

Moses at the Red Sea

5

Bible Text

Exodus 14:1-30

Key Verse

But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today.”

Exodus 14:13a

BIG
Idea

**We can trust God
when we are scared.**

LR = Learner Resource

TCK = Teacher Class Kit

M&P = Materials and Preparation

Session at a Glance	What You Need	What Learners Do
Ready for the Story (15 minutes)		
Stuck in the Muck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poster A (TCK), Gr. 5-6 LR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine and act out a present-day version of the Red Sea crossing.
Digging In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gr. 5-6 LR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share stories of scary situations and miracles.
Explore the Story (15 minutes)		
Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters F and I (TCK), Reproducible Sheet E (TCK), Gr. 5-6 LR, Bibles, pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decode a message; dramatically read, and wonder about the story of Moses at the Red Sea.
Faith Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters C and D (TCK), Gr. 5-6 LR, blindfolds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss boldness and trust; try a trust walk.
Bible Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gr. 5-6 LR, Bibles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover similarities between the stories of Noah and Moses.
Live the Story (30 minutes)		
Brain Builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproducible Sheet F (TCK), Gr. 5-6 LR, one clear glass jar, water, food coloring, 1 teaspoon (4.93 ml) each vinegar and liquid dish soap, Bibles, paper, pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a crossword puzzle; create a pillar of cloud; write a song.
Creative Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Witness CD (TCK), Gr. 5-6 LR, CD player, paper, pencils, microphones, cassette recorder, video camera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to the story; create a radio or television news broadcast.
Witnesses in the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gr. 5-6 LR, newspapers, news magazines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss fear-related current events; pray.

Bible Background What Factors Shaped This Story?

God called Moses to lead the Israelite people out of slavery. A series of confrontations in which Moses showed the power of God against Pharaoh culminated in a plague of death upon the firstborn sons of Egyptian families. At this, Pharaoh begged Moses and the Israelites to leave. They went out of Egypt and out of slavery. God led them safely into the wilderness toward the Red Sea.

What Is This Story About?

Even the plague of death does not temper Pharaoh’s arrogance. He still does not take seriously God’s power and sovereignty, so God sets a trap for him. Pharaoh knows the Israelites’ weakness and vulnerability wandering in the wilderness and, disregarding the power of God, sends all his military might against a ragtag band of newly freed slaves.

Nor are the Israelites clear about what’s going on. Seeing the Egyptians in hot pursuit, already forgetting what God has done, the Israelites blame Moses for the recapture they anticipate. Even

Moses doesn’t understand. He says that the Lord will fight for them. To which God says, “Why do you cry out to me?” (verse 15). God was with Moses through repeated confrontations with Pharaoh. God is with Moses and the Israelites now. All they need to do is move forward, relying on God’s power. God will work with them, in them, and through them.

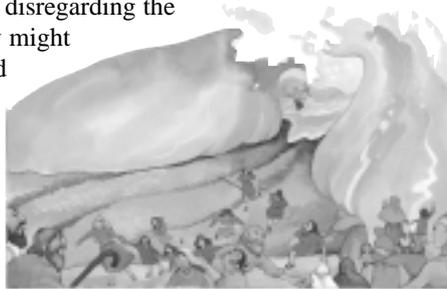
Moses does as the Lord commands. The waters of the sea part and the Israelites go across on dry land. In the same way, when the Israelites are safely across with the Egyptians in pursuit, the waters return and drown Pharaoh’s military—vehicles, army, weapons, and all.

Why Is This Story Important?

The powerful can be arrogant. God stands with the oppressed and wills freedom. Did the waters actually part? Whether they did or not, God’s power delivered the Israelites safely from the hands of their oppressor to freedom and a new life. Beside God, the power of this world comes to naught.

Age-Level Connection

Most children and youth harbor fears of the unknown. Whether they worry about monsters in the closet, storms, or parents arguing, providing a safe place to share fears is comforting to children of all ages. Remind them that they can trust God when they feel scared, and you’ll give them something certain to hang on to during uncertain times.



Teacher Prayer

Guide me, Spirit, with your comforting presence. Show me a clear path through my fears, and assure me of your constant love. Amen

Question for Reflection

Where is God leading you today?

Learner Goals

KNOW

that God saved the Israelites from the Egyptian army

GROW

in their desire to trust God

SHOW

concern for other people’s fears

FACTOID

The Israelites’ route is uncertain. We know God did not lead them on the most direct route along the coast to their destination but took them a round-about way (Exodus 13:17-18).

Witness WORDS

miracle

Ready for the Story (15 minutes)

Stuck in the Muck

M&P *Display Poster A from the Grades 5-8 Teacher Class Kit (TCK). Provide the Grades 5-6 Learner Resources (LR).*

Welcome the learners. Introduce Moses using Poster A, and have the class form two equally sized groups. Distribute the learner resources and have the children turn to Session 5, page 18, in the learner resource. Ask a volunteer to read *Stuck in the Muck*, a present-day version of today's Bible story.

Next, invite everyone to use all the senses to imagine the scene as it's described. **What does it look like? Sound like? Smell like? Feel like? Taste like? Where is the water that people are trying to cross? In your community? In your state? In a faraway place?**

After a few moments of imagining, invite each group to create a short pantomime or skit showing the scenario. Encourage the actors to portray every aspect of the situation, from the blowing of the wind, to the reactions of those watching, to the fate of a car driving through, and the consequences of water returning. Celebrate the imaginations and creative talents of your learners!

