

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Leaving Egypt

CROSSING THE RED SEA

Exodus 14

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Twelve

[0250]

AIM: to use the story of crossing the Red Sea to teach my class that God will make a way for them, even when it seems impossible

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A picture to represent a pillar of cloud, and one to represent a pillar of fire
A picture of the Egyptian army
A picture of a large body of water
A stick, to represent Moses' rod
A picture of the waters parted
Your Bible.

POINT OF CONTACT: Do you like to **swim**? How many of you will probably go **swimming** sometime this summer? How many of you are good swimmers? If we were standing here beside a pool, how many of you could **swim** all the way to the other end of the pool without stopping, all by yourself? How many of you could **swim** all the way to the other end, and then back? Does anybody think they could **swim** to the other end of the pool and back five times without stopping, all by yourself? Wow!

Now, what if you were wearing all of the clothes that you have on right now; could you **swim** across the pool then? What if you were wearing all of the clothes that you have on right now and carrying a suitcase; could you do it then? What if you were wearing all of the clothes that you have on right now, carrying a suitcase in one hand and a baby in the other; could you do it then? And what if you were wearing all of the clothes that you have on right now, carrying a suitcase in one hand, a baby in the other, and the water was so deep that you couldn't see the bottom, and what if you had to **swim** in water like that all the way from church to your house; could you do that? The truth is, even if you think that doesn't sound too hard, none of us could it.

But today we are going to learn about some people who came to a large body of water, and they had to get across or they would be captured. The water was deep, they were carrying everything they owned, and they had their families with them. There were no boats and no bridges. It looked pretty impossible, but we are going to find out what happened.

LESSON: Last week we learned that the children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt. They had been in slavery for many years, and God called Moses to go to Pharaoh, the wicked king of Egypt and say what? That's right: LET MY PEOPLE GO! When Pharaoh said "No!" God caused Moses to do many miracles to get Pharaoh's attention. Finally, after many people had died, Pharaoh was crying as he said to Moses, "Go ahead, take your people and leave!" That is where we ended last Sunday.

Now God did not lead the children of Israel out of Egypt just to leave them in the middle of nowhere. God led them every step of the way, He showed them exactly where He wanted them to go. How did He do it? In the daytime God led them with a cloud that everybody could see. Wherever that cloud went the people went. Even though there a few million people, they could all see God's pillar of cloud leading the way in the daytime. When the pillar of cloud traveled forward, all of the people traveled forward. When the pillar of cloud stopped, all of the people stopped.

But at night they could not see the cloud, because it was dark out. So God changed the pillar of cloud into a pillar of fire. That way all of the children of Israel could see where God was leading. So God led His people with a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

Can you imagine what a happy journey this must have been? Just a few days before, all of these people were living as slaves, with slave masters beating them, making them work until they passed out, telling them what they were allowed to do and what they were not allowed to do, living poor and without any freedom; and now they are free, with a loving God leading them, and headed to the Promised Land! Everybody was happy!

But back in Egypt, things had changed. You see, Pharaoh had started thinking about all of the people he had let go. He wondered, “Who’s going to build my palaces now? Who’s going to do all of the dirty work now? I think I made a big mistake by letting those people go. Besides, I can’t let that guy Moses think the he and His God beat me, can I?” So Pharaoh changed his mind and decided that he was not going to let the Israelites go after all. Pharaoh called the captains of his army together, and told them to get their men, their horses and their chariots ready, because they were going to go and bring those Israelite slaves back!

The people of Israel were traveling through the wilderness, feeling glad that they were no longer slaves in Egypt, when all of a sudden somebody in the back of the crowd looked behind them, and saw a big army coming. He looked a little closer, and he realized that it was the Egyptian army. As loud as he could, that guy hollered, “Hey...it’s the Egyptian army! They’re coming after us!” Word spread quickly through the crowd, and soon thousands of people were in a panic. They would never get away. Pharaoh and his army would surely kill many of them, and the rest he would take back to be his slaves once again. Thousands of people began to scream, “Moses! What do we do?”

