Preschool–Grade 6

Crossing the Red Sea

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God fights for His people, so we can trust Him when we are afraid.
Bible passage: Exodus 13:17–14:31 and 15:1, 15:20–21. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." *Exodus 14:14 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 4 index cards, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: a blue bedsheet and a flashlight.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 4 index cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Exodus 14:13.

1. Opening game: Stand Still, Go Forward (5 minutes)

Line the kids up on one side of the room. Call "Go forward!" and they walk toward you. Call "Stand still!" and they freeze. Anyone who moves on "Stand still" goes back to the start. Mix it up fast. Then ask: *Was it hard to stand still when you wanted to move?* Say: "Today God's people were stuck with nowhere to go. God told them to stand still and watch what He would do, and then to go forward."

2. Bible story: God Makes a Way Through the Sea (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Exodus 14, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

God had just set His people, the **Israelites**, free from being slaves in Egypt. God led them through the wilderness toward the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17–18). God went ahead of them in a tall **pillar of cloud** in the daytime, and in a **pillar of fire** at night to give them light (13:21). God told Moses to have the people camp right beside the sea (14:1–2).

Back in Egypt, Pharaoh, the king, changed his mind. "Why did we let Israel go?" he said (14:5). He got his chariot ready. He took six hundred of his best chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt, and his army chased after God's people (14:6–9). A **chariot** is a cart with wheels pulled by horses.

The Israelites looked up and saw the Egyptians coming. The sea was in front of them and the army was behind them. They were very afraid, and they cried out to the LORD and complained to Moses (14:10–12). **Read Exodus 14:13 from your Bible:** "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever." Say: "**Salvation** means God saving them. Moses was saying, 'Don't be afraid. Stand still and watch God save you!'"

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The story continues: God told Moses, "Tell the people to go forward. Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea" (14:15–16). A **rod** is a long walking stick. Then the pillar of cloud moved behind the Israelites and stood between them and the Egyptians. It was dark on the Egyptian side and gave light on Israel's side, so the army could not come near them all night (14:19–20).

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. God sent a **strong east wind** that blew all night, and the sea split apart! The ground in the middle became dry. The Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea on **dry ground**. The water stood up like a **wall** on their right side and on their left side (14:21–22).

The Egyptians followed them in. But God made their chariot wheels come off, so the chariots could hardly move. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away! The LORD is fighting for Israel!" (14:23–25). Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea again. The water came back and covered Pharaoh's whole army (14:26–28). They could never chase God's people again.

The people saw the great thing God had done, and they trusted the LORD (14:31). Then Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the LORD: "I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously" (15:1). That means God won a great victory. Miriam, the sister of Aaron, took a **timbrel**, a small hand drum, and all the women went out after her and praised God too (15:20–21).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What led God's people in the day and at night? *(A pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire, Exodus 13:21)*
2. Who chased the Israelites to the sea? *(Pharaoh and his army with chariots, 14:6–9)*
3. What did Moses stretch out over the sea? *(His hand, 14:21)*
4. What did the people walk on in the middle of the sea? *(Dry ground, 14:22)*
5. What did the people do when they were safe? *(They sang a song to the LORD, 15:1)*

4. Memory verse: Hold Your Peace (5 minutes)

Tape the 4 cards up in order: *The LORD shall fight / for you, / and ye shall / hold your peace. Exodus 14:14.* Explain the old words: **ye** means you, and **hold your peace** means stay calm and quiet and let God work. Say it together with motions: point up (The LORD shall fight), point to a friend (for you), hands on your chest (and ye shall), finger to your lips (hold your peace). Then turn one card over and say it again. Keep turning one card over each time until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves. End with a whisper.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God's people could not save themselves, so God made a way through the sea. God made a way for us too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when you feel afraid, stop, pray, and say the memory verse: "The LORD shall fight for you." Tell someone at home about a time God helped you.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Crossing the Red Sea word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/red-sea-word-search), the Red Sea coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/red-sea), or **Walls of Water:** half the kids make two lines facing each other with their arms raised high like walls of water. The other kids are the Israelites and walk through the middle "on dry ground" while everyone says the memory verse. Swap and play again.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You are stronger than anything we are afraid of. When we feel stuck or scared, help us trust You to fight for us. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why the Egyptian soldiers died: answer simply and gently. Pharaoh's army was chasing God's people to bring them back to be slaves, and even the Egyptians saw that God was fighting for Israel (Exodus 14:5, 14:25). God was protecting His people. God is always good and fair, and He wants everyone to come to Him.

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