


the  
Jesus   
Storybook  
Bible  
Curriculum

# God makes a way

Moses and the Red Sea, from Exodus 14–15

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*  
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

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## Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.

☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we read about how God rescued Moses and his people from being slaves to Pharaoh and led them out of Egypt. That rescue was called Passover. We also memorized some words that God said to his people.”

☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “Exodus 6:7 — God said, ‘I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.’”

☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, ask: “Have you ever been rescued? Maybe someone rescued you when you were in the sea and could not swim, or maybe you were going to get into trouble and someone got you out of danger. Raise your hand if you have ever been rescued or if you have ever seen a rescue on TV. Thank you, hands down.”

## Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

**Aim:** To expend energy and learn about rescue.

**Materials:** 2 large (preferably blue) sheets or towels.

1. Say: “We’re going to play a game about rescue. May I have four volunteers to hold these sheets?”

2. Ask everyone else to stand by the wall on one side of the room and ask the four volunteers to stand in a line in the center of the room holding up the sheets as a barrier, almost like there is a curtain running across the center of the room.

3. Explain the game: The children are in danger. They need to get to the other side of the room where they will be safe. But a barrier — the sea — is in their way. The only way to get past is if the sea parts to let them through. When you call out, “Cross the sea,” the volunteers holding the sheets will separate the sheets so that a path is formed that everyone else can go through to the other side.

4. Say: “You have to cross doing whatever movement I call out. If I call out, ‘Cross the sea walking,’ the sea will part and you will walk to the other side of the room to safety. If I call out, ‘Cross the sea hopping,’ the sea will part and you will hop to the other side of the room. But when I call out, ‘Freeze, the waves are coming!’ everyone has to freeze. Whoever is not on the other side of the room is out. Ready?”

5. For the first round call out, “Cross the sea skipping,” and allow everyone to get to the other side before you call out, “Freeze, the waves are coming!” Say: “Everyone was rescued. Let’s try again.” Ask the volunteers to re-form the barrier and play again, using a variety of movements; e.g., crawl on all fours, jump, scoot, etc.

6. Play until everyone is out; then, if you have time, play again with four different volunteers holding the sheets, so they get a chance to play too.

7. Toward the end of the allocated time, ask everyone to sit back in the circle. Put the sheets in the center of the circle.

8. Say: “There are lots of things we can do with the sea. We can swim in it; we can surf on it; we can take boats out on it. But can we do what we just did with the sea? Can we make it part so we can run or jump through it to the other side? In today’s story God’s people have escaped from Egypt, but they are not safe yet, and somehow they have to cross the sea. Let’s find out what happens.”

## Story Time

7 min. 

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 92–99 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD1 track 11.

### Notes for Teachers on the Text

The Israelites are delivered from Egypt under Moses by passing through the Red Sea. Psalm 77:15–20 puts it this way: “With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. The waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.... Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world.... Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”

The psalmist here meditates on the exodus, a very concrete demonstration of God’s saving love. God broke into history with miracles to “redeem” his people. The word “redeem” means to be “ransomed out of slavery.” So God literally redeemed his people when he brought them out of Egypt. He redeemed them as he led them with pillars of cloud and fire, and as he parted the Red Sea. And yet, despite these awesome displays of power, God’s concern was, according to the psalmist, to tenderly care for his people as a shepherd guides his flock.

The contrast is intentional. If God were powerful but not tender, we would be terrified. If God were tender but not powerful, we would feel the same. But the psalmist is saying, “If a God this powerful also loves me this tenderly, then what reason do I have to be afraid?” Whatever fears the psalmist may have about his present or future situation, he can look to the past and have his fears powerfully and tenderly calmed.

But we can look to an even more vivid display of God’s power and tenderness, even more than the ever present pillars of cloud and fire, the vast withdrawing of the sea. And as a result we can be even more certain that God will never remove his powerful, tender love from us. We can look to the death of Jesus Christ and see there a greater ransom from slavery, a deeper redemption. We see in Christ infinite power, and yet, as he bleeds for us, infinite tenderness.

# Understanding the Story

15 min. 

