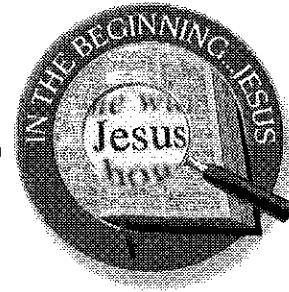


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 16 The Exodus

Themes:

- God is almighty—no one can oppose Him and succeed.
- God is faithful—He delivered His people from bondage in Egypt.
- God is sovereign over all creation.
- Man is sinful.
- Trusting in God is the only way to be saved.

Scripture:

Portions of Exodus 12-14; Exodus 3:21-22; 9:15-16

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:11 (and review verses 3-10)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - PLAGUES 1-10, NO A-D, and GO (from Lesson 15)—Tape these on the wall or the large piece of paper as directed in Lesson 15.
 - GOD'S WONDERS + PHARAOH'S HARD HEART (from Lesson 15).
 - = FAME FOR THE LORD.
 - PILLAR OF CLOUD.
 - PILLAR OF FIRE.
 - SEA.
 - PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.
 - PHARAOH'S ARMIES.
 - MAZE Activity Sheet (from Lesson 9).
 - GOD'S MERCY/GOD'S JUDGMENT (from previous lessons).
 - FIREWORKS DISPLAY.
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
 - Bible Clue Card #19.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Tape.

Lesson

Display PLAGUES 1-10 from Lesson 15 and ask the children the following brief review questions: Who sent these plagues? [God.] What people did He send them on? [The Egyptians.] **Display GOD'S WONDERS+PHARAOH'S HARD HEART**. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart and "multiply" these wonders instead of just getting the job finished with one plague?

Have the children turn to **Exodus 9:15-16**:

[God said to Pharaoh], "For by now I could have put out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you My power, so that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth."

Add = **FAME FOR THE LORD** to the right of **GOD'S WONDERS+PHARAOH'S HARD HEART** so that it now reads:

GOD'S WONDERS+PHARAOH'S HARD HEART=FAME FOR THE LORD

Explain that God didn't want to do things the "easy" way by just sending one plague to free His people. He multiplied the plagues and hardened Pharaoh's heart to show how great He is so that people all over the earth would hear about what God had done: *"Israel's God sent 10 awesome plagues. Wow! There is no one else like the LORD!"*

So what happened after the 10th plague?

Have the children turn to **Exodus 12:31-33**:

Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

Point out that not only did Pharaoh finally relent and let God's people go, he was eager and even desperate for them to leave. What about the Egyptian people? Have the children look at verse 33 carefully. What words does the Bible use to show how eager the Egyptians were to get rid of the Israelites? [Urgent, haste.]

Choose children to read **Exodus 12:34-36** for Israel's response:

So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Did the people of Israel take their time packing up to leave? How do you know they left in a hurry? [They took their bread dough before it was leavened.] Did the Egyptians treat them as lowly slaves as they left? [No.] How do we know this? [God gave the Israelites favor, and the Israelites were given silver, gold, and clothing by the Egyptians.] Do you think the Israelites were surprised by this?

Point out that God had foretold this in **Exodus 3:21-22**, back before Moses had even met with Pharaoh. Everything had happened just as God had planned. Explain to the children that it is hard for us to imagine how the Israelites must have felt at this moment. They had now been in Egypt for more than 400 years, far away from the land that God had promised them.

Have you ever had to wait a long time for a promise to be fulfilled? Did it seem like it might never happen? Did you begin to have your doubts?

Many of the Israelites probably wondered if God had forgotten His promise. But imagine what they must have felt like after seeing God perform not one amazing miracle, but 10! And now the mighty Pharaoh, their former slave master, was actually begging them to leave. How great and mighty the LORD must be!

Illustration: Display FIREWORKS DISPLAY to the children. Have they ever been to see fireworks? How do people usually respond as they watch? Point out that people give expressions of amazement and awe. Ask the children if they know what the "grand finale" is at a fireworks display. [At the end, when they shoot off lots and lots of fireworks at the same time.]

The 10 plagues were just the beginning of amazing things God had in mind. God also had a "grand finale" planned for His people and the Egyptians. Something that would amaze them all!

Read **Exodus 13:17a, 18a**:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near.

But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.

Choose a child to read **Exodus 13:21**:

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Explain that by following the cloud and the fire, God led His people to camp right next to a large sea. **Display SEA** and tape it to the wall or large piece of paper. Just to the left of this visual, tape the **PILLAR OF CLOUD** and **PILLAR OF FIRE**. Then, to the left of these tape the **PEOPLE OF ISRAEL**.

Does anyone see a possible problem with this plan? Should Israel try to fix this problem by going a different way?

Illustration: Display the **MAZE Activity Sheet** (from Lesson 9). Recall that a child was blindfolded and led by the other children to the exit of the maze. The child had to trust that he was being led in the right way. But what if the children had led the child along this route (draw a line from the start of the maze to a dead end). Would this have been a good idea? Point out that it seemed as if God had led His people to a "dead end" and, worse yet, God hardened Pharaoh's heart again and Pharaoh decided to pursue God's people.

Read **Exodus 14:9a**:

The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea.

Display PHARAOH'S ARMIES and place it slightly to the left of **ISRAEL**. Emphasize that Israel was now cornered with nowhere to go. What would they do?

Choose children to read **Exodus 14:10-11**:

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"

*What did the Israelites expect would happen to them? [That they would be killed by the Egyptians.] What was wrong with their thinking? [Allow the children to give a few responses.] What had they seen happen just a short time ago? (Point to **PLAGUES 1-10** and the **PILLAR OF CLOUD** and **PILLAR OF FIRE**.) Who had done these "impossible" things in order to free them? [God.]*

Explain that God had proven Himself over and over to be a good and faithful God. He had shown them that nothing was too hard for Him to do. But the Israelites still did not fully trust God, and because of their unbelief they thought they would be better off back in Egypt serving Pharaoh.

Display GOD'S JUDGMENT/GOD'S MERCY. Point out that just as the Egyptians deserved God's judgment, so did Israel. They still did not trust God to do what He said He would do. Even though they had seen with their own eyes what the LORD had done, their sinful hearts and minds did not believe He was able to save them this time.

Read Moses' reply to the people from **Exodus 14:13-14**:

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Who would fight for Israel against Pharaoh and his armies? [The LORD.] Who won the last "showdown" between the LORD and Pharaoh? [The LORD.] Did God ask for any help from Israel last time? [No.] Will He need any help from Israel this time? [No.]

Quickly read **Exodus 14:19-20a, 21-22**:

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel.

Choose a child to come to the front and have him move one of the visuals on the wall in order to give the correct picture of what happened in the verses that were just read. (The **PILLAR OF CLOUD** should now be taped between **PHARAOH'S ARMIES** and **PEOPLE OF ISRAEL**.)

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Choose a child to come up and move one of the visuals in order to give the correct picture of what happened in these verses. (The **PEOPLE OF ISRAEL** should now be to the right of the **SEA**.)

Did Moses, by stretching out his hand over the sea, divide the sea? Could

Moses or all of the Israelites working together have parted the waters of this large sea? Who alone was able to do this? The LORD!

When the Egyptians saw what God had done, were they ready to give up the fight?

Read **Exodus 14:23** and **26**:

The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."

*Did Pharaoh and his mighty army win this time around? Could he ever win against the LORD? No! What should our visuals look like at the end of the story? Where should **PHARAOH'S ARMIES** be placed? [Under the **SEA**.] Tape this visual under **SEA** so **PHARAOH'S ARMIES** are no longer visible. So what was God's "grand finale"?*

Display Bible Clue Card #19 and choose a child to come up and insert the card under the red paper in the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

Clue under Window # 17

Open Window #17 to reveal: **DELIVERANCE**. Point out that as amazing as the 10 plagues were, they were just a preview to God's grand finale in this story: parting the sea, killing Pharaoh and his armies, and setting Israel free from their bondage in Egypt. And, in doing these great signs and wonders and in delivering His people, God made His name famous over all the earth. **Display GOD'S WONDERS+PHARAOH'S HARD HEART=FAME FOR THE LORD.**

Application

- Point out that in today's Bible story God purposely led Israel to a dead-end. He brought them to a place where they had no way to escape—either by the sea or through Pharaoh and his armies. Why would God choose to do things this way? Read and discuss **Exodus 14:3-4, 30-31**. Can you think of a situation in which God seemed to bring you to a dead-end where you had to simply trust Him? How did He show you His greatness through that situation? How should this give you confidence to trust Him even more?

- Explain that in Moses' time, chariots were a sign of a very mighty army—one that was sure to win against an army on foot. Why did the Egyptians believe they could overtake the Israelites? What were they trusting in? Was their trust well placed? Read **Exodus 14:24b-25a**. Could the Israelites trust in their own strength? Why not? Who alone could they trust in? Would this trust be well-placed? Why? Read and discuss **Psalms 20:7**. How does this apply to us? Ask the children if this is always true for them. Are there times that they depend on their own strength, intelligence, etc.? Give them a concrete example of misplaced trust and also an example of trusting in God.
- Have the children recall a time when they saw or experienced something they thought was amazing. Did it make them feel like shouting, cheering, clapping, jumping up and down, etc.? What about Israel seeing and experiencing the parting of the sea, seeing the "mighty" Pharaoh and his armies drown, being finally freed from Egypt? How did Israel respond? Choose children to read **Exodus 15:1-2, 6, 11, 20-21**.
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 16 in their workbooks. Have them write today's clue in the notebook section. Next, have them read the sentences printed on their workbook page. One word from each sentence is scrambled. The key for solving these scrambled words can be found by reading **Exodus 15:1-13, 17**. In verse 11, what do the words, "majestic," "holiness," "awesome," and "glorious" mean? What is the only true answer to the two questions in this verse? Do these words describe your own, heart-felt response to God?

Send Home

- Parent Resource Page