Digging In

M&P *Have the learner resources available.*

In today's Bible story, Moses and the escaping Israelites are in a very scary situation. To ponder scary times with your learners, gather together and invite them to either stand or sit (stand for the first choice and sit for the second) in response to each of the Digging In questions on page 18 of the learner resource. Encourage learners to share their reasons for their choices, and invite personal stories of scary times.

- **Which is scarier, walking into a dark room or reaching into a dark closet?**
- **Who would you trust more, a fortuneteller or a weather forecaster?**
- **Which would you rather do, stay where you feel safe or go off on an unknown adventure?**

Next, define *miracle*. **Do you know anyone who has experienced a miracle? Have any of you experienced a miracle yourself?** Listen to their miracle stories and tell learners that today's Bible story is about God, miracles, and scary situations.

FACTOID

Chariots and trained charioteers required technology and wealth. Slavery was one of the costs of maintaining Pharaoh's army.

Explore the Story (15 minutes)

Storytelling

M&P Display Posters F and I (TCK). Provide the learner resources, copies of Reproducible Sheet E (TCK), Bibles, and pencils.

Direct the learners' attention to Poster F. Look at the first scene on the poster and remind the learners of the story of Moses and the burning bush. Then refer to the middle image on the poster—Moses at the Red Sea. **What do you already know about this story?** Distribute copies of Reproducible Sheet E and give everyone time to solve the coded message around the image on the poster. (*Thus the Lord saved Israel that day.*)

Ask volunteers to read the Bible story dramatically, as it is presented in Explore the Story on page 19 of the learner resource. After the reading, point out the possible location of the story on Poster I. Use the following questions to spark a discussion. Accept all answers and enjoy wondering together.

- **Why do you think Pharaoh changed his mind about setting the Israelites free from slavery?**
- **Why do you think the Israelites complained to Moses?**
- **How did Moses most likely respond?**
- **What miracle did God bring about?**
- **Who in the story do you think showed the greatest trust? Why?**

FAITH Traits

M&P Provide the learner resources, Posters C and D (TCK), and blindfolds.

Moses trusted God and acted boldly when he led the Israelites across the Red Sea. Talk about what it means to be bold, then discuss the concept of trust. Refer to Posters C and D as needed. Read the Faith Traits section on page 19 in the learner resource and invite learners to share stories of trusting boldly.

Form learner pairs and blindfold one partner. Give the sighted partner a list of instructions for guiding the blindfolded partner around the room (such as: 1. Walk to the chalkboard. 2. Write your name. 3. Return to your seat). Tell the sighted partner to guide with words only. If time permits, switch roles; repeat.

Gather the group together and ask: **What did it feel like to trust? What was it like to lead? Is this similar to the way God guides us?**

Bible Connections

M&P Provide the learner resources and Bibles.

Recall the story of Noah and the ark from Genesis 6–9. **How is Noah's story similar to Moses'?** (*Both men trusted God during scary times; both stories involve lots of water.*)

Teacher Boost

Your willingness to hear and validate the learners' fears opens the door for deeper sharing.

Looking Back

Discuss the Looking Back questions on page 21 in the learner resource.

- **What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians approaching?** (*Became fearful.*)
- **Why did Moses ask the Israelites to trust God?** (*He believed and trusted that God would care for them.*)
- **What miracle occurred?** (*The water parted and the Israelites crossed safely.*)

Take It Home

Read through the Take It Home activity on page 21 in the learner resource. Encourage learners to thank the people they trust when they're scared.

Closing Prayer

Gather the learners together and say the closing prayer found on page 21 in the learner resource.

Live the Story (30 minutes)

Brain Builders

M&P Provide the learner resources, copies of Reproducible Sheet F (TCK), a clear glass jar, water, food coloring, 1 teaspoon (4.93 ml) each vinegar and liquid dish soap, Bibles, paper, and pencils.

Encourage learners to choose one of the Brain Builders (Puzzle Pros, Scientists, or Singers/Rappers) from page 20 of the learner resource, and form three groups based on those choices. Distribute appropriate supplies to the groups: Puzzle Pros will create a crossword puzzle on Reproducible Sheet F. Scientists will create a pillar of cloud with a clear glass jar, vinegar, liquid dish soap, water, and food coloring. Singers/Rappers will write a musical version of the Bible story. (Follow specific directions in the learner resource.) After five or 10 minutes, invite the groups to share their creations and discoveries.

Creative Corner

M&P Have Track 5 from the Witness CD (TCK) ready to play on a CD player. Have available the learner resources, paper, pencils, and supplies for creating a radio or television news broadcast (microphones, cassette recorder, video camera).

After listening to "EXIT 14 News: Red Sea Rising" (Track 5) on the Witness CD, reflect on the questions presented in the Imagine section on page 20 of the learner resource. Invite learners to create a radio or television newscast of the Red Sea event. Encourage each learner to become a character from the story, part of a sound-effects team, or part of the news team. Record the broadcast with an audiocassette recorder or a video camera, and play it back.

Witnesses in the World

M&P Have the learner resources, newspapers, and news magazines available.

Form small groups. Distribute newspapers and news magazines. Ask each group to find a news story that involves fear. Have them refer to the questions in the Witnesses in the World section on page 21 of the learner resource as they discuss the story. Encourage each group to pray for the people highlighted in their story.