Moses said, “Follow God’s pillar of cloud! God will not forsake us!”

The people kept on following the pillar of cloud. They could see a little hill just ahead, but...what was on the other side of that sandy hill? They carried their bags, and held their children and pulled their animals as fast as they could move, following that pillar of cloud that was leading them. They came to the top of that little hill and as they looked over to the other side they could not believe what they saw: **a great big body of water!** It was the Red Sea! Now, with Pharaoh and the most powerful army in the world behind them, they had the huge Red Sea in front of them. The people cried as they realized there was nothing they could do; there was no way out!

But Moses did not cry. He simply said to all of the people of Israel, “Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord!” Moses said, “After today you will never see the Egyptians again!” What was Moses going to do? How did he think he could solve this great problem?

God told Moses **exactly** how to solve this great problem. Ever since his shepherd days, Moses had carried a big stick, called a *rod*. God used that rod to represent the authority that He had given to Moses. All of the people watched as Moses raised his rod over the Red Sea. Suddenly, the pillar of cloud that had been in front of them moved to the back of the crowd. Now instead of leading them, God’s pillar protected them from the Egyptian army. That pillar gave light to the children of Israel, but it brought darkness to the army of Egypt. And as God protected the children of Israel from being harmed, a strong wind began to blow over the waters. The people watched in amazement as the waters of the great Red Sea began to divide. They could not believe their eyes! They watched as a clear, dry path appeared right down the middle of the Red Sea in front of them. The children of Israel took their belongings and moved forward into the middle of the Red Sea. All night long God kept the path clear and dry for them, until they arrived safely on the other side.

When the people of Israel got to the other side, they looked back to see what would happen next. They were scared to see that the army of Egypt was following them in the path through the Red Sea. They thought, “Oh no, the same path that allowed us to cross safely is going to allow them to cross safely, too!”

But God knew what He was doing. He waited until the army of Egypt got into the middle of the sea on the dry pathway. Then their chariot wheels began to fall off. And with wicked Pharaoh watching on the other shore, God closed the waters back up on top of them. The army of Egypt was destroyed. And as the children of Israel looked back, they sang a song of celebration because they knew that they were safe at last!

Kids, the children of Israel had a problem that seemed pretty impossible to solve, didn’t they? Have you ever had an impossible problem? Sometimes schoolwork can seem pretty impossible. Your mom or dad might ask you to do some things that seem impossible. You will face many obstacles in your life that will seem impossible to you, through high school, college, your first job, getting married, buying your own house, being a mommy or a daddy. No matter what you try to do in life, you will face tasks that seem impossible. You cannot turn around and run. You must go forward. God promises that when we do go forward doing right, He will take what seems impossible, and He will make a way for you.

Do you have an impossible problem today? God can make a way for you. Why don’t you ask God to fix it? No matter how hard it is, say, “God, please fix this for me.” Ask our pastor to pray for it for you. Ask him to put it on the prayer list for you on Wednesday nights. Keep praying until you see God make a way for you.

Let’s learn our memory verse: **Jeremiah 33:3 - Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.**