**Aim:** To understand that God has done amazing miracles to rescue his people and that we can trust him.

**Materials:** 2 large (preferably blue) sheets or towels; crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, say: "Isn't it amazing! God pushed back the water so that Moses and God's people could cross the sea. We're going to use the story to play a game called frozen sculptures."
2. Explain the game: You will call out a scene from the story. Then you will all quickly share ideas about what people, actions, or feelings might be shown in the frozen sculpture. You will announce the scene again and everyone will take positions as characters in that scene. You will call out "Freeze." They will hold that sculpture for 5 seconds. You will say "Unfreeze," they will sit down, and you will announce the next scene until the whole story has been told.

STORY	FROZEN SCULPTURE
<p>Moses and God's people escaped out of Egypt and God sent a pillar for them to follow so they would know their way through the desert.</p>	<p>Say: "Everyone in the circle, you are God's people. I need a volunteer to be Moses. Moses, please stand in the center of the circle."</p> <p>Ask: "What else do we need in this sculpture? Yes, we need a pillar. How can we show a pillar in a frozen sculpture? Great idea, you can wrap yourself in the sheet with your arms above your head. Who would like to be the pillar? Please come to the center of the circle."</p> <p>Say: "In this scene Moses and the people are staring at the pillar they are following. Everyone in the circle, when I ask you to stand up, are you ready to do that? Then, we are ready to form our frozen sculpture!"</p> <p>Announce the scene again; ask everyone to stand up and form the sculpture. Ask them to freeze for 5 seconds; then say, "Unfreeze," ask them to sit, and announce the next scene.</p>
<p>Pharaoh changed his mind and wanted his slaves back, so he chased after them with his whole army.</p>	<p>Say: "Everyone in the circle, you are soldiers in the army. I need a volunteer to be Pharaoh. Pharaoh, please stand in the center of the circle."</p> <p>Ask: "What are Pharaoh and the soldiers doing? Yes, getting ready for battle, holding swords, etc. Ready?"</p> <p>Announce the scene again; ask everyone to stand up and form the sculpture. Ask them to freeze for 5 seconds, then say, "Unfreeze," ask them to sit, and announce the next scene.</p>

STORY	FROZEN SCULPTURE
<p>God led Moses and his people to the edge of a great sea. In front of them was the sea and they had no way to cross it and behind them was Pharaoh's army. What were God's people going to do? They did the only thing left to do – panic.</p>	<p>Say: "Everyone in the circle, you are God's people. I need a volunteer to be Moses. Moses, please stand in the center of the circle."</p> <p>Ask: "What else do we need in this sculpture? Yes, we need the sea. How can we show the sea in a frozen sculpture? Exactly, we can do what we did in the first activity and hold the sheets. Who would like to be the sea? Please come to the center of the circle."</p> <p>Say: "In the scene the people are screaming in fear (though remember you have to show you are screaming without making noise because you are frozen). The people are screaming, panicking, and shouting at Moses. Ready?"</p> <p>Announce the scene again; ask everyone to stand up and form the sculpture. Ask them to freeze for 5 seconds; then say, "Unfreeze," ask them to sit, and announce the next scene.</p>
<p>But then Moses stretched out his hand and God drove back the sea with a strong wind and made the sea into two walls of water. So, God's people crossed in the middle of the sea to the other side. God's people were safe. They danced and laughed and thanked God.</p>	<p>Say: "Everyone in the circle, you are God's people. I need volunteers to be Moses and the sea. Please stand in the center of the circle. This time the sheets need to form a path like we did in the first activity."</p> <p>Ask: "How do the people feel after they crossed between the walls of the sea to safety? Yes, they stop panicking and start trusting God again. They are very happy and they are thanking God for rescuing them. Ready?"</p> <p>Announce the scene again; ask everyone to stand up and form the sculpture. Ask them to freeze for 5 seconds; then say, "Unfreeze," ask them to sit, and announce "The End."</p>

3. At the end of the activity, give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: "Imagine what it was like to walk across the sea, between two huge walls of water. Who made the wind blow and the sea part so that the people could cross the sea between the walls of water? Say it together. Correct, God did it. What do you think about a God who can do that? Write your answer in the space on your paper."

4. You may want to ask the children to work together in pairs. After 1 minute, ask a few children to share their answers. You may want to share your own personal answer too.

