

7. The Exodus (Exodus 13:17–14:31; 15:1-21)

“I’ll be with you.” (Exodus 3:12)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Leadership
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Cloud and Lightning
Victory Cheer
Loving God, Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Pencils | Paper | Newsprint | Markers

Gather: TV/DVD player | Dry-erase board and dry-erase markers

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Large piece of white felt or cloth | Large piece of yellow felt or cloth | Toy tambourines | LED candle | Tablecloth | Real tambourine

Bless: TV/DVD player | LED candle | Tablecloth | Real tambourine

Before You Teach

This week, we explore the Exodus. Today’s Scripture covers the Israelites’ escape from Egypt under Moses’s leadership. The Israelites left Egypt led by Moses and guided by God in the forms of a column of cloud during the day and a column of lighting during the night. Pressured by the many plagues God sent to Egypt, Pharaoh had previously agreed to free the Israelites and let them leave Egypt. He suddenly changed his mind and gathered his army to chase the Israelites.

When the Israelites saw Pharaoh’s army behind them, they were afraid and even tried to reject Moses’s leadership and return to working for the Egyptians. But Moses reminded them to “keep still” and wait for the LORD to fight for them. God shielded the Israelites from the Egyptians’ view, using the column of cloud and the column of lightning. Then God helped Moses part the Reed Sea, and the Israelites walked through on dry land with Pharaoh’s army following them. Then God used Moses to close the passage of dry land in the sea, which swallowed up the Egyptians. The people celebrated God’s rescue with song and dance. Moses and the Israelites sang a victory song to the LORD. Aaron’s sister, Miriam, sang her own victory song. She and the women danced and played tambourines.

This story offers an opportunity to learn the qualities of a good leader. It also offers an opportunity to remember that God will rescue God’s people and to celebrate what God has done for each of us. We will explore leadership through discussion and playing a game, and we’ll celebrate with song and dance. You’ll want your children to know that there is no circumstance too big or frightening for God to rescue them, and that we should celebrate the ways that God acts in our lives. You’ll also want them to know that God can use them to lead in their communities, just as God used Moses.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of “Attendance Chart” (Class Kit—pp. 15 & 18, or 16–17) at eye level.

- Play “Unstoppable” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the “Attendance Chart.” For the “Community Attendance Chart,” the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #7.

SAY: Our Bible story is about the Israelites crossing the Reed Sea.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 7 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Escape” (Activity Sheets—p. 15). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “Victory” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 16).

SAY: Today’s Bible story reminds us that God will help us when we are in trouble.

OR

B—Leadership (Discussion)

Before class: Gather a dry-erase board and dry-erase markers or newsprint and markers.

SAY: In our Bible story, Moses leads the Israelites in their escape from Pharaoh’s army. There are many ways to be a good leader.

ASK: What do you think makes a good leader?

- Make a list together and put it on the board or newsprint.
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Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring chairs or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a useful way to help children easily move from one activity to the next.*

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- When have you experienced victory?
 - How did you celebrate your victory?
 - Who celebrated with you?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—Exodus 13:17–14:31; 15:1-21).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 7.

SAY: Today, we’re learning about when God helped Moses lead the Israelites cross the Reed Sea and escape Pharaoh’s army.

ASK: What do you think makes a great leader?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “The Exodus” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 7).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 2 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 7 & 26).

- Read the memory verse to the children: “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:12).
 - Have the children repeat the verse after you.
 - Have the children say the verse to another child.
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Cloud and Lightning (Game)

Before class: Gather a piece of white felt or cloth and a piece of yellow felt or cloth.

- Ask for two children to volunteer, one to play the role of cloud and one to play the role of lightning.

SAY: When Moses and the Israelites were leaving Egypt, God went before them during the day, leading them with a column of cloud, and at night God led them with a column of lightning. This game works a little bit like Simon Says. However, instead of doing things like jumping up and down or taking one step forward, you will follow the person in charge around the room. One of you will represent the cloud using the white material, and one of you will represent the lightning using the yellow material. The rest of you will be the Israelites. When the cloud is leading, everyone will follow the cloud. However, the lightning may take over at any time, by calling out, the word *night*, and everyone will have to change directions and follow the lightning around the room. The cloud can take over again at any time by calling out the word *day*. When I call out the word, *switch*, the people playing the cloud and lightning have to select another person to take their place.

TIPS: If your space is small, play like Simon Says and have the children do what the leader (cloud or lightning) says while basically remaining in place. Play as your time permits or until the children tire of playing.

OR

Victory Cheer (Activity)

Before class: Photocopy “Cheer Template” (Leader—p. 48).

SAY: In our Bible story, both Moses and the Israelites sing a victory song. Miriam sings one as well. Let’s write some victory cheers of our own.

- Divide the children into two teams. Let the groups work together to come up with a cheer.
- Have a cheer-off in which each team competes to cheer their cheer in ways specified by you (soft, loud, fast, slow, three times fast, and so forth).

ASK: Can you imagine how the Israelites felt after their victory in escaping Pharaoh’s army?

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display the church and storytelling figures from the Class Kit.

ASK: How do you think Ms. Molly and Pastor Kim would celebrate God?

- Let the children act out a celebration scenario at the Deep Blue church if they would like.
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Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, LED candle, and a tambourine.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 2 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 30) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about a time when the Israelites celebrated. Let’s sign our Bible verse to one another with joy, as we remember that God is with us.

- Gather the children around the “Bible Verse Signs” poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
- Teach the children to sign the verse.
- Have each child sign the verse joyfully to another child.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for being with us in good times and in bad. Thank you for rescuing us and for making us victorious. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Gather a toy tambourine for each child.

SAY: Today, we learned about how God saved the Israelites from Pharaoh and his army, and afterward Israelites celebrated with singing, dancing, and playing tambourines. Let’s sing and dance and play the tambourines together.

- Play “Unstoppable” (Adventure DVD), and let the children sing and dance.
 - Teach the children to play their tambourines to the beat.
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Blessing

Before class: Gather a toy tambourine for each child.

SAY: God helped Moses lead the Israelites to safety as they escaped slavery in Egypt, and the Israelites celebrated. Let’s celebrate our classmates and pray that God will make us all good leaders.

- Have the children form a circle around the worship center, and light the LED candle.
- Invite the children one at a time to step into the circle. As each child enters the circle, have the children shake their tambourines and cheer in celebration. You can play the real tambourine.
- Pray the following prayer for each child.

PRAY: God, thank you for (insert child’s name). We pray that you will make (her or him) a strong leader for (her or his) community like Moses. Amen.

At Home with God

SAY: What is one thing that you learned today about the Exodus? What is one thing that you learned about being a good leader? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets, Session 7, and the Unit 2 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Victory Cheer

Verse:

Refrain:

Verse:

Refrain (repeat above lines):
