

# The Red Sea

## Lesson At-a-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Exodus 14:1-30**

Lesson Focus  
**God will lead us when we face challenges.**

Bible Memory Verse  
**"Do not be afraid, stand firm . . . The LORD will fight for you . . ." Exodus 14:13b-14a**

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Activity</b> Kids paint watercolor pictures of the sea.	Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages	Watercolors, paintbrushes, cups, water, paper towels, watercolor paper
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids do a chant about today's Bible story.	Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook	Tambourine, large blanket (blue), poster board, marker
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Kids say prayers for help in times of trouble.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>The Red Sea Story</b> Kids engage with the Bible story by "walking" their fingers between picture-walls of water.	Spark Story Bibles, Spark NRSV Bibles	Paintings from Arrival Activity, pictures of the sea
<b>Don't Get Your Feet Wet!</b> Kids identify with the Israelites by tracing their footprints in the Red Sea seabed.	Leaflets	Construction paper (blue and green), glue sticks, pencils or crayons

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Sing a Song of Freedom</b> Kids write new words to a familiar song.	Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils, erasers
<b>Who Do You Trust?</b> Kids lead each other through “dangerous waters.”	None	Large blanket or play parachute

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Closing Conversation</b> Kids review the Bible Memory Verse and look at Faith on the Go.	Leaflets	None
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Kids say prayers of praise to God with a tambourine.	Family Pages	Tambourine

# Introduction

## Bible Background

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This passage tells the story of the exit out of Egypt, called the exodus. The exodus was the escape of the Israelite, or Hebrew, slaves from Egypt. Led by Moses and Aaron, the Hebrews left Egypt to go back to Israel, where their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had lived. Pharaoh had released the Israelites after God sent ten plagues to convince him to let them go. In Exodus 14:5, Pharaoh changes his mind and begins mightily to pursue the Israelites with chariots.

## Why This Story Matters

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Kids of all ages come up against situations that are intimidating, whether it's a conflict with a difficult classmate, a looming test, or serious family issues such as divorce, illness, or other strife. Children are also sensitive to things they hear on the news and in the community that can be troubling to them. Kids need to be reminded that God is standing with them in the midst of their fears and challenges and will give them strength in their difficulties. Furthermore, this story also gives hope to people who are trapped or enslaved in unhealthy relationships and reminds them that God is active in freeing people who are oppressed.

## Gather (10 minutes)

### Arrival Activity

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If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Activity Page and Coloring Page, and set them out for kids to try.

**Good morning! Welcome to Sunday school. While we're waiting for everyone to get here, we're going to paint a picture of water. Use watercolors and your imagination!**

### Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages  
Spark Coloring Pages

### Supplies

Watercolors, paintbrushes,  
cups, water, paper towels,  
watercolor paper



## Opening Prayer

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**We're going to say a prayer asking God to help us in times of trouble, like when the Israelites were by the Red Sea. Everyone join hands. I'm going to pray and after each thing I pray for, we're going to send a wave around the circle using our joined hands.** Practice getting the wave around the circle. Then pray, pausing to start a wave after each petition.

**God, you lead us in times of trouble. Help us when we feel alone.  
Help us when we hear scary news.  
Help us when we have to do something we don't think we can do.  
Help us when our feelings are hurt.  
Lead us to help others when they are having troubles.  
Amen!**

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
None

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### The Red Sea Story

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Invite kids with Spark NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

**Each of you, take a picture of the sea and lay it on the table next to your buddy's. When I get to the part of the story where God parts the Red Sea, hold your pictures up like walls and make a path. Then use your fingers to "walk" between the walls of water like the Israelites did. When the water walls come down again, lay your pictures back down and use your hands to act like the Egyptians being swept away.**

Read the story from the Spark Story Bible, pausing and prompting the kids at the appropriate times, if necessary.

**Now we are going to open our Bibles and find this story.**

Invite the older kids to look up the story in their Spark NRSV Bibles on pages 74-75, and the younger kids to find The Red Sea on pages 84-89 of the Spark Story Bibles. Older kids can help younger kids when they have found their own pages.