**For larger groups:** You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher and a set of sheets. Each teacher can facilitate the activity with their circle, and then the circles can all perform for one another.

## Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: “God is all those things we wrote down and so much more. When God’s people saw how God had rescued them, they put their trust in God. But we have said many times that the greatest rescue in the Bible is . . . what? Yes, it is Jesus dying on the cross.”

Say: “Now, when God rescued the people, they trusted God. We too can trust the God who rescues his people. We can trust Jesus, the Great Rescuer.”

## Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: “What did we discover about Jesus from today’s story?”

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

## Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God for making the sea part so his people could be rescued. Pray that you and the children would trust the God who rescues his people.

Ask the children to think about a time when they find it hard to trust Jesus and to pray that God would help them to trust Jesus, the Great Rescuer.

## A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Introduce the verse: “The verse we memorized is also a good verse for today’s story.”

☉ Announce the verse: “So, your verse to practice at home is Exodus 6:7 — God said, ‘I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.’”

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.



God is ...

\_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus in the Story



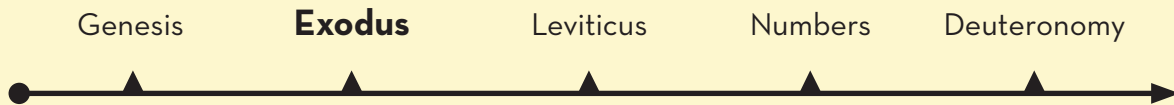
What did you discover about Jesus from this story?



Jesus

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

God said, "I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God."  
(Exodus 6:7)

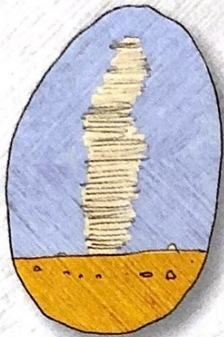


Notes for parents: From the story we learned about how God rescued his people by making a way through the Red Sea. One day there would be an even greater rescue – Jesus dying on the cross. Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of Exodus, using the diagram above. [www.jesusstorybookbible.com](http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com)



## God makes a way

*Moses and the Red Sea,  
from Exodus 14–15*



MOSES AND GOD'S people escaped out of Egypt and into the wilderness. They didn't know the way — but God knew the way and he would show them.

“I will bring you to a new home, a special land,” God promised them. “I will look after you. I am with you.”

God sent a big cloud for them to follow — a pillar of smoke stretching up to the sky. It moved in front of them as they walked and shaded them from the blazing heat of the day. And when it was time to rest, it stopped. All through the cold desert nights it kept them warm, glowing like fire.

God led his people through the desert to the edge of a great sea. They were just wondering how to cross it when, suddenly, they heard a terrible thundering and pounding. It sounded almost like horses' hooves. They shaded their eyes to look back — and screamed! It was! Pharaoh and his army were coming to get them!

Pharaoh had changed his mind again. “Get my slaves BACK!” he screeched and charged out into the desert after them — with 600 of his fastest horsemen — and every single chariot in Egypt.







What were God's people going to do? In front of them was a big sea. It was so big there was no way around it. But there was no way through it — it was too deep. They didn't have any boats so they couldn't sail across. And they couldn't swim across because it was too far and they would drown. And they couldn't turn back because Pharaoh was chasing them. They could see the flashing swords now, glinting in the baking sun, and the dust clouds, and chariot after scary chariot surging towards them. So they did the only thing there was left to do — PANIC!

"We're going to die!" they shrieked.

"Don't be afraid!" Moses said.

