

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

LESSON #10

DATE: November 17, 2019

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: Crossing the Red Sea

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-31; 15:1-21

AIM: To see that God is always on our side and we do not need to be afraid when we have difficulties and problems.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Psalm 86:6-7 (Give ear, O Jehovah, to my prayer, And give heed to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my distress I call upon You, For You answer me.); Psalm 50:15 (And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 5 (Grumblers) [sing the chorus positively replacing “Grumble” with “Oh, We’re Thankful on Monday...” or “Grateful”]; 20 (All Things are Possible); 22 (Faith, Mighty Faith); 24 (He’s Able); 25 (I Believe God); 28 (Just Keep on Believing); 31 (Surely He Will Care for You); 32 (Trust in the Lord); 33 (When Your Fears Grow Mountain High); 34 (With Christ in the Vessel); 45 (How Did Moses Cross the Red Sea?); 8302 *BSS Moses Vol. 2* (The Israelites are Finally Free); 8303 *BSS Moses Vol. 2* (Following the Pillar); 8308 *BSS Moses Vol. 2* (Do All Things Without Murmuring)

CRAFT IDEAS: Using construction paper, make a 3D display of Moses leading the people across the Red Sea.

BACKGROUND: In the prior lesson, we learned that the children of Israel left Egypt and began their journey to the good land, traveling from Rameses to a region called Succoth; there were about six hundred thousand men (Exodus 12:37), plus women and children. Now they began to travel again on their way to the good land. (*Note to serving ones:* For this lesson, it may be helpful to bring a map to show where the children of Israel went, and to show how they were “trapped” when they came to the Red Sea. Please note that the locations of some Biblical sites are not known precisely, so maps found in books or on the internet may not show the exact same route.)

CONTENT: When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was closer and would have been a shorter route. God thought that perhaps the people would change their minds when they saw war and return to Egypt. So God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea. They journeyed from Succoth and encamped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness. Jehovah led them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light. The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire were always with them.

Then Jehovah told Moses to tell the children of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. When it was told to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, the heart of Pharaoh and his servants changed toward the people; and they said, “What is this we have done, letting Israel go from serving us?” So he yoked his chariot and took his people with him. He took six hundred chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers, and began to chase the children of Israel. The Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army; and they overtook them as they encamped by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth.

When Pharaoh approached, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them! So they became very afraid. The children of Israel cried out to Jehovah. Then they started blaming Moses for bringing them out of Egypt. They complained, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you done this to us, bringing us out of Egypt?” They even said that “it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses told the people, “Do not be afraid; stand firm, and see the salvation of Jehovah...” Jehovah would fight for them! Jehovah then told Moses what to say and what to do.

At night, the Angel of God went behind them and the pillar of cloud stood between the Egyptians and the Israelites, so that they were separate. And when Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, Jehovah caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land; and the waters of the Red Sea opened up and were divided.

And the children of Israel crossed the sea on dry ground! The waters were on their left and right like walls. The Egyptians chased them - all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen chased them into the midst of the sea. In the morning, Jehovah looked down upon the camp of the Egyptians and threw the camp of the Egyptians into confusion. God caused

their chariot wheels to swerve and made them drive with difficulty, so the Egyptians realized that Jehovah was fighting for His people against the Egyptians.

Then Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea so that the waters would come back over the Egyptians. So that's what Moses did. He stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its level in the morning. The Egyptians tried to flee from the waters, but as the sea returned to its normal level, it covered all of Pharaoh's army so that not even one was left. But the children of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

When the children of Israel saw Jehovah's great power, they feared Jehovah and believed in Him and in His servant Moses. Then Moses and the children of Israel sang a song to Jehovah. It was a wonderful song, full of praises and thanksgiving to the Lord for saving them from the Egyptians. And Miriam, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam responded to them, "Sing to Jehovah, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and its rider He has cast into the sea." What a wonderful celebration!

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **When we have a problem, we should pray instead of complain.** After leaving Egypt, the children of Israel were surrounded: The sea was before them, the powerful Egyptian army was behind them chasing them, and the mountains were at their sides. There was absolutely no chance of escape. Initially, they cried out to the Lord but eventually they responded by complaining bitterly to Moses and blaming him for their predicament (difficult or dangerous situation). They even said "it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." (Exodus 14:12b). The children of Israel saw God do amazing things such as sending the ten plagues that eventually convinced Pharaoh to let them go. Yet when they got into a bad situation again, they started complaining and seemed to forget that the Lord was able to do great things. What a terrible thing to say, after they had been under cruel slavery and the Lord saved them! They should have prayed instead of complained. Nevertheless, the Lord graciously and powerfully delivered them in a very marvelous way. They most probably could never have thought that He would divide the sea for them. But He was able to bring them through.
- **We do not need to be afraid because God is with us.** At times, we may feel very afraid. For some children, it may be being afraid of the dark, something that they saw, or something bad that happened. We can tell the Lord that we are afraid. We have the God of the universe with us, and we do not need to be scared!
- **We should have a thankful heart.** We should remember what the Lord has done for us, in giving us our parents/grandparents, our home, our toys, our friends, in keeping us safe, etc. After crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel praised the Lord by singing. Moses and the children of Israel sang a song to Jehovah and praised Him. Miriam also sang to Jehovah. When the Lord answers our prayer, we should remember to thank and praise Him. When our parents or other people do something for us, we should remember to say, "thank you!"

Extended Reading for serving ones: for additional applications and Scripture references, please see the lesson series, GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Israel (2 of 3)—Crossing the Red Sea April 2017

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lesson 2, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 6/12/88; 11/5/95; 11/9/03; 11/15/09; 11/16/14

Reference: Complete Works of Flavius Josephus. Translated by William Whiston.