

Children's Worship Lesson – September 13, 2020

Focus Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31

Purpose: To explore feelings of new beginnings

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Pictures or items representing journeys from summer vacation

Sand

Welcome

I am so happy (name) is here today, and his/her favourite colour is (say favourite colour) and that we are sharing this time together, in our new Children's Worship year. I am very excited to be starting Zoom Children's Worship with you again. I have missed seeing all of your smiling faces!

What are some exciting things you did over the summer? Are you excited about being back at school? How do you find the difference in the way school is happening this year?

Lighting the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for this time together. Be with us as we learn.

Help us to feel your presence with us every day.

Amen.

Song: Whole Lotta Change (Roar VBS on YouTube)

Look together at the Unit 1 logo. Our theme is “Gathering into the Sacred Circle.” A sacred circle is one where God is present. We are part of the circle of this group, of the Christian community, and of the world.

Introducing the Theme – Summer Vacation

On the table or floor, place a variety of objects and pictures representing journeys that might have been part of your children’s summer vacation experience.

Let's talk about our summer vacations, and the things that we did. Look at the items on the table or floor. When it is your turn, choose an item that reminds you of something you did over the summer, and tell us all about it.

Put the objects away when everyone has had a chance, **except the sand.**

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

In our Bible, in the book of Exodus, there is a story of the people of Israel, who went on a very long journey - one that lasted forty years. For most of their journey, these people were travelling through a desert.

Refer to the sand tray.

It is fun to play in the sand at the beach in the summer, but the sand in a desert is much different. It goes on for a very, very long distance. It is hard to travel day after day through the hot sand where there is very little water. Over the next few weeks, we are going to hear the story of the adventures of the people of Israel in the desert. But today we are going to go back and hear about what caused them to be on that journey.

A New Beginning

Bring out the four teaching pictures and tell the story “A New Beginning.”

Crossing the Sea of Reeds

Let's pretend we are the people of Israel, heading out of Egypt. The king has said we can go free. We have to carry all of our belongings on our backs, so pretend to pick up your bundle, carry it over your shoulder, and let's go.

Now get up and we will all walk around in a circle together.

We have walked a long way. We should stop for the night. We can camp here on the edge of this large lake, the Sea of Reeds. Tomorrow we will move on into the desert. Put your bundles down, and let's sit down around the campfire that Miriam and Aaron have made. **How are you feeling?** (tired, thankful to be free, hungry, excited about the adventure)

Let's say a prayer of thanks to God. Then we can eat and have a sleep. **(Bow heads together)** Thank you, God, for saving us and bringing us safely here. Amen. Let's eat some of the food we brought with us.

Pretend to eat.

Goodnight everyone. See you in the morning.

Lie down to sleep. Wait a moment or two.

Rise and shine everyone! Time to get up.

Have the children stretch and rub the sleep out of their eyes.

Listen! Can you hear that noise? It's getting closer and closer. Oh no! It's the king's army coming after us. He must have changed his mind. He wants us to be his slaves again. There is water in front of us, and the soldiers are behind us! We are trapped! How do you feel now? (frightened, angry, sad)

I just heard someone say that they wished we had all just stayed in Egypt. Wait a minute! Look! Moses is holding up his stick. Can you feel that wind? It is blowing back the water so we can cross over on dry land. Hurry! Grab your bundles and let's get across!

Now everyone please stand up and pretend we are walking across the dry land through the water and make it to the other side.

Oh no! The army is following us through the lake! But wait! The wind has stopped! The water is flowing back into the center of the lake. The chariots are stuck in the mud. Now the water is covering them all. We are saved! God has saved us from the king's army! Hurray!

Encourage the children to shout "hurray" and dance around.

Activity or Craft – "Maze Activity Sheet

Materials: Pencil or crayon and maze printed.

This is a maze. You need to help Moses lead the people of Israel out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. Let's look at the pictures along their route. (Hold up the sheet and point to the picture first) What is happening in this picture?

Review the story in each picture.

Okay, you're ready to go. Help Moses lead the people out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

Closing Prayer

Thank you God for making us special.

Thank you for looking after us.

We are glad to be part of your family!

Amen.

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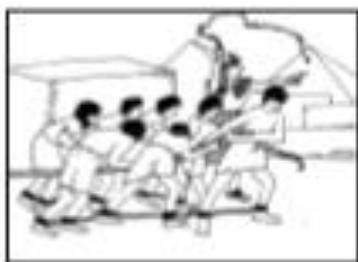


Unit 1

Gathering into the Sacred Circle

September 6 to October 11, 2020

A New Beginning



Bring out the teaching picture "Slaves in Egypt" (#7)

The ancestors - the great, great, great, great, grandparents of the people of Israel - had moved to Egypt when there had been a bad drought and no crops grew in their homeland of Canaan. After the drought ended, the people continued to live in Egypt. But as time went by, the king of Egypt forced them to become his slaves. They had to work very, very hard from sun-up to sundown, making bricks to build his buildings. They were so tired. Their bodies ached and they had no time for their families. They prayed to God to help them.



Show the picture "Baby Moses" (#7)

The king started to get worried about how many people of Israel lived in his land. One day he said that all of their baby boys were to be killed, so that there would be fewer Israelites. A woman named Jochebed (jock-uh-bed) hid her baby, Moses, in a special basket and floated it among the bulrushes at the edge of the river. The princess, Pharaoh's daughter, found