

CROSSING THE RED SEA

Scripture:

Exodus 13:17-14:31

Memory Verse: Isaiah 45:5a

I am the Lord, and there is no other, there is no God besides Me.”

Materials Needed:

dry erase markers/board

Abeka Flash-a-cards

verse tokens

Bible books for game

Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When God “trapped” the Israelites at the Red Sea and Pharaoh pursued them, God parted the water so that the Israelites passed through on dry ground, but Pharaoh’s army drowned, so that the Israelites feared God.

To Realize—God led the Israelites through the Red Sea so that He would be honored through Pharaoh’s pursuit and in order to separate the Israelites from Egypt and set them apart for His bigger purposes.

To Act on it by—seeing the difficult circumstances of God’s leading as His way of setting us apart for His purposes.

Approach:

Pick up with the flash-a-card of the Israelites leaving Egypt with rejoicing on Passover.

Have students look at their maps of the Exodus in the back of their Bibles.

Locate Egypt and Canaan:

The most direct route was by the sea road. That would only take about two weeks to travel that way. Why do you think God did not lead them by that route?

Outline:

I. The Israelites are led by the Cloud to the Red Sea: trapped.

A. God did not lead them by the way of the Philistines

1. Even though it was more direct
2. The Philistines were fierce warriors
3. God didn’t want them to turn around and go back

B. He led them to the Red Sea, on the edge of the Wilderness

C. Pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

(Have students read 13:17)

I want us to imagine we are the Israelites. We have started out of Egypt and followed this Cloud—and now we are camped right by the Red Sea...and there are mountains on either side. And across from the Red Sea, we can see the wilderness (desert). And as we camp there, and think about what is ahead of us—what do we know for SURE? How did we get there?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give them light 2. So they could travel by day or night. 3. The cloud was not taken away. 	<p>GOD LED US THERE!</p>
<p>II. Pharaoh Changes His Mind and charges after them</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Camp by Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the Sea. B. God know EXACTLY what Pharaoh is going to do! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He is going to chase after them 2. God will be honored 3. The Egyptians will know that GOD is the LORD! C. Pharaoh selected 600 select chariots and officers D. The Israelites see the Egyptians coming! E. Moses: DO NOT FEAR!! 	<p>What we don't know, is that while we are happy to be leaving Egypt and the hard life of slavery—Pharaoh is back in his palace. And when he hears that all of us are camped by the Red Sea, he thinks, "Those stupid slaves don't even know the way to Canaan! We are going to go get them and make them come back!!"</p> <p>Storytell the details: And then a scout brings the news—there is a dust cloud approaching, and Pharaoh and his army are coming toward you! What do you think the Israelites are feeling right then?! (Look in verse 11)</p>
<p>III. God Delivers the Israelites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. "The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still." B. The cloud comes between the two camps C. Moses lifts up his staff and the waters part all night from the east wind D. The Israelites go through all night 	<p>Read 14:14</p> <p>AGAIN...Pharaoh thinks he's going to grab the Israelites back for himself, but what is God's plan? "I will be honored and the Egyptians will know!" And who was RIGHT THERE with the Israelites? (read verse 20) The cloud!</p> <p>14:22</p>

<p>E. The Egyptians go after them</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God causes confusion 2. Chariots swerve and drive with difficulty 3. The Egyptians want to turn around <p>F. Moses stretches out his hand on the sea and it returns</p> <p>G. The Egyptian army and chariots are drowned.</p>	<p>Storytell using flash-a-cards.</p>
<p>IV. God's Bigger Purposes</p> <p>A. Israelites are in awe of God's power and believe Moses</p> <p>B. God SEPARATED them from going back to Egypt!</p> <p>C. God SET THEM APART for His special purposes!</p>	<p>Can you imagine the next morning? Was that just a dream?! But what do the Israelites see on the shore? (read 14:30)</p> <p>Why do you think God took them to the Red Sea, when He could have had them walk around it? Remember why He didn't take them the quick way? God NEVER WANTED THEM TO GO BACK to the life they had in Egypt! And now, they are on the OTHER SIDE of the Red Sea, and what is there? WILDERNESS! God had special purposes for His people and He is going to train them so they will be ready to do the job He has for them.</p>

Conclusion:

We learned how Jesus was like the Passover Lamb that saves us from death, but God has a REASON for saving a person—He wants that person to be part of His special purposes! He never wants them to go back to living like they were before He saved them. He has SEPARATED them from living their old way, and He has SET THEM APART to live His new way. In our next lesson, we are going to find out what special things God wanted to teach His people...how He wanted them to live!

(Note: there is a strong parallel to this lesson found in I Corinthians 10:2 "They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea..." This seems to be related to the separated/set apart purpose that baptism symbolizes. You may want to mention this, or not, depending on your group.)