

Unit 4, Session 3: Moses Parted the Red Sea

Big Picture Question: Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:17 – The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

Christ Connection: The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made the way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again.

Bible Passage: Exodus 13-15

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

Consider the miracles God performed that resulted in the redemption and deliverance of the Israelites. Consider the power and majesty of a God who belittles false gods and idols with their own medicine (Ex 5-12). Look at the demonstration of justice and mercy as God places himself between his faithful servants and the destroyer carrying out his judgment (12:23). Marvel at the compassion and care of a God who hears the cries of the suffering and oppressed and responds by delivering them to safety from the hands of a tyrannical ruler (3:7-10). Imagine pillars of cloud by day and fire by night that reach between heaven and earth, guiding and protecting a chosen people (14:19-20). Dwell on the impossible made possible as a sea parts and sandals press firmly on dry ground as they cross to safety (14:21-22, 29). Shudder at the condemnation for those whose hearts are hardened against the almighty God, their voices silenced at the bottom of that sea (14:26-28). This is the work of the Lord, so that Egypt and Israel, and all other people, may know him. He has purchased a people for himself. He will plant them on the mountain of his possession. He has prepared the place for his dwelling and his hands have established his sanctuary. He will reign forever (15:13-18).

Consider the redeeming work of the Lord, so that man might know him. Marvel at the infinite become infant; the Lord become the lamb. Wonder at the compassion and mercy displayed in a sinless man condemned to die on behalf of wretched sinners. Tremble at the power of the risen Son extending his own glory to you and me when we place our faith in the truth of his death burial and resurrection. Praise the God who makes himself known to us. "Lord, who is like you among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders? ... With your faithful love, you will lead the people you have redeemed; you will guide them to your holy dwelling with your strength. ... The Lord will reign forever and ever" (14:11, 12, 18).

When Pharaoh let the Israelites go, the Lord led them out of Egypt. He went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night. The pillar stayed right in front of the people so they knew exactly where God wanted them to go.

God led them away from the Philistines, because He knew the people were not yet ready for war. They were traveling past the edge of the Red Sea when **the Lord spoke to Moses: “Turn back and camp in front of the sea. Pharaoh will think you are confused and trapped, so he will pursue you. Then I will receive the glory when people see what I do to Pharaoh and his army.”**

Just as God said, Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. He gathered his chariots, his horsemen, and all his army, and chased after them. **While the Israelites were camped at the shore of the Red Sea, they looked up and saw the Egyptian army coming after them.** They were terrified and cried out to the Lord for help. **Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the Lord’s salvation. The Lord will fight for you.”**

The pillar of cloud moved between God’s people and the Egyptians so that the two groups could not come near one another. Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and a strong wind blew all night turning the sea into dry land. The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on their right and a wall of water on their left.

The Egyptians tried to follow them, but the Lord made them confused. He also made their chariot wheels hard to control. **They said, “Let’s get away from Israel—the Lord is fighting for them!”**

The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand over the sea, and the water crashed down on the chariots, the horsemen, and all of Pharaoh’s army. None of the Egyptian army survived. When Israel saw the great power of the Lord that had saved them, they believed in Him and in His servant Moses.

Then Moses and all of the Israelites sang a song to the Lord:

“The Lord is my strength and my song;

He has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him.”

If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at ssiever@lenexabaptist.com.