

Use Week of:

## Unit 4 • Session 6

# The Red Sea Crossing

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Exodus 13-15

### STORY POINT:

God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Hosea 13:4

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is there anything God cannot do?  
God can do all things according to His character.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(10-15 MINUTES)  
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**TEACH THE STORY**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
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**APPLY THE STORY**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

The crossing of the Red Sea is an event in history that displays God's grace, remembered for generations as God's mighty redemptive act. God had clearly shown His power in Egypt through the plagues; now He was about to do something even greater.

Instead of leading the Israelites into the wilderness, God instructed Moses to turn back so that the Egyptians would think they were lost. God purposefully hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would pursue the Israelites. Why? "Then I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD" (Ex. 14:4).

Imagine the fear the Israelites felt as they saw the Egyptians pursuing them. They expressed it in their complaints to Moses. (See Ex. 14:11.) Moses spoke up to calm them: "The LORD will fight for you" (Ex. 14:14).

The Lord did fight for them. All night long, the Lord kept a pillar of a cloud between the Egyptians' chariots and the Israelites. Then He instructed Moses to stretch out his hand; God drove back the sea with a powerful east wind. By faith, the Israelites passed through on dry ground! (See Heb. 11:29.) When Pharaoh and the Egyptians followed after them, the waters came back and covered the entire army of Pharaoh. None of them survived.

As you teach kids this week, press into their hearts that God fights for His people. He also punishes sin. God created a way to save His chosen people by parting the Red Sea. In the same way, God created a way for people to escape the penalty of sin through His Son, Jesus Christ. God didn't make a way of salvation for us because we deserve it but because of who He is: a gracious and loving God who created us to know and love Him.

# The BIBLE Story

## The Red Sea Crossing

Exodus 13-15

After the first Passover, the Israelites quickly left Egypt. The Lord led the people toward the Red Sea and the wilderness. As they traveled, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them during the day. At night, God was in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel by day or by night.

God told Moses to have the people camp near the sea. God said that Pharaoh would change his mind one more time and chase the Israelites. God planned to prove to the Israelites that He is God.

Pharaoh and his officials did change their minds.

Pharaoh got in his chariot and took his army with him. He pursued the Israelites and caught up with them where they were camping near the sea.

The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming and they were afraid. "We are going to die!" they said. "We should have never left Egypt!"

But Moses said, "Do not be afraid. God brought you here, and He will fight for you."

God told Moses what to do: "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground." Then God moved behind the Israelites to hold back the

Egyptians for the night. In the morning, Moses stretched out his hand and divided the sea. The Israelites walked through with walls of water on both sides.

The Egyptians went after them. As soon as the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand again and the waters returned, covering the Egyptians and killing all of Pharaoh's army. None of them survived.

When the Israelites saw what had happened, they feared God and believed that He had sent Moses to lead them.

Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the Lord. "The LORD is my strength and my song," they said. "He has become my salvation."

*Christ Connection: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Vary your posture:** Stretch out your hands like Moses when telling about how the sea divided.
- **Display art:** Show the Bible story picture and point to elements of the scene at appropriate points in the story.

## INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Red Sea Crossing

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 13–15

**STORY POINT:** God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hosea 13:4

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

### Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about a time when they felt stuck. Did anyone help them get unstuck?

### Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Red Sea Road” on the activity page. Guide kids to find and circle the words in the road across the Red Sea.

**SAY** • When you hear our Bible story today, listen carefully for these words. Long ago, God acted in an amazing way to rescue His people from Pharaoh and his army. We’ll find out what happened.

### Session starter (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Broad jump contest

Invite kids to take turns performing a standing long jump. Use masking tape to mark a line on the floor. Be sure a 7- or 8-foot distance in front of the line is clear of obstacles.

Call for a kid to go first. He should stand behind the line. He may swing his arms and bend his knees to jump

forward as far as possible, landing on both feet without falling backwards. Use a small strip of tape to mark his distance and measure it from the start line. You may choose to write the jumper’s name on his tape strip.

Repeat with additional kids. If time allows, give each kid three attempts. Announce the winning distance.

**SAY** • The world’s best broad jumper—an adult professional athlete—jumped a little farther than 12 feet. In the Bible story we’ll hear today, God’s people needed to get across the Red Sea. We don’t know exactly how far across it was, but it was definitely too far to cross by jumping. We’ll find out what happened.

**OPTION 2:** Part the sea

Before the session, inflate 25 blue balloons. Form two groups. Place the balloons in the middle of the room. Direct each group to stand at opposite sides of the room.

Give each group a roll of masking tape. Explain that kids will take turns racing to pick up a balloon and return to their group’s side of the room.

Kids should use the tape to secure the balloon to the wall. When the balloon is attached, another player may retrieve another balloon. Continue until kids secure all balloons on the walls like a parted sea, or as time allows.

