

STORY

Israel Leaves Egypt - Exodus 13:17-15:2

TEACHER PRAYER

Heavenly Father, sometimes I get so busy trying to solve my own problems that I forget that you have already provided an answer for me. Help me to be quiet so that You can be God in my life. Especially help me to realize that in teaching these children, only the Holy Spirit can create and preserve their faith. With a humble spirit, I prepare to teach Jesus' little lambs. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Passover -Meal to remember how God delivered His people out of Egypt

OUTER AIM

God teaches his people that He will take care of them.

INNER AIM

Be still my soul and God will work in our lives.

BACKGROUND

The Passover became a memorial feast for all generations to remember what God had done for His people. The month of Abib or Nisan became the first month in the Jewish calendar. From this time forth, in remembrance of this day, the firstborn of all Israel would belong to the Lord. The first born son would have to be redeemed by a sacrifice. Compare the presentation of Jesus in the temple in Luke 2. This would be a sign that the "Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand." (Exodus 13:14-16) What takes place in today's lesson must be considered in view of God's great act of salvation delivering His people from Egypt. The power of God was mightily revealed that night in Egypt.

The Children of Israel were on their way to the Promised Land. The number of people including women and children numbered about two million. There were 600,000 footmen of military age (Exodus 12:37). They had been in Egypt 430 years from the time Jacob had come with seventy souls. They journeyed from Rameses (treasure cities) to Succoth (booths), and from there to Etham. Instead of going the shortest way to Palestine and encountering the Philistines, God led them southward into the wilderness.

The Lord revealed His presence with the pillar of cloud which led them by day and the pillar of fire which gave them light at night. Jehovah, the God of the covenant, was leading His people and protecting them (Exodus 13:21).

The turn to the south ensured that Pharaoh would make one last attempt to get the people back (Exodus 14:4). He would expect them to be entangled with the mountains on the west and south, the Red Sea on the east, and would pursue them to the north. Flight was impossible; defense seemed madness. The chariots of Egypt were the ultimate in warfare at that time. They could be equated with panzer divisions of Germany and the air power of the Gulf War.

The people reacted to this first test with unbelief. They complained that they were better off in Egypt (Exodus 14:12). Moses' answer was the answer of faith. "Be quiet and know that God will fight for you." (Cf. Psalm 46:10) The Lord first opened the Red Sea for His people and then caused confusion and panic among the Egyptians. Jehovah shook off the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The Red Sea closed and destroyed once and for all the military might of Egypt. This event became for Old



Testament Israel a picture of God's saving power and salvation which found completeness in Jesus and the cross.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus, there are many times that we become afraid of many things. Sometimes we do not know where to turn for help. Remind us that You saved the nation of Israel by leading them through the Red Sea. Remind us that You sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us be quiet, and know that You will take care of us. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Ask the children whether it is easier to believe and trust in God when things are going well or when there are problems. It is important to realize that people, because of their sinful nature, have a difficult time trusting God. Everything God has done for us seems to disappear in the face of some difficult time such as in sickness or death or the danger of a tornado.

Again it is very important to review and fit this story in with the previous chapters about the Passover. The teacher should tell the story, highlighting the contrast between the tremendous deliverance of God's people from Egypt and their fear when they encountered the first obstacle on the way to the Promised Land.

Use a map to trace Israel's journey from Egypt into the desert area. This map should be used for the next series of lessons. Stress that the Lord God wanted to protect the Children of Israel by not taking the short way and encountering the Philistines and their military might in southern Canaan. Stress also that this was the final act of Pharaoh's rebellion against God. His blind and stubborn unbelief finally led him and his nation to destruction.

The application of this lesson is that faith is trust, not in self, but in God. As God's people, we are to be quiet and remember that God will protect us. The continuing story of God's Old Testament people show how God acts on their behalf. So also with our salvation, we have to be quiet and not try to gain our salvation by our own works. We need to know that God will act on our behalf through Jesus Christ.

APPLICATIONS

Discuss faith as trust in God when trust doesn't make sense. Faith is not an intellectual, book-learning exercise. Faith is trusting that God is taking care of us in every situation. This trust in God begins with the knowledge and trust that God sent Jesus to die for our sins. Romans 8 reminds us that if God delivered up His own Son for us, He will with Jesus freely give us all these other things.

Find out when the following people of God were weak in faith: Peter, the disciples, the children of Israel. They all have one thing in common: a trust in self rather than dependence on the Lord. We also and our children have times when we are "weak" in faith. Like Peter walking on the water, we are all right as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus. Do not condemn the Children of Israel in such a way that children think that they would never be weak of faith.

Discuss situations in which children and adults are afraid. Don't dismiss any replies because they seem petty. Children have real fears.

Follow through with what it means in our lives to "be quiet" and to "know God will protect us." Instead of trying to do things for ourselves, we need to learn to trust God to take care of our problems. Illustrate this by telling how people, when they are troubled, tend to become nervous or worried and want to do something, anything. The child of God learns to quietly wait for God to solve his problems.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalms 46:10 - *Be still, and know that I am God.*

Middle any of the above and...

Psalms 46:10 - *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Romans 8:31 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Upper any of the above and...

Psalms 46:1-3 - *God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling.*

Romans 8:32 - *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

HYMN CHOICES

“Be Still My Soul” (TLH #651)

“I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus” (TLH #428)

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way” (TLH #514)