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Exodus 14

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Two, Lesson Twelve

[0250]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **GOD KNOWS HOW TO LEAD YOU.** God was leading the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Exodus 13:21-22. That means that every step they took, they were following God's lead. So it was no accident that they would up cornered by the Red Sea. God brought them to this place for a number of reasons. God knows exactly how to lead His people.
- II. **GOD KNOWS THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU WILL FACE.** God knew that Pharaoh would change his mind. Exodus 14:3-9. When you face an impossible circumstance, stop and remind yourself that God knew that this was coming. Is it trouble of your own making? God knew that you would make those mistakes, He knew that you would sin and fail, and He led you to this place to get you to look to Him. Nothing about your circumstances ever takes God by surprise.
- III. **GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER YOU, NO MATTER WHAT PROBLEM YOU FACE.** Exodus 14:10-18. We tend to think that there are fixable problems, and unfixable problems. Of course, that all depends upon who we have put "on the job." If we are on the job, that there are indeed unfixable problems. But if we are truly looking to God and God alone, then all of our problems are fixable problems. The Red Sea is forever our reminder that no problem is beyond God's reach.
- IV. **GOD'S DELIVERANCE IS COMPLETE.** Exodus 14:19-30. God did not just open the Red Sea to make a way for the Israelites to pass through. God did not just close the Red Sea after the Israelites, to leave a determined Pharaoh to chase and capture them another day. God closed the Red Sea on the Egyptians, forever removing them as a threat to the people of Israel. Trust God all the way to the end. His victories are complete victories.
- V. **GOD IS NOT JUST LEADING YOU OUT; HE IS LEADING YOU IN.** This was not just the end of an old day in the lives of the Israelites; it was the beginning of a new day, a new period. For the next 18 months, God would prepare His people to enter the Promised Land. Throughout the Bible we find examples of God making an end of something; but it was always followed by a new beginning, a new phase, a new work. Don't just look for your problems to end. Look for the new beginning that God has for you. mercy. Every one of us can and will choose on which side of His judgment we will stand.

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Exodus 14

[0250]

God Delivers Israel from the Egyptians For Ever

I. EXODUS 14:1-9 PHARAOH CHASES THE ISRAELITES

1-4 God warns Moses that Pharaoh will change his mind

5-7 Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues the Israelites

8-9 Pharaoh and his army overtake the Israelites camping by the Red Sea

II. EXODUS 14:10-20 THE LORD INSTRUCTS MOSES

10-14 The people panic, and Moses encourages them

15-18 God tells Moses to lift his rod over the Red Sea to part the waters

19-20 The pillar gives darkness to the Egyptians and light to the Israelites

III. EXODUS 14:21-31 GOD DELIVERS THE ISRAELITES

21-22 God parts the Red Sea and the Israelites cross on dry ground

23-28 The Egyptian army follows them, and God drowns them

29-31 Israel sees what God did, and they believe God and Moses

Jeremiah 33:3

*Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,
which thou knowest not.*

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From today's Bible lesson, write "TRUE" next to each true statement below,
and "FALSE" next to each false statement.

- _____ 1. The children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt.
- _____ 2. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go."
- _____ 3. As soon as Moses said, "Let my people go," Pharaoh said, "Sure, I'd be glad to help you out."
- _____ 4. Because Pharaoh would not let God's people leave Egypt, God sent ten terrible plagues upon the land of Egypt.
- _____ 5. As a result of the ten plagues, Pharaoh let the children of Israel leave Egypt.
- _____ 6. Once Pharaoh let the Israelites leave, he never changed his mind.
- _____ 7. Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt.
- _____ 8. The Israelites were trapped, with the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them.
- _____ 9. When Moses prayed for God's help, God said, "I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do to help you."
- _____ 10. God parted the Red Sea, brought Israel through on dry ground, and drowned the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

*Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

Jeremiah 33:3

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The answers to today's puzzle

- TRUE** 1. The children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt.
- TRUE** 2. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go."
- FALSE** 3. As soon as Moses said, "Let my people go," Pharaoh said, "Sure, I'd be glad to help you out."
- TRUE** 4. Because Pharaoh would not let God's people leave Egypt, God sent ten terrible plagues upon the land of Egypt.
- TRUE** 5. As a result of the ten plagues, Pharaoh let the children of Israel leave Egypt.
- FALSE** 6. Once Pharaoh let the Israelites leave, he never changed his mind.
- TRUE** 7. Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt.
- TRUE** 8. The Israelites were trapped, with the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them.
- FALSE** 9. When Moses prayed for God's help, God said, "I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do to help you."
- TRUE** 10. God parted the Red Sea, brought Israel through on dry ground, and drowned the Egyptian army in the Red Sea.