**SAY** • In the Bible story we will hear today, God’s people were trying to get away from the Egyptians when they came to the Red Sea. It was too deep to wade through and too wide to swim across. Let’s find out what they did.

### Transition to teach the story

• Allergy Alert  
download  
• blue balloons, 25  
• rolls of masking  
tape, 2

Option: Provide  
table tennis balls or  
beach balls in case  
of latex allergy.

• “Red Sea Road”  
activity page.  
1 per kid  
pencils or markers

### LOW PREP

• masking tape or  
painter’s tape  
• tape measure  
• permanent marker  
(optional)

# TEACH the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

## Countdown

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

*[Leader enters wearing an apron and carrying a Bible. A loaf of French bread is on a table along with a can of diced tomatoes, onion powder, and garlic powder. You may also display mozzarella cheese, green onions, and parsley.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, everyone! I'm [your name]. Welcome back to the Mishpacha (meesh pah HAH) International Bakery! *Mishpacha* means "family." I am so glad you are here. This will be our last week together before we close up shop for awhile. The owner is going on vacation, and a few things in the kitchen need repairs.

Check out our daily special. It's not ready yet; these are just the ingredients. But here we have French bread, tomatoes, onion powder, and garlic powder. These are the main items I need to make something called beach bread. I picked up this idea when I was traveling in South Florida last year. It's a popular

appetizer there, and because beach bread makes me think of the sea, it's the perfect bread for our daily special.

*[Hold up your Bible.]* And remember, the daily special is somehow related to the Bible story I have for you. When we hear the story, see if you can figure out the connection.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • If you remember our big picture question, shout it out! *[Allow kids to respond.]* ***Is there anything God cannot do?*** Now say the answer together: ***God can do all things according to His character.*** Today's story is about something really amazing that God did for His people! I can't wait for you to hear it.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt. They cried out to God for help, and **God called Moses to deliver His people from captivity.** Moses confronted Pharaoh, but Pharaoh did not let God's people go. God sent a series of plagues to Egypt. The tenth plague brought death to every household in Egypt, but God passed over the homes of His people. Finally, Pharaoh agreed to let God's people go. **God delivered His people and proved that He is the one true God.**

You might think that is the end of this story, but it's not! You see, the Israelites had just made it to the wilderness when Pharaoh changed his mind about

• countdown video

• leader attire  
• Bible  
• Allergy Alert download  
• French bread  
• can of diced tomatoes  
• onion powder  
• garlic powder  
• mozzarella cheese, green onions, parsley (optional)

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

letting the Israelites go free. Today's Bible story is called "The Red Sea Crossing." Listen closely to see how God's people got away!

### Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 13–15. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "The Red Sea Crossing."

**LEADER** • Imagine the fear the Israelites felt to look backward and see an Egyptian army approaching and to look ahead and see a large sea. But Moses spoke words of comfort: "Don't be afraid. ... The LORD will fight for you, and you must be quiet" (Ex. 14:13-14).

Generations of future Israelites would hear the story of how **God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross**. All night, God held back the sea with a powerful wind. He kept a pillar of cloud between the Egyptians and His people. The Israelites crossed on dry ground. The Egyptians went after the Israelites, but the sea came back together and none of the Egyptian army survived. When the Israelites saw that their enemies were dead, and they feared the Lord and believed in Him.

### Christ connection

**LEADER** • Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Heb. 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.

- Bibles
- "The Red Sea Crossing" video
- Story Point Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 113 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 4, Session 6" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how God can help them when they are afraid. Guide them to discuss how today's Bible story can help them trust God when they feel afraid.

• "Unit 4, Session 6" questions from kids video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Remind kids that the Bagbys\* are missionaries in Nepal. Invite them to "join" the Bagbys on their trek through the mountains. Instruct them to run in place and listen for obstacles the Bagbys might encounter. (river, avalanche, blizzard, rain, yak, fallen rocks)

When they hear an obstacle, they must make a move to get through it. Randomly call out an obstacle. As you do, give an example by moving your body too. (Examples: swim through a river, run from an avalanche, cover your head through rain, sidestep a yak, dodge falling rocks, and so on)

**LEADER** • God made a way for Moses to lead the Israelites across the Red Sea, showing them they could believe and trust in Him. God continues to make the way for others who have not yet heard about Him to believe. For the Tibetan people living high in the mountains of Nepal, He sent the Bagby family.

\*Name has been changed for security reasons.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Hosea 13:4.

**LEADER** • The Israelites repeated the story of the exodus so future generations would remember what God had done. God is the same today as He was in the time of the Israelites. Let's sing.

Lead kids in singing "You Know No God But Me."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "You Know No God But Me" song

• "Guide Me, O Thou  
Great Jehovah" song

### Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 50:15.

