

Lesson 3

The Lord Saves His People

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Exodus 2:23-25, 14:5-31

MEMORY VERSE: “I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”
Isaiah 43:11

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: But Moses said to the People, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today.” Exodus 14:13a

CATECHISM: I am the LORD thy God.

Reference: Part I: The Ten Commandments, The introduction, page 3.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- Know there is no other god like the LORD
- Trust that God hears the cries of His people
- Understand God delivers His people

MATERIALS: A Catechism, Bibles, name tags, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson focus is on the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Life had become hard, the people were treated like slaves and Pharaoh had issued an order that all the Israelites’ baby boys were to be killed. The Israelites began to cry out to God for deliverance. God heard their cries. He called Moses and his brother Aaron to plead with Pharaoh to let the Israelites go but he would not listen. God sent 10 plagues on the land of Egypt before Pharaoh let the Israelites go. They left and journeyed towards the Red Sea. But as they journeyed, Pharaoh changed his mind and came after them. They found themselves trapped between Pharaoh’s army and the Red Sea. God again provided for them through a great miracle.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How did the Israelites come to live in Egypt? (This is not in the lesson but is important for that activity in the lesson.) What was life like for the Israelites in Egypt? Because of their troubles, what did they do? What did God do to free the Israelites? How did God demonstrate His power to the Israelites and the Egyptians?

ACTIVITY 1: The activity is a drawing activity or sentence completion to depict how God provided and protected His people, the Israelites. The activity starts with history that is not included in the text of the lesson. As the teacher you can review this history about Joseph, about Jacob coming to Egypt, and about settling in Goshen in Genesis 37-50.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Review the history contained in Genesis 37-50. Remember that God caused the famine that took Jacob's family to Egypt and provided for them through Joseph's relationship with God and his trust in God even in difficult circumstances.

Be encouraged that God is still in control of our world, He knows our daily needs and He hears us when we call upon Him

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His care for you and each student in your class
- Pray for the needs of each student in your class
- Spend some time in heart-to-heart conversation with the Lord.

Bible Background

Bible text: Exodus 2:23-25; 14:5-31

Like Abraham, Moses was also a "stranger" in this world. He spent the first 40 years of his life "at home" in Egypt, raised as a son of the Pharaoh. After murdering an Egyptian while defending a fellow Jew, Moses fled for his life and spent the next 40 years in Midian (Saudi Arabia). During these years God prepared Moses to be the servant-shepherd who would lead God's people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in Canaan.

Egypt prepared Moses as a scholar, a gentleman, a statesman, and a soldier, all of which would be of use to him later. But he lacked the one thing which the court of Egypt could not provide for him. In Midian, Moses learned to be alone with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — a God who was compassionate, gracious and forgiving. In Midian, he grew in the grace of God and learned to reject the "pleasures of sin" (Heb. 11:25) which Egypt provided so abundantly. In Midian, Moses kept the flock of his father-in-law, and his life as a shepherd prepared him for the years of hardship in leading a quarrelsome and stubborn people. Moses needed to know that God would be with him and that he must trust God to make him an effective leader.

Moses' leadership was evident as he confronted the Pharaoh, asking him to "Let my people go." His leadership was evident during the plagues as God demonstrated His power against the gods of Egypt. And Moses was able to lead three million people to prepare and assemble and move out of Egypt and cross the Sinai Peninsula to the Red Sea.

Pharaoh and his people had endured the plagues. The last plague had taken Pharaoh's son (12:30), and in despair he let the people to go (12:32). Then God hardened Pharaoh's heart again (14:4) and Pharaoh realized his "mistake." He said to his servants "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him" (14:5,6). He pursued the Israelites and reached them when they were by the Red Sea (14:6-9).

God led the people across the Sinai Peninsula to the Red Sea. For about the last twenty miles on the eastern side of the Peninsula, the people traveled through an area of low hills and mountains and valleys. The hills end abruptly and the people came out on a large open "beach" area stretching about five miles along the shore of the Red Sea. The Egyptian army followed the same route and the people saw the army about to come out of the hills and onto the beach. Then "The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt

and the camp of Israel” (14:19,20). Even today, the stones and rocks and sand in that spot are melted and fused together from the heat of a great fire.

Moses had learned to trust God; he was a man of faith who knew that Pharaoh’s army was no threat to God. The people, of course, were terrified when they saw the enemy so near. They doubted Moses, they questioned God, they grumbled and panicked. “But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent” (14:13,14).

Then Moses stretched out his hand and God parted the waters (14:21-22). When the Egyptian army tried to follow, Moses stretched out his hand again and the waters returned, destroying Pharaoh’s entire army (14:23-29). “When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses” (14:31).

Across the floor of the Red Sea today are remains of Egyptian chariots, mostly axels and wheels encrusted with coral. Some of the wheels have four spokes overlaid with gold. It is believed that these are some of the “six hundred select chariots” (14:3).