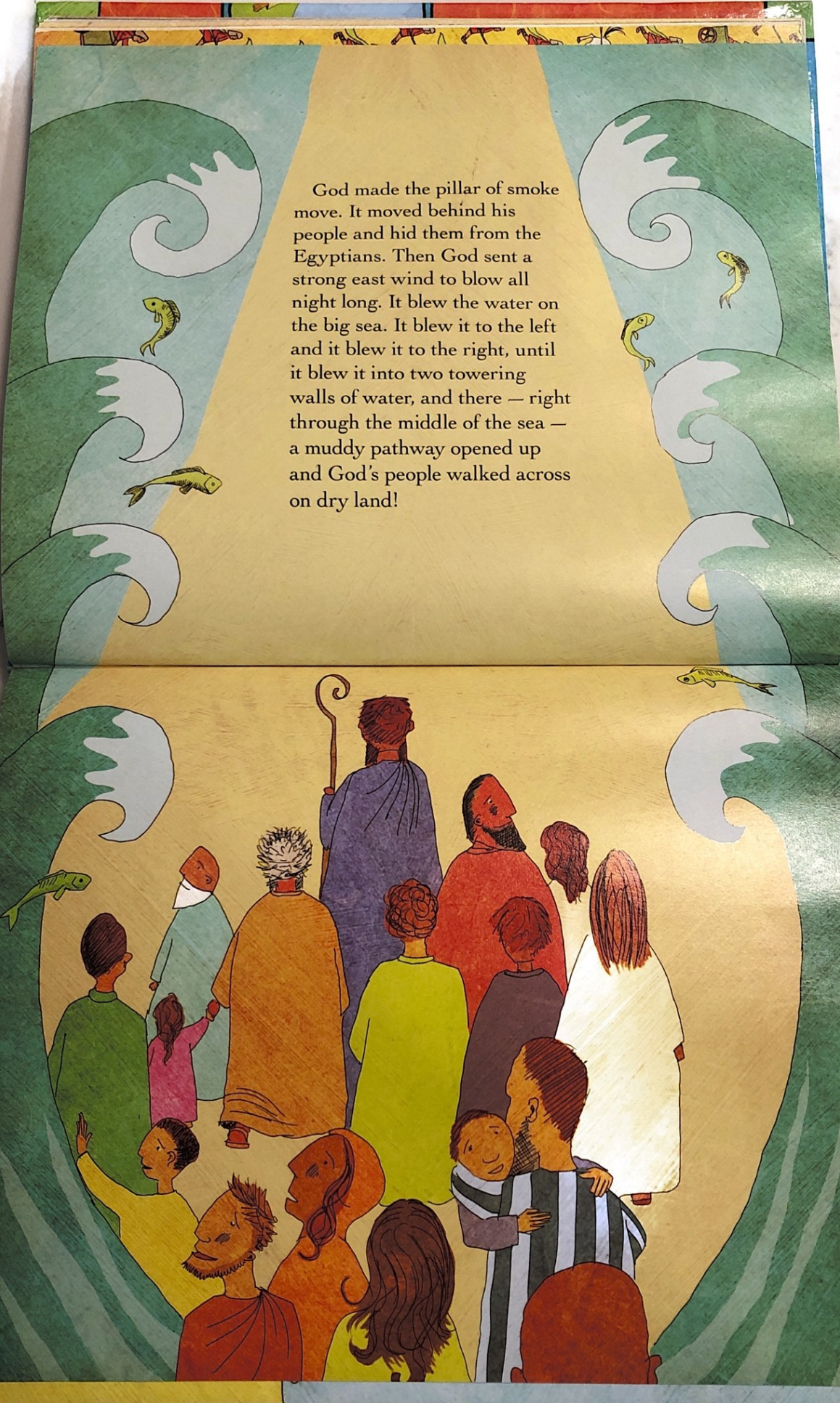
"But there's nothing we can do!" they screamed.

"God knows you can't do anything!" Moses said. "God will do it for you. Trust him. And watch!"

"But there's no way out!" they cried.

"God will make a way!" Moses said.

Another minute and it would have been over. But then the strangest thing happened.



God made the pillar of smoke move. It moved behind his people and hid them from the Egyptians. Then God sent a strong east wind to blow all night long. It blew the water on the big sea. It blew it to the left and it blew it to the right, until it blew it into two towering walls of water, and there — right through the middle of the sea — a muddy pathway opened up and God's people walked across on dry land!



When the Egyptians tried to follow, the walls of water crashed back down on them and swallowed them up.

God's people were safe. They danced and laughed and sang and thanked God — when there had been no way out, God had made a way.

Many years later, once again, God was going to make a way where there was no way.

From the beginning, God's children had been running from him and hiding. God knew his children could never be happy without him. But they couldn't get back to him by themselves — they were lost, they didn't know the way back.

But God knew the way.

And one day he would show them.

