

GOD'S BIG PLAN

The Wilderness Exodus 13 - 24

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 78:11, 105; Isaiah 59:1-2; Jeremiah 32:17; 2 Corinthians 3; Acts 7:35-44; Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3; James 1:22-25, 2:9-11;



Lesson Goals: To see that God keeps His promises.
To see that God provides.
To see that God wants to communicate with us.

Scripture Memory Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24 (NASB)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: REVIEW what has been learned so far about God's Big Plan. (Review the previous stories, encouraging more and more students to share.)

Who created the heavens and the earth, the animals and the birds, the water and land? (God!) Is there anything too difficult for God to do? (No!)

Years ago, God promised Abraham several things: a new people, a new place and what else? (That the new people would live in a foreign place and would be slaves, but that God would free them.) Did God keep His promises? (Yes.) How did God keep His promise to free Israel? (With plagues and the Passover.) What is Passover? (God sent the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, but saved Israel because of the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.)

READ: Exodus 14:1, 4-9 (Remember, hold the Bible, opened, throughout the story.)

Israel had eaten the Passover meal with sandals on their feet and walking sticks in their hands. They were ready when God finally freed them. Now, they found themselves between the Red Sea and the entire army of Pharaoh - even Pharaoh himself! These people, the people of Israel, had seen God do some amazing things. They had even reached this very place because God led them there. He led them in a pillar, or column, of cloud during the day and fire at night. But there they were, trembling in fear anyway and whining that they would rather be slaves in Egypt than to die in the desert! Can you believe it? Thankfully, Moses trusted God. He knew that only God could save them from death at the hands of the Egyptians. "Watch God save you," he told them.

God, in the pillar of cloud, moved. He had been in front of Israel to lead them and now moved behind them to separate Israel from the Egyptians all night long. God instructed Moses, "Stretch out your walking stick over the sea." When Moses obeyed, God sent a strong wind from the east and the sea separated, leaving a path of dry land lined by walls of water! So Israel, millions of them, crossed from one side of the Red Sea to the other. And then, the Egyptians began to pursue the people of Israel. The entire Egyptian army went into the sea after them. And God confused the Egyptians. He made their chariot wheels swerve and made the chariots hard to drive. And in the morning when the Egyptians began to run away, God closed the Red Sea and it returned to normal. The entire Egyptian army was never seen again!

The people of Israel thanked God! They sang songs to Him, but their thankfulness didn't last. It wasn't long, as they walked through the desert, that they began to complain. "We're hungry." Grumble, grumble, grumble! God provided for them. He sent them small birds called quails and He rained bread from heaven, called manna. They enjoyed the manna, but it wasn't long before they complained again. "We're thirsty!" Grumble, grumble, grumble! God provided for them again. He sent them water from a rock out in the middle of the desert! And then, after they had been traveling for three months, they reached the mountain of God, Mount Sinai or Horeb. Moses went up the mountain to hear from God. God's message to the people was this, "You've seen that I can be trusted. Now, if you will obey Me and keep the rules that I will give you, you will be Mine." And the people said, "We will do what God says."

God was coming down to the mountain to meet with Moses. Sin and dirtiness cannot come before God, so the people prepared themselves. As Moses prepared to meet with God, he warned the people not to approach God disrespectfully. They were not to come too close to the mountain, and if they touched it, they would die. As God came down, the mountain shook with thunder, lightning, and fire. A thick cloud surrounded the mountain and a trumpet sounded. God met with Moses on the mountain and gave him something very special for the people. God gave Moses His Word. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. In the Ten Commandments, God gave some rules to show how to treat Him. He said, "Do not put any other God before me. I'm the one who brought you out of Egypt! Don't make statues of anything to worship and honor, and do not misuse My name. Remember the Sabbath day. I rested on the seventh day after creating the world - you rest, too, and make it a special day." God also gave some rules to guide in how to treat others. "Respect and honor your parents. Don't murder or commit adultery. Don't steal by taking what isn't yours and don't tell lies. Don't want what isn't yours." God continued sharing with Moses, "Don't make other gods. Make Me an altar where you can offer sacrifices. And I will guard you along the way and bring you to the new place that I have prepared."

So Moses wrote down everything God told Him. When he came down off of the mountain, he built an altar to God. At the altar, the people worshipped God and showed that they believed in Him. At the altar, the people were reminded of their sin.