About 400 years later King Solomon erected two plain granite columns, one on each side of the Red Sea, to commemorate the crossing. Solomon's sea port was at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba at Eloth (I Kings 9:26), and he was very familiar with the Red Sea crossing site, as it was in his neighborhood. Each column was inscribed with the Hebrew words Mizram (Egypt), death, water, pharaoh, Edom, Yahweh, and Solomon. One column still stands on the western shore of the Red Sea.

Why did God provide these miracles for the Jewish people? Mainly because He was keeping His promise that He would deliver Israel from Egypt and bring them to the Promised Land (Ex 3:7-8). In years to come pious Jews would measure everything by the demonstration of God’s power at the Exodus. These miracles also demonstrated to Israel and the world the awesome power and saving grace of the one true God. Perhaps an even greater miracle is the evidence that is still there for the world to see. And seeing, to believe.

Learn the New Words

pharaoh: the title of the ruler in Egypt

deliver: to free someone from a bad situation, to rescue someone

swarms: a great number of things that move together in a tight knit group, bees or gnats can move like this.

livestock: farm animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats.

salvation: the act of saving, rescuing, or delivering from harm or death.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet and welcome the children as they arrive. Suggested prayer: Thank you God that we know you care for us, you are with us in good times and bad times. God we know you are in control of everything in our world. You are always available to listen to us.

SHARING: Ask the students about a time they were afraid. Think about an event where you

were afraid that you could share with the students.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse together,

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.” Isaiah 43:11.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Remind the students that we are going to study the Ten Commandments but before we learn about each of them, we need to know how the story of the Ten Commandments begins.

The people of Israel were called God’s chosen people. This family began with Abraham. When this family was about 70 people they moved to Egypt. They moved to Egypt to find food because there was a famine in their land. The Pharaoh was kind to them. After living there for 400 hundred years the family had grown to about 2 million people. Now there was a new Pharaoh and he was afraid they would try to take over his country.

Read the Lesson

Read the first two paragraphs of the lesson. Encourage students to read if they volunteer. **Because their life was so hard what did the people do?** (*cry out to God*)

How did God respond? *He sent Moses and Aaron. God had plans to deliver them.* Pharaoh did not listen to Moses and Aaron. Read the next paragraph to see what God did next. (Note: beginning with the fourth plague of gnats God protected the Israelites who all lived in Goshen so the last plagues did not affect them only the Egyptians.

Read the next paragraph. **What did God do that caused Pharaoh to let the people of**

Israel go? *He killed their oldest child.* The Israelites set out on the journey to return to the land that God had promised Abraham. Not long after Pharaoh changed his mind, he wanted his slaves back. **What did he do?** *He sent the army after them.*

How did the Israelites respond? *They were afraid, they were trapped between the Red Sea and the army.*

If time permits read the account from the scripture beginning at Exodus 14:13 to 31.

Read the last paragraph. Have the students underline this paragraph.

God saved them; God demonstrated that there is no one like our God.

The people sang this song to God after he saved them. (Exodus 15:2a) This story was told and retold for generations of God’s salvation to the Israelites at the Red Sea. In our first lesson we learned that Jesus is God and He is our Savior, saving us from our sins just like God saved the Israelites.

Review the Catechism section

I am the LORD thy God.

Repeat the Memory Verse

“I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.” Isaiah 43:11

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Out of Egypt

Activity 1

There is only one activity for this lesson. It requires drawing pictures in some boxes and sentence completion in two sections. The

activity will allow the students to retell the story. The activity starts with history that is not included in the text of the lesson. As the teacher you can review this history about Joseph, about Jacob coming to Egypt, and about settling in Goshen in Genesis 37-50.

Activity 1

OUT OF EGYPT

Draw pictures or write words to match the story lines.

1 God's people lived in Egypt more than 400 years. At first they were a family of about 70 people. They came to Egypt to find food because there was a famine in the land. What food do you think they found?

2 The pharaoh was kind to them. But those 70 people had children and grand-children and great-grandchildren. Now there were more than 2 million of them. Draw the growing family of God's people.

3 Pharaoh became afraid. He made them work long, hard days at jobs they did not like. Then Pharaoh tried to kill all their baby boys. Draw the people working hard.

4 God sent Moses and Aaron to talk to Pharaoh. What did they say? Write it here.

ACTIVITY CENTER

5 Pharaoh did not listen. God sent frogs and insects and hail and fire. Draw one of these things.

6 Finally, Pharaoh let them go. When the people got to the sea, Moses said, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord." What did God do?

7 Pharaoh and his army started chasing the people. But Moses and God's people walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. What do you think that looked like?

8 When Pharaoh's army followed, God let go of the water. Pharaoh's army drowned. The Lord saved His people. Write the missing words.

God showed the people there is no one like

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Close with prayer, allowing students to share concerns and thanksgivings. Allow students to pray if they would like.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW7PH8Csg0U>

Song to go with Miriam's Song in Exodus 15.

Additional activities for a multi-age class:

Create a simple family tree of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's children. If the teacher creates this, it could also be used in the Lesson 9. Students could also create their own family tree.