

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 2

Exodus

Objects to have:

Any road map with a route marked in red
Chalk and chalkboard
A picture of a pillar
A large drawing of a chariot
Your Bible.

Introducing the story:

(Hold up your Bible.) This is a wonderful Book! We can read it every day of our lives and never, never grow tired of it! There are hundreds of wonderful stories, and they are true stories.

(Open your Bible to the space between the Old Testament and the New Testament.) We said last Sunday that the Bible is divided into two main parts—the Old _____ (let the children supply the word Testament), and the New _____. The Old Testament has 39 books in it! The New Testament has 27 books in it!

(Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1.) The first book in the Bible is named Genesis, “the book of beginnings.” Here is the first verse in the first book of the Bible. This is Genesis 1:1. Who remembers this verse? (Allow the children to respond; repeat with all the children Genesis 1:1.)

(You might put up somewhere in your classroom, each Sunday, the name of the Bible book that was studied for the previous Sundays and add, each Sunday, the book studied for that day. Include with the name of the book the theme; for example, GENESIS - BEGINNINGS.)

(At the close of the lesson for today put up EXODUS - GOING OUT.)

There are many, many stories in the book of Genesis. Many stories tell about the Israelites. At the end of Genesis the Israelites had traveled away from their own country, and they were all living in Egypt.

The Israelites started to be very sad. The king of Egypt was very mean to them. The Israelites asked and asked God to take them out of Egypt. Finally it was God’s good time for them to go. The Israelites needed a leader. God told the man Moses to be their leader. Moses finally obeyed God, and Moses became the leader of the Israelites.

Telling the story:

It was time to march out of Egypt. All the Israelites packed their clothes, their dishes and everything else they had. They all carried tents so that they would have some place to sleep at night. They were ready to go. Each Israelite family made sure that all the children were lined up with the mothers and the daddies; they made sure that all their sheep and cows and all their other animals were lined up, too. They started to march out of Egypt!

(Hold up your map.) This is a road map. Roads are drawn on the map. If a driver follows certain roads, he can get to wherever he is going. Moses did not have a road map. There were no road signs (pick up your chalk and turn to draw some simple signs on the board) like these. This sign says: “This way out of Egypt.” This sign curves to the right. This sign says: “This way to the Promised Land.” There were no signs like that for Moses and the Israelites to follow. They knew the way out of Egypt and to the land that God had promised to give them. I’ll tell you how they knew the way.

God gave them something a lot better than a road map and signs on the road. He gave them a cloud in the sky. The cloud looked like a pillar. (Show your picture of a pillar; explain what a pillar is.)

This special cloud that God gave the Israelites to follow moved! It went in front of the Israelites to guide them in the daytime. All they had to do was to watch the cloud and follow where it led them. It moved whenever God wanted the people to move, and it stopped moving whenever God wanted the people to stop and rest.

At night God gave the people a pillar of fire to light their tents and to keep them warm. They could even travel by night if the pillar of fire moved.

The cloud was leading them, and then stopped moving. There straight ahead of them was the Red Sea. The Red Sea was not like a little lake for fishing; it was big and deep. The people knew that somehow they would have to get to the other side of the sea. But, for then, they obeyed God's command and put up their tents, and camped by the sea. They were all settled to rest.

The Israelites suddenly heard a rumbling noise. They also heard the noise of marching feet. They looked behind them, and they saw that the chariots and soldiers of Egypt were coming out after them. (Hold up your drawing of a chariot.) Here is a chariot; a chariot is a cart with two wheels. Horses pulled the chariots. A man stood inside each chariot to hold the horses' reins. Some chariots were big enough to hold several men. All the chariots of Egypt and the men who drove them and the men who shouted the directions for driving them and all the soldiers who rode in them were coming out after the Israelites.

How frightened the Israelites were! The sea was in front of them so that they could not run from the Egyptians, and the Egyptians were behind them. The Israelite men were not ready to go to war. Besides, they had their women and their children with them; ladies and boys and girls could not fight against the Egyptians.

The Israelites began to whine and cry and yell at Moses, "Why did you lead us out here?" It was God Who had led them out there, wasn't it? They should just have trusted Him; God was taking care of them.

God moved the pillar of cloud behind the Israelites' tents so that it was between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The side of the cloud facing the Egyptians was dark; the Egyptians could not see to go any farther; they had to stop. The side of the cloud that was facing the Israelites was light; they could see! God told Moses to go to the edge of the water of the Red Sea and hold up his rod over the sea. When Moses obeyed God, God caused a strong east wind to blow. The water in the Red Sea started to move. All night the wind blew, blowing the water in the Red Sea in two different directions. After a while the water stood up! Some of the water of the Red Sea stood up in a wall on this side; more of the water stood up in a wall on this side. That left a road in the middle of the Red Sea and the road was dry—a dry road right through the Red Sea!

God said, "All right, Israelites, march across the Red Sea on the dry land." So all the men and boys picked up the tents and luggage, and led the animals. All the men and the women and the boys and the girls and the animals marched right down into the Red Sea where God had made a road for them. They marched through the Red Sea on dry ground!

By the time all the many thousands of Israelites were going across the Red Sea on dry ground, God let the Egyptians see well enough to get up, get their horses hitched to the chariots, and start to follow the Israelites again. The Israelites were hurrying to get the last of their people and animals across the Red Sea. The Egyptians hurried to catch up. Almost all the Israelites had crossed to the other side and the Egyptian army had started onto the dry road through the Red Sea. Just when the Israelites thought that the Egyptians would catch up, God did something to slow down the Egyptians. God took the wheels off of the chariots. All the wheels came off! That's right. With the wheels off, the chariots could only be dragged along on the sand and they soon got stuck! No matter how horribly the drivers beat the horses nor how hard the horses pulled, the chariots could not move any farther with the wheels off. All the Egyptian army was between the two walls of water, having a terrible time!

Some of the Egyptians started shouting, "I'm going to get out of here. Let's turn around and run back home. See what's happening? The God of the Israelites is playing tricks. He's going to help those Israelites again." Other Egyptians said, "That's a good idea. I'm going to turn around and run back home, too." Their commanders shouted, "Go back! Go after the Israelites." It was such confusion - men running in every direction, chariots

stuck in the sand because all their wheels were broken off, horses rearing on their hind legs and making awful noises. All this time the Israelites had gotten safely on the bank on the other side of the Red Sea.

God said, "All the Israelites are safely on the other side of the Red Sea. It's time to get rid of those Egyptians that have come after My people." God told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea and the walls of water came tumbling down. All the Egyptian army and chariots and horses were completely covered with the water; they were drowned in the Red Sea.

Oh, how grateful the Israelites were! God was taking care of them all the time.

We need never be afraid, either. Since God is big enough to drown a whole army, He is big enough to take care of you and me, too. Let's tell Him that we trust Him and that we are not afraid. (You could lead your class in prayer.)

The Israelites finally believed God, and they believed Moses. They got together on the other side of the Red Sea and sang. They sang a beautiful song about how God delivered them from the Egyptians. They sang about how great God is. Each one sang, "I will sing unto the LORD." That is part of a Bible verse that is found in Exodus 15:1.

Exodus is the second book of the Bible. Exodus means, "going out." The Israelites got out of Egypt safely! (Point to your sign reading Exodus and say the names of the first two books of the Bible.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Exodus 15:1, "...I will sing unto the LORD...."