



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

Lesson 16

### BIG IDEA

After the Passover, the Israelites pack up and leave. The Egyptian army pursues them, but are swept away in the Red Sea. The wandering Israelites begin to complain when Moses takes them on different route to the Promised Land. God provides manna.

### MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Exodus 7:5

### KEY VERSES

Exodus 13-16

### • PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

### BIBLE LESSON: SKIT

- Cast: TL wearing baseball cap. Bear wearing bear ears
- EM provides baseball cap and bear ears

### CRAFT - TAMBOURINES

- Small plastic colored plates, 2 per child
- Extra staples and stapler
- Hole punch
- Small plastic beads (or other small plastic pieces that will rattle inside the plate)
- Jingle bells, 5-7 per child
- Pipe cleaners in 2" pieces, 5-7 per child
- Optional: pre-cut stars or other decorative symbol
- Optional: glue

### GAME - CROSS THE WATER

- Two long ropes like jump ropes

### WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)

### EM PROVIDES

- scissors
- hole punches
- staplers



## Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

Lesson 16

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## STAGING

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears.

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## SCRIPT

TL and Bear enter stage

TL Good day to you, Bear. How are you?

Bear I'm fine...I guess.

TL You don't sound very convincing. Something wrong?

Bear Oh, just, everything. I'm just out of sorts today. I don't like the color of my bear den room, and my clothes suddenly seem out of style, and I wish I was a polar bear and could play on the ice all day, and at school I'm good at science but I'd rather be good at math, and everything is just plain wrong.

TL Except that nothing's really wrong. Huh? You have a nice cozy bear den, nice warm clothes, you are a healthy bear and can play often, and you're gifted at science at school. Sounds to me like you've got a bad case of...

Bear (Cut's him off) A bad case? You mean I have a disease? You mean there's something really wrong and it's not all in my head?

TL Whoa, Bear. Calm down. I was going to say, you have a bad case of discontent. It means you are not being thankful for the life God has given you. It's not a disease. It's not in your head. It's actually a problem with your heart.

Bear Gee. I'm not sure if I should be relieved or concerned.

TL How about you relax while I tell you more about Moses and a time when the Israelites were very discontent. Last time we were together I told you about the Ten Plagues that God sent on Egypt because Pharaoh's heart was stubborn and he would not listen to Moses. Remember, they suffered water turning to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, animal disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and finally, the death of every first born son.

God had already told the Israelites to be prepared for their escape. He told them to also prepare a celebration called the "Passover." Each family killed a young lamb or goat. Then the fathers took some of the blood of the goat or lamb and smeared it on the door posts and the beams above the doors of their houses, just as the Lord told them. That night, the same night that the Lord was going to send the tenth plague, each family roasted its lamb or goat and ate it, along with bitter herbs and bread made with no yeast. Each person dressed for travel and they were ready to leave Egypt. God told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover every year to remind them of this important night when



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 2)

Lesson 16

God passed over their houses while he killed the first born sons of the Egyptians.

That night Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. “Get out of here! You and the Israelites, leave my people! Take your flocks and herds. Go!” All the Egyptians urged the Israelites to hurry and get out of the country, “If you don’t go, we’ll all die!” They begged. They gave the Israelites gold and silver and beautiful clothing.

So the Israelites left Goshen and the land of Egypt. Remember, God had promised Abraham that he would turn his family into a great nation, and that is exactly what happened. Even though the Israelites had suffered in Egypt, God had grown the family into about to 2-3 million people!

The Lord led the people of Israel in a very special way. During the day he appeared in front of them as a pillar of cloud, and during the night he went in front of them as a pillar of fire. They could travel night and day.

Bear That is so cool! Now they get to go to that wonderful land with milk and honey and everything will be just fine. No more Pharaoh, no more brick making, no more beatings.

TL Would you believe that Pharaoh changed his mind again?

Bear You’re kidding! After all those plagues?

TL Yes. His heart was hard again and he chased the Israelites with horses and chariots and horsemen and troops. God was leading the Israelites toward the Red Sea and suddenly they saw Pharaoh and 600 soldiers coming toward them in war chariots. The Israelites were terrified! They saw no way to escape with the sea in front of them and the enemy behind them. They cried out to the Lord for help, but they didn’t really trust God. They became angry with Moses and accused him of leading them out of Egypt only to be killed in the desert.

Bear Seriously, after all that God had done for them, they don’t even trust him? I bet God has a good plan.

TL You’re right. Moses said, “Don’t be afraid! Stand your ground, and you will see what the Lord will do to save you today. The Lord will fight for you, and all you have to do is keep still.” The Lord moved the pillar of cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptians so that the army of the Egyptians could not harm them all night. Then the Lord told Moses to hold his hand over the sea. He sent a strong east wind which blew all night and turned the sea into dry land. The water was divided, and the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides!