Review:

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Be sure nothing was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Is it hard for you to believe that God could hold back the Red Sea, separate it and turn the river bed into dry ground for a million or more people to cross? Do you remember that God is the Creator? He created water. He knows it's characteristics and NOTHING is too difficult for Him!

So, what do you think about the ten commandments? Can you obey them? Maybe you say, "I don't steal or kill." Or even, "I've never worshipped another god." The Bible tells us that if you mess up on just one part of the ten commandments, or the law, that we are guilty of ALL of them! All it takes is messing up one of those ten and we are guilty of ALL. The law demands perfect obedience and none of us are perfect. The ten commandments, the law, show us that we are sinners. God wants a relationship with us. But we are sinners and our sin separates us from God. The Bible tells us that the law is like a tutor. It shows us over and over again what we cannot measure up to. The law cannot give us life, but it leads us to Jesus! Jesus took our sin, and the punishment for that sin, on Himself when He went to the cross and died. He wasn't a sinner, but He died a sinner's death for me and for you. Jesus can give us life - life with Him forever.

Have you realized that you cannot keep all the rules? Do you know that it is precisely that which separates you from God? Will you accept Jesus' gift of Himself on the cross to make you right with God, once and for all?

**Planning for Next Week
Lesson 16 - A Traveling Church
Exodus 25-Deuteronomy 34**

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “The B-I-B-L-E”

SHARE: The people of Israel left Egypt after God freed them by doing some amazing things. They traveled through the desert where it is sandy and windy. They didn't know where they were going, but God did. He showed them where to go with a cloud during the day and fire at night. They traveled until they came to the Red Sea. As they stood there wondering what was next, Pharaoh and his army came after them! Oh, why did this have to happen. Israel thought this was the end. Thankfully, Moses trusted God. He knew that only God could save them from death at the hands of the Egyptians. “Watch God save you,” he told the people. God moved between Israel and the Egyptians.

God told Moses, “Stretch out your walking stick over the sea.” When Moses obeyed, God sent a strong wind from the east. The wind began to move the water. The water moved until the sea separated and made a way to walk through. The water stood straight up on both sides like walls! The path that was left to walk on wasn't even wet; it was dry ground. So the people of Israel, millions of them, crossed from one side of the Red Sea to the other. They did it in one night! And then, the Egyptians began to follow the people of Israel. The entire Egyptian army went into the sea after them. God confused the Egyptians. He made their chariot wheels swerve and made the chariots hard to drive. And in the morning when the Egyptians began to run away, God closed the Red Sea and it returned to normal. The entire Egyptian army was never seen again! The people of Israel thanked God! They sang songs to Him.

The people kept traveling. They soon came to a mountain, the mountain of God. God was coming down to the mountain to meet with Moses. As God came down, the mountain shook with thunder, lightning, and fire. A thick cloud surrounded the mountain and a trumpet sounded. God met with Moses on the mountain and gave him something very special for the people. God gave Moses His Word. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. In the Ten Commandments, God gave some rules to show how to treat Him. He said, “Do not put any other God before me. I'm the one who brought you out of Egypt! Don't make statues of anything to worship and honor, and do not misuse My name. Remember the Sabbath day. I rested on the seventh day after creating the world - you rest, too, and make it a special day.” God also gave some rules to guide in how to treat others. “Respect and honor your parents. Don't murder or commit adultery. Don't steal by taking what isn't yours and don't tell lies. Don't want what isn't yours.” And Moses wrote down everything God told Him.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for giving us Your Word.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - If you have access to a white board or chalkboard, be a “tutor.” Explain that the law reminded the people over and over again that they couldn’t reach God by what they did. Write the verse on the board and practice it word by word, then phrase by phrase until it has been memorized.
- Make copies of Moses’ Song from Exodus 15:1-18. Have your musical students put this passage to music. Give them an opportunity to share with your other students.
- Play a “10 Commandments Memory Game.”
- Make “10 Commandments Flash Cards.” The front of the flash card will be a prompt with the number of the commandment. On the back of corresponding cards, print each commandment.
- Look at maps of the Exodus and traveling through the wilderness.
- Instead of “Mother, May I” play “Moses, May I.”
- Bring instant potato flakes to show what manna might have looked like.
- Provide parchment paper and give your students the opportunity to copy the ten commandments onto the parchment paper.