad...because he wouldn't go in*)
- After Moses saw the Promised Land, he died there on the mountain, and the Bible says that God, Himself, buried Moses.

**Joshua Would lead the People Now**

- So Moses wasn't going to go into the Promised Land
- Who was going to lead the people?
- Joshua, Moses' helper, would lead the people now
- Joshua would lead the people into the Promised Land

**God Parted the Jordan River**

- There was one more river to cross: the Jordan River
- It was the last thing separating them from the Promised Land
- On the night before they were to cross over, God sent an east wind to blow... (*Can you blow out air, like when you blow out a candle? Let's all blow like the strong east wind. Good job!*)
- God sent an east wind to blow that stopped the water from running down the river (as far upstream as the town of Adam)
- The Israelites walked across on dry land
- *Remember when they walked across the Red Sea on dry land?*

**Twelve Stones were Taken from the River Bed**

- It had been a very BIG, important day!
- That night was to be their first night in the Promised Land!
- God wanted them to have something to remember this by
- God instructed the Israelites to take 12 BIG stones (one for each of the tribes of Israel) out of the center of the river bed
- They were to pile up the stones there where they camped that night on the new side of the river
- The pile of stones was to stay there to remind the people and their children of what God had done for His people!

**The Israelites Crossed Into the Promised Land**

- So, God parted the Jordan River and the Israelites went across on dry land
- It had been 40 years since they had left Egypt
- Now... finally, the Israelites were home in the Promised Land!
- God had kept His promises to His people!

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises!

Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you for always keeping your promises.  
You kept your promises to your people, the Israelites.  
Thank you for keeping your promises to us too.  
Thank you for loving us.  
We love you back.  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: (*Choose 1-2 that you think will work well with your group.*)

**Balloon Toss Over** – A GREAT game to play together with balloons.

Before Class: Obtain several balloons, preferably one or more per child in your class. Bring masking tape to class to place a line down the middle of the floor. Clear an area in your room to play. (Remove desks and chairs.) Blow up all of the balloons and store.

During Class: Show the children the taped line in the center of the play area. Put half the children on one side of the line and the other children on the other side. Distribute the balloons, or place them all near the line. Tell the children, "When I say 'GO' I want you to throw all of the balloons on your side to the other side of the line. But don't cross the line! One, two, three, GO!" (The children from both teams will try to put all of the balloons on the other side of the line.) Let this go on for a minute or two, then stop the game. Redistribute the balloons. Play again. (*NOTE: This is really fun! But be safe!*)

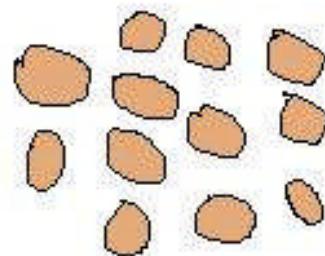
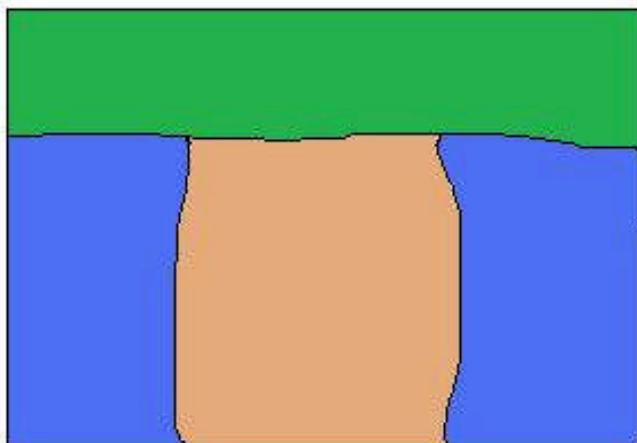
**Big Picture Idea: 12 Stones from the River** – Recreate the Jordan River crossing.

Before Class: Obtain at least 12 brown paper sacks (grocery sacks). You will need something light to put inside the bags. For example: Polyester batting, crumpled newspaper, or crumpled paper sacks. Also provide wide masking tape or packaging tape as well as black or brown markers. You may also want to bring in one or more blue sheets or large pieces of blue fabric. NOTE: If you will have time during class to mark on the outside of the unfilled bags with markers, then allow the children to do that. If you don't think you will have time in class, mark on the bags yourself, before class.

During Class: If time permits, allow the children to mark on the outside of the unfilled bags with markers, making them look more like rocks. With the children's help, fill the bags with some of the materials as listed above. Seal each bag with tape – forming the 12 "stones." Mark off the banks of the river on the floor with tape, and put the 12 stones between them, like they are in the river. Put the blue sheets over the top of the stones. When everything is ready, remove the sheets, saying, "When it was time, God stopped the flowing of the Jordan River as far back as the town of Adam. Then the children of Israel walked into the Promised Land on dry ground." Remind the children that at God's command the Israelites took 12 stones from the center of the river (one for each of the tribes of Israel) and carried them to the other side of the river with them. There they piled them high so that they would serve as a reminder that this miracle had actually happened. Have the class walk across the "dry" river bed. Now go back and carry the 12 stones to the other side of the river. Pile them high there in the Promised Land.

**Create A River** – *The children will create a small version of the Jordan River crossing.*

Before Class: Obtain several large sheets of green, brown and blue construction paper. Cut as needed to provide each child with enough materials. You may also choose to have some brown paper bags of differing colors. Also provide scissors, tape and glue. During Class: Each child starts with a sheet of blue construction paper, representing the Jordan River. Tear or cut a rectangular piece of brown paper to place down the center of the blue construction paper, going from one side to the other. This represents the path God provided through the river. Glue or tape the brown piece of paper in place. Now cut or tear a section of green construction paper and glue or tape it across the page, representing the Promised Land. Use another sheet of brown paper, or brown paper bags, to tear out 12 “stones” to tape in the center of the dry path crossing the river. Put them in the center of the path in the river on your paper. *[NOTE: If you wad up the paper stones, they will look more like stones.]* Now you can take the stones out of the river bed and move them on to the green area representing the Promised Land. Practice stacking up the stones. Use tape as you like. You might want to have some small paper bags or plastic bags for the children to take their stones home with.

**Home, Sweet Home** – *The children will make “sampler” for their wall at home.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the activity sheet for each child in class. Also provide crayons, markers, etc. You may opt to use other decorative items to create a sampler-like effect; things such as rickrack, doilies, or yarn. If so, also provide scissors and glue.

During Class: Using the activity sheet (either as a coloring sheet or as an example for your own project) help the children create a “sampler” for a wall hanging at home. You may choose to write the words on construction paper and then glue yarn or rickrack around the words. For fun, glue your artwork to a rectangle of slightly larger brown construction paper, giving it the appearance of being framed.