Bear Awesome!

TL The army of Egypt chased them into the sea with all their horses, chariots and drivers. But the wheels of their chariots got stuck so they could barely move. By morning the army of Egypt was in a panic. They said, “The Lord is fighting for the Israelites and is against us! Let’s get out of here!” But it was too late, the Israelites were safely on the other side and Moses held his hand over the water again returning the sea to its normal level. The Egyptian army drowned. The Israelites stood on the shore of



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 3)

lesson 16

the sea in awe. They knew without a doubt that the Lord had saved them and they put their trust in God and his servant Moses. They sang and danced. They made up wonderful songs about how the Lord had rescued them; those songs are still in the bible today.

Bear Are they in the Promised Land now?

TL No, not yet. They are still in the desert and have a long way to travel before they get to the land God had promised. Moses led them away from the Red Sea and for three days they traveled and couldn't find water. Water was very, very important for the people and the animals, especially in the hot, dry desert. Eventually they came to a place which had water, but it was so bitter they could not drink it. Moses cried out to the Lord. The Lord showed him a stick. Moses threw the stick into the water and it became drinkable. The Lord kept the people and their animals healthy with that water.

As the Israelites continued their journey they found a new reason to be unhappy with Moses. "We wish the Lord had put us to death in Egypt. At least there we had food. We ate all the food we wanted. But you have brought us out into the desert. You must want this entire community to die of hunger."

Bear (aghast) But...but...how can they turn on God so quickly! He proved his power over and over, and he provided gold and silver and clothes and water! I don't get it!

TL They were discontent, weren't they?

Bear Yah, super dis...con.... Oh, I see. They were not being content with how God was leading and providing for them, kind of like how I am being discontent with things in my life. Is that your point, TL?

TL I think you are learning a very good lesson, Bear.

Bear Is God going to punish them? Is he going to send frogs or something?

TL No. Even though they probably deserved a punishment, instead God showed mercy. That evening he sent a flock of quails into the Israelite's camp so they could eat meat. In the morning there was dew all over the ground, and when the dew evaporated it left something thin and flaky that tasted like honey. The Israelites called it manna. Moses told the people, "This is food that the Lord has given you. He says to gather two quarts for each person in your family, but don't keep any overnight." Some people paid no attention and saved some manna. In the morning it was full of worms and smelled rotten. So from then on they obeyed the Lord's commands and gathered only what they needed. They ate manna for the next 40 years.

Bear Forty years! But, I thought they were going to the special land God promised them. Does it really take them 40 years to get there?

TL – That, my friend, is a story for next time



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 3)

Lesson 16

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did the Israelites do to protect their first born sons on the night God killed the Egyptian first born sons?
- What was that day called?
- Why did God want them to celebrate Passover every year?
- What was the Israelites' reaction when they were trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army?
- How did God rescue them?
- What was their reaction when they made it safely to the other side of the Red Sea and the army was drowned?
- Do people today praise the Lord when things are good and complain when things are bad? Do you?
- What attitude should Christians have no matter the circumstances?



# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

CRAFT

Lesson 16

• CRAFT •

### TAMBOURINES

Objective: Kids will tambourine type shakers out of paper plates

### MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- scissors
- hole punches
- staplers

### DIRECTIONS

- Lay one plate down and place a handful of plastic beads inside
- Place the second plate over the first so that it creates a space in the middle for the beads to rattle.
- Staple the plates together
- Punch 5-7 holes around the edges of the plates
- Attach bells to plate by running pipe cleaner through the bell and the plate and twisting
- Optional: decorate the plate with pre-cut star or other symbol

### MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Small plastic colored plates, 2 per child
- Extra staples and stapler
- Hole punch
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### EXAMPLE





# OLD TESTAMENT: THE EXODUS

GAME

Lesson 16

• GAME •

**OBJECTIVE: CROSS THE WATER**

Kids will jump over the “water” and try not to fall in.

**MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM**

- Two long ropes like jump ropes

**DIRECTIONS**

- Four leaders hold the ends of the ropes and hold them parallel to one another close to the ground.
- Start with the ropes one foot apart.
- Kids line up and take turns jumping over the “water” then going to the back of the line
- When every kid has had a chance, spread the ropes apart to 2 feet.
- Kids jump over and get back in line.
- Continue this sequence and spread the ropes farther and farther apart.
- When a child lands in the water they sit out
- The child who jumps the farthest wins

Options:

- Consider dividing the group into big kids and small kids to make it a bit more fair
- Encourage the kids to cheer for one another
- Play a second game of Limbo, starting with the rope about 4 feet high and lowering it slightly with each round.