**Look through the story in the Spark Story Bible together and find Squiggles. How many times do you find him? (three) On which page does he look the most scared?** Encourage the kids to explain why they chose the picture they did.

**Older kids, show your buddies how much longer the story is in your Bible. Then find Miriam's "Song of the Sea" in Exodus 15:20-21 on page 77. Find the word tambourine together. Read the highlighted text to your buddy. Do you think you could memorize the "Song of the Sea"?**

Spark Resources  
Spark NRSV Bibles  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
Paintings from Arrival Activity  
Pictures of the sea

## Bible Memory Verse

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"Do not be afraid, stand firm . . . The LORD will fight for you . . ." Exodus 14:13b-14a

**Repeat the parts of the Bible Memory Verse after me. But when we say "Do not be afraid," pretend to cower in fear.** Demonstrate what this might look like, but encourage the kids to be creative. **Then when we say, "stand firm," stand up tall and strong.** Again, model this. **Then when we say, "The LORD will fight for you," make fists like a boxer in the ring.** Model this as well.

Go over the verse several times until all the kids have it. Challenge the kids to recite it on their own, with or without the motions. Invite kids to mark this with a Spark Bible Sticker.

## Don't Get Your Feet Wet!

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**On the front of your leaflet is the sandy bottom of the Red Sea. Tear little pieces of blue and green paper and paste them along the edges of the sand, covering some of the sand, to create two walls of water with a path between them. Be sure to leave a pretty big path. After you've finished pasting, trace your buddy's foot on the path, to show how the Israelites crossed between the walls of water through the Red Sea.**

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Construction paper (blue and green)  
Glue sticks  
Pencils or crayons

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Sing a Song of Freedom

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**After God led the safely people through the Red Sea, Moses and Miriam sang songs of praise to God. Now it's your turn! Work with your buddy to write new words to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." First decide what you want to say. Then write words that fit with the notes. Use one syllable per note.** When kids have finished writing their songs, invite pairs to sing their new composition with the group. Kids may be nervous to sing, so encourage them with lots of clapping and cheers!

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Pencils, erasers

## Who Do You Trust?

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**God leads us through difficult situations, just as Moses, with God's help, led the Israelites through the Red Sea. We're going to take turns leading each other through some pretend dangerous waters.** Have everyone gather around the blanket or play parachute, standing next to their same buddy from the leaflet activities, and hold on to the edge. **Let's come up with our first difficult situation. Maybe a bully at school tore your art project. The blanket/parachute is that bully. I'm going to call on a pair of buddies. We're going to lift up the blanket/parachute and one buddy is going to lead the other buddy under it as fast as possible and get to the other side before it comes crashing down.** Repeat the activity coming up with a new challenge each time. Once it can even be that the Pharaoh's army is chasing them! Continue at least until each pair of buddies has had two turns, one with each buddy acting as the "leader."

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Large blanket or play  
parachute

## Send (5 minutes)

### Closing Conversation

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**Everyone grab your leaflet and find the Faith on the Go ideas. Let's read them out loud together.** Take volunteers to read. **Who wants to share one idea they think they can do this week?** Encourage kids of all ages to respond. **Remember that God is with each and every one of us when we are scared or worried, and we can bring God's love to others!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

Review the Bible Memory Verse with the group. Read it out loud. See if anyone can remember it with the motions.

### Closing Prayer

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Distribute Family Page to kids, and point out activity #4 under Talk About It. Challenge kids to see if they can divide water with their hands.

Spark Resources  
Spark Family Pages  
Leaflets

**We're going to say a prayer of praise to God with our tambourine. I will say a prayer and shake the tambourine. Then the next person will say a prayer and I'll shake the tambourine again. We will go around the circle until everyone has had a chance to name something they want to praise God for. When we're all done, I'll say "One, two, three," and we'll all shout "AMEN!" I'll go first. Praise God for (insert your topic here)!**

Supplies  
Tambourine

When everyone has gone, count, One, two, three, and all shout, "AMEN!" Then shake the tambourine for a long time to end the prayer.

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.