**LEADER** • God gives us His Word in the Bible. In the story today, we saw how God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross. Whenever you find yourself in trouble, you can call on the Lord. God is in control, and we can give Him all glory and honor. Let's sing. Sing together "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."

### Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord, who is like You? You threw Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea. You brought Your people through the sea on dry ground. You are faithful. Help us tell others of Your mighty works, for Your glory. Amen.

### Dismiss to apply the story

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

## APPLY the Story



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**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 13–15

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**KEY PASSAGE:** Hosea 13:4

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster  
• paper  
• pencils

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage.

When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

**SAY** • Great work, everyone. Does anyone want to say our key passage from memory? *[Allow volunteers to recite Hosea 13:4.]*

### Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• Story Point Poster  
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set  
(005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Exodus 13. Remind kids that the Book of Exodus tells how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 13:17-18.

**SAY** • Isn't it amazing to see how God cares for His people? He knew they would be afraid if they had to fight

their enemies on their way out of Egypt, so He led them toward the Red Sea. *[Point out Egypt (H8) and then show kids where the Red Sea (H9) is located on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map.]*

Now to most, this path would look like a dead end. How could anybody cross the Red Sea without a boat? To make matters worse, the Israelites looked behind them and saw that they were being chased by Pharaoh and his army. But **God parted the Red Sea for His people to cross**, and He received glory by proving to the Egyptians that He is the Lord.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What kinds of things did the Israelites complain about? Do you think they believed God could do anything? *Guide kids to recognize that the Israelites thought Moses had taken them into the wilderness to die, but Moses assured them that the Lord would fight for them against the Egyptians.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 14:14.)
2. What kinds of things do you complain about? Do you believe God can do anything? *Invite kids to share. When possible, point out what some of their complaints might show they believe about the goodness of God or those who are in charge. Remind kids that God is good, and **God can do all things according to His character.***  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:14-15.)
3. How did the Israelites show faith as Moses led them out of Egypt? How does faith save us? *Lead kids to recall that the Israelites showed faith by crossing the Red Sea and believing it would not crash down on them. We are saved by faith—by trusting and believing that God*

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



*is who He says He is. We trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross for our sins.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 11:27-29.)

## LOW PREP

- "Bagby Review Story" printable
- dry erase board or large piece of paper
- marker

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Make a way

Write the word *NEED* on a dry erase board and read the "Bagby Review Story" printable. Instruct kids to listen for things the Bagbys might need to buy in order to do the work God has asked them to do in Nepal.

After the story, make a list of the needs on the dry erase board. Discuss things other missionaries might need to do their work (cars, gas, cell phones, homes, and so forth). List those as well. Remind kids about the opportunities to support missionaries by giving through your church.

**SAY** • Through our offering, God can use us to make a way for more missionaries like the Bagbys to go tell others about Jesus.

#### OPTION 2: "We're moving" postcards

Guide boys and girls to think about what it was like for the Israelite children during the people's exodus from Egypt.

Invite each kid to create a postcard proclaiming the news of the Israelites' move from Egypt. Kids may write or draw to give an account of the plagues, the Passover, or the Red Sea crossing. Provide Bibles for kids to review details in Exodus 5–15.

**SAY** • Have any of you ever had to move before? Did you move to a new house or a new town? Moving can be exciting but it can also be scary. It's almost always a lot of work!

Imagine moving a group of 600,000 Israelite men

plus their families. They didn't have moving vans or cars. And to make matters worse, they were being chased by the Egyptians!

Give your postcard to a friend or family member this week and tell them about the Israelites' escape from Egypt. Tell them about Jesus, who is greater than Moses. People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.

### Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for providing the way for our salvation. Confess that we do not always trust Him, especially when it seems like there is no way forward. Pray that boys and girls would follow Him in faith and that He would receive glory.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Make the Connection" on the activity page. Kids should trace the paths to fill in the missing words of today's Christ connection.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Make the Connection" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.



## Unit 5: Toward the Promised Land

### Unit Description:

Moses led God's people toward the promised land. God made a covenant with His people and gave them laws to guide them in how to live and to help them understand His perfect holiness. God's laws show that the only way to be right with God is through faith in Jesus, the only perfectly righteous One.

### Key Passage:

Matthew 22:37-39

### Big Picture Question:

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

### Session 1:

#### Bread from Heaven

*Exodus 15-17*

**Story Point:** God provided for the physical needs of His people.

### Session 2:

#### Jethro Helped Moses

*Exodus 18*

**Story Point:** Moses needed help to lead God's people.

### Session 3:

#### The Ten Commandments

*Exodus 19-20*

**Story Point:** God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.



#### Bread from Heaven

God provided for the physical needs of His people.

#### Jethro Helped Moses

Moses needed help to lead God's people.



#### The Ten Commandments

God gave rules to show how to love Him and others.