

Session 5

Pack up, pack up

Children experience something about the exodus from Egypt and the miracle of the Red Sea.

Scripture: Exodus 11–14

Supplies:

- A few baskets or bags with old clothes
- A stick with a big picture of a cloud on one side and a big picture of flames on the other side
- A staff/walking stick



Welcome

Play “Washing bag relay”

The children form rows. Empty a bag of clothing in front of the first child in each row. When you say, “start”, the child in front begins to put on one clothing piece at a time, then taking it off, and giving it to the person behind them without it touching the ground. The child at the back must put the clothes behind them. The row that finishes first, wins.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Stand in a circle and hold hands:

“Because I believe in God, I can forgive those who hurt me.

Because I believe in God, I look forward to the beautiful life God is preparing for me.”



Word

The presenter and group leaders dramatize the Word section. They enter the room quickly and start packing the clothes into bags. They chase the children in a clump and make sure that everyone is wearing their own shoes and clothes. The presenter and group leaders begin talking to each other, following the basic story line. Chat over the children to each other.

“Come on, everyone! This is what we’ve been waiting for all this time, and now it’s finally happening! Moses told us exactly what to do when the time is right.”

Someone else answers: “Is that why all the Egyptian women are crying so hysterically? Wow, I can’t believe it!”

Someone else answers: “Yes, the eldest children of the Egyptian families died. And not just their children, but also the slave children and the animals’ young! How awful!”

“God said that He would do it and now He has! Because the pharaoh didn’t want to listen! Now the pharaoh said we need to leave Egypt. Moses says we need to get packed and be ready to go!”

Presenter: Thanks, everyone! Let’s settle down while we wait.

Just see how wonderful God is. What a journey He's been on with us recently! He called Moses to lead us, and when the pharaoh wouldn't let us go God sent all those plagues to Egypt. Who can remember which plague it all started with? *(Help the children to remember the 9 plagues)*

And now the tenth plague has hit the country. All the eldest children have died. God told Moses what we had to do to be spared from the plague. You remember what we did yesterday. *(If you have group leaders to help you, let one of them list the preparations and show examples.)*

Every family had to slaughter a sheep and cook the meat, make bread without sourdough and add bitter leaves to the dinner. Before we ate, we had to dress appropriately, as if we were going on a long journey. Do you remember? *(Dress one of the children from the heap of clothes; a band across their waist, sandals, and a walking stick.)* Remember how quickly we had to eat? Every father slaughtered the sheep and smeared the blood around the front door's frame. It was a bit strange to us, but Dad explained that the blood around the door would protect us. I don't think I realized how bad this last plague would be. Twelve o'clock last night the Egyptian families began to cry and they haven't stopped since.

Wonder question: Let's pause this journey of imagination for a moment. I wonder how you would feel to wake up in this chaos.

(The story continues... Show the stick with the cloud at one end and the flames at the other end. Get a volunteer to hold the stick.)

God traveled with the Israelites. They didn't have a GPS or any good maps to know where they were. But God led them in a special way!

At night God led them with a pillar of fire *(flame side of the stick)* and during the day with a pillar of cloud *(turn the stick upside down)*. The cloud and the fire led them to the Red Sea.

When the king of Egypt realized that the Israelites were gone, he was very regretful. "Who's going to work for us now?" The king immediately got onto a chariot with a group of soldiers to chase after the Israelites. The Egyptians began to catch up to the Israelites. The Israelites could see them coming. *(Let the children look into one direction.)* They began shouting at Moses. "Did you bring us here to die in the desert? Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt?" Moses said to them: "Don't be afraid! Watch this!" *(Show the staff/walking stick.)*

God told Moses exactly what to do. Moses picked up his staff and held it out over the ocean. *(Raise the staff over the children.)* He lifted up his hand. God sent a strong wind and it blew the entire night. The water was pushed away and there was dry land in the middle. *(Point with the staff between the children so that they open a pathway for you. Walk between them while telling the story.)* There was a wall of water on the right and on the left.

The Israelites began walking *(children stomp their feet.)* The Egyptian soldiers were still chasing them and came closer every minute. God kept the Egyptians back by letting their wheels sink into the sand and they became confused. They were scared and wanted to turn around. *(Stand between the children and turn around while telling the story.)* Then God told Moses: "Raise your hand over the sea again. The water will cover the soldiers." *(Continue walking and let the children move back to where they were like the water spilling back.)* Luckily all the Israelites were already safely on the other side. The Israelites saw how mighty God is and they respected Him and believed in Him.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder if you were one of the Israelites, what you would tell a new friend on the other side of the Red Sea.
2. I wonder what you can entrust to God.
3. I wonder which words you would use to describe God after hearing this story.



Working and Playing

- Give each child a copy of the Red Sea to colour. Cut the solid lines and fold the dotted line. Slide the blank triangle underneath the other triangle with the scripture and glue it in place. It becomes the "walls of water."

- Each child receives a page folded into three equal parts. Draw Moses with his staff in the middle. Paint or colour the two outer parts blue to represent the water. Fold the “water” parts to the inside – it will look as if the “water” opens for Moses.

Closing prayer to end the session

