

An Illustrated Earth - Celebrating God's Creation

Story Two - Parting of the Sea



GATHERING

Option one - needs several people

Monster in the Middle

Pick one player to be the monster and stand in the middle of the playing area. All other players must stand on the sideline. On go, all players must cross the playing area, running for their lives, to the other side without getting tagged by the monster. If they are tagged by the monster, they become an additional monster for the next round as well. Each round the number of monsters in the middle will increase. Play until the monsters tag everyone.

Option two - can be done with two or more people

Running Through the Forest

Take the children on an imaginary adventure in which they must run, skip and crawl in place. Pretend together that you are running through a forest. When you come upon a branch, duck. When you reach a log, jump. When you find a pond, get in and swim. When you meet a lion, run fast! Together create your imaginative adventure and get moving.

After play concludes, tell the children that there's actually a story in the Bible about a group of people called the Israelites and the time they were running for their lives from people who were after them, similar to the game they just played.



STORY TIME

Exodus 14:15-31

*(You may want to start with Part 1 **and include** Part 2. OR either can be done alone.)*

Part 1

Here is a paraphrase of this story that is easy for children to read and understand. You may want to read it several times. The first time read the whole story, then read it again and stop after each thought to talk about it.

After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they saw the Egyptians chasing them. They reached the Red Sea and were unable to cross. The Israelites cried out to the Lord in fear.

The Lord told Moses, “Tell the people to get going! And Moses, I want you to lift your shepherd’s rod over the Red Sea. I am going to protect you and your people, and both you and the Egyptians will see my power.”

When Moses stretched his rod over the sea, the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong wind. The waters split, forming two big walls, and the Israelites walked through on dry land. The Egyptians chased after the Israelites, but their chariot wheels jammed and they panicked. “The Lord is fighting for the Israelites,” the Egyptians cried as they turned around.

The Lord said to Moses, “Stretch your hand back over the sea so the water returns and covers the Egyptians.” When Moses did this, the walls of water came crashing down and covered the Egyptians.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Lord’s amazing power and was in awe. Their trust in the Lord and in Moses grew.

Part 2

Here is that same paraphrase broken up into a script.

You may want to share the reading between two (or more) people in your group.

Have the readers stand up to do their parts.

Have them read it once all the way through, then have them stop after each though to discuss it. Talk about what comes first, what comes next, and then, . . .

Have them add motions to the different parts.

Script: Exodus 14:15-31

Reader 1: After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they saw the Egyptians chasing after them. They reached the Red Sea and were unable to cross. The Israelites cried out to the Lord in fear. The Lord told Moses,

Reader 2: “Tell the people to get going! And Moses, I want you to lift your shepherd’s rod over the Red Sea. I am going to protect you and your people, and both you and the Egyptians will see my power.”

Reader 1: When Moses stretched his rod over the sea, the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong wind. The waters split, forming two big walls, and the Israelites walked through on dry land. The Egyptians chased after the Israelites, but their chariot wheels jammed and they panicked.

Reader 2: “The Lord is fighting for the Israelites,” the Egyptians cried as they turned around. The Lord said to Moses,

Reader 1: “Stretch your hand back over the sea so the water returns and covers the Egyptians.”

Reader 2: When Moses did this, the walls of water came crashing down and covered the Egyptians. The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Lord’s amazing power and was in awe. Their trust in the Lord and in Moses grew.

Now let everyone tell the story by heart (not reading it), with motions or with the story cards. What comes first, then what, then what, . . .



IMAGINING TOGETHER

You can do this along with **Coloring**.

After you’ve spent some time with the story, ask each person about the story and see what stood out to them.

What did they imagine when they listened to the story and learned it?

Here are a few questions that you could reflect on together. You can add your own:

- What in this story is awe-some to you?
- From this story, how would you describe God in three words?
- What would it have been like to be an Israelite in this story?
- How can we ask God for help when we need it? (Continued)
- Describe a time you needed God’s help. How did it feel to ask God?
What happened?



COLORING

We have included coloring sheets here.

The first four include a scene from the Exodus story.

The other two are posters with a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design.

Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to search out as many symbols as you can that communicate an aspect of the story.



CLOSING PRAYER

After the coloring is done and the conversation is complete, gather everyone together again for the Closing Prayer.

Whether one person reads the prayer, or they have everyone repeat, phrase by phrase - use this as a chance to “close” your time together. This is a great short ritual to do together; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

Awesome God,
You've come through for us
and helped us
in amazing ways before.
You see paths we cannot see.
We feel hope knowing all things
are possible for you.
Amen.

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An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation
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