

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 7
Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

Theme: Moses as a Hero

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord protected Moses and prepared Him for the great work of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- B. It is the Lord who delivers us from evil.
- C. The pillar of cloud was an angelic choir, not one angel. (8192)
- D. The pillar of cloud and fire represent the letter of the Word in which the Lord's love glows even though it is partly concealed.
- E. If we trust in the Lord and obey His commandments, His power will always protect us.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Do you remember the little baby boy who was put into a basket? He was a Hebrew baby. He lived a long time ago in a land called Egypt. And Egypt had a wicked king named Pharaoh. Pharaoh didn't want any Hebrew baby boys in his country. Do you remember how the baby's mother put him into a basket in the river hoping someone would find him? Who found the baby? Pharaoh's daughter! She wanted to help the baby. The baby lived in Pharaoh's house, and Pharaoh's daughter loved him as her own son. Then after he was grown up, the Lord talked to him in a burning bush. Do you remember the baby's name? Moses. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord kept Moses safe and brought Pharaoh's daughter to the river at just the right time?
 - 2. Today we are going to talk about some things Moses did after he grew up. He was a shepherd and took care of sheep. Then the Lord told him to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. (The Egyptians didn't like the Hebrews, and they made them work very hard. So the Hebrews were very unhappy in Egypt.) Moses didn't think he could lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, but the Lord promised to help him.
 - 3. Moses went to Pharaoh, and he asked him to let the Hebrew people leave Egypt. But Pharaoh said no. The Lord helped Moses do miracles like turning a stick into a snake! But Pharaoh still said no. Then the Lord sent plagues to Egypt. (A plague is a punishment—very bad trouble). There was a bad storm. There was sickness and lots of flies. And once, millions of frogs came up from the river and got into everything! There were ten plagues all together, and they were terrible! At last, Pharaoh said the Hebrews could leave Egypt!

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4. So Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt. (Another name for them is the children of Israel.) All the grown-ups and children left Egypt. They took their animals with them and all of their things. But when they got to the Red Sea, Pharaoh changed his mind, and he chased after them with his soldiers! Let's hear from the Word how the Lord helped the Hebrews and kept them safe from Pharaoh.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Retell Exodus 14. (See attached retelling.)

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Literal sense

- a. How did the Lord lead the children of Israel? (Pillar of cloud and fire)
- b. How did the children of Israel feel when they saw Pharaoh coming? (Afraid)
- c. What did Moses tell the people? (Do not be afraid. The Lord will fight for you.)
- d. How did the children of Israel cross the Red Sea? (The Lord helped Moses part the waters so they could cross on dry land.)
- e. What happened to the Egyptians when they tried to follow? (The water came back and covered the Egyptians, and they were drowned.)
- f. How did the children of Israel feel when they were safe from the Egyptians? (Happy)
- g. What did they do to celebrate? (They sang a song of praise to the Lord, and the women danced.)

D. Further Ideas

- a. The Lord helped the children of Israel in many ways. He sent Moses to be their leader. He gave Moses the power to do miracles like the plagues and parting the Red Sea. Moses could never have done the miracles by himself, but the Lord is all-powerful! And the Lord led the children of Israel with the pillar of cloud and fire. Isn't it wonderful the way the Lord took care of them?
- b. Do you think the Lord takes care of you, too? Of course He does! He takes care of all of us.

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III. Enrichment Activities

- A. Activities: (Include these at appropriate times during the lesson if you wish.)
1. Ask children to stand up and stretch out their hands with you to show how Moses stretched out his hand the two times this comes into the story.
 2. Celebrate the Lord's saving the children of Israel from the Egyptians. Sing a song of praise to the Lord. Perhaps lead the children in a very simple dance. (Clap hands, twirl, lift arms & clap overhead, sway to the left and to the right, clap hands)
 3. After children have finished making their pillars of cloud and fire, have them march around the room holding up the pillars to guide them. The cloud facing them during the "day" and the fire facing them at "night."
- B. Music
1. "When I'm happy I like to sing," *First Songs*, p. 2
 2. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245
- C. Project: A PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE
1. Materials needed for each child
 - a. Precut poster board "pillar"
 - b. Cotton balls for clouds
 - c. Precut squares of tissue paper in fiery colors
 - d. Glue sticks
 - e. Yarn, string, or ribbon for hanging the pillar of cloud and fire
 2. Motivating the Children
 - a. During the day the Lord led Moses and the children of Israel with a pillar of cloud. At night He led them with a pillar of fire. What a wonderful way for the Lord to lead the children of Israel on their trip to their new home!
 - b. How big do you think the pillar of cloud was? What color do you think the cloud was? What do you think the pillar of fire looked like? What color is fire?
 - c. Let's each make our own pillar of cloud and fire to help us remember this story.
 3. Procedure
 - a. Have children work on the fire side of the pillar first. Tear the tissue paper, crumple it a bit, and glue to one side of the pillar. (You may choose to simplify the project by making the pillar of fire with crayons or oil pastels instead.)
 - b. Now make the pillar of cloud by gluing cotton balls to the other side of the pillar.
 - c. Loop string, yarn, or ribbon through the hole near the top of the pillar so it may be hung up at home.

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IV. Teaching Aids

A. Picture

1. Crossing the Red Sea
2. Pillar of cloud and fire

B. Props for Story-Telling (Optional)

Blue play dough to show the Red Sea parted in the middle, forming walls on each side.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 2, "Crossing the Red Sea."

B. *The Sower*, Vol. 1.

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A Retelling of Exodus 14, including portions of 13, 15, and 16

THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA

The Lord led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

Now, Pharaoh heard that the Hebrew people had left, and he changed his mind. So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. The Egyptians chased them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his army.

When Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming. They were afraid, then they cried out to the Lord. And Moses said, "Do not be afraid.... The Lord will fight for you...."

Then the Lord told Moses how He would conquer the Egyptians, and He told Moses just what to do.

And the pillar of cloud and fire came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. It protected the children of Israel all that night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

And the Egyptians chased them into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and men. Then the Lord made trouble for the Egyptians. He took off their chariot wheels. The Egyptians decided to run away because the Lord was helping the children of Israel.

Then the Lord told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came after them into the sea.

So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Israel saw the great work, which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang a song to the Lord praising Him. And Miriam and the women took timbrels [musical instruments like tambourines], and they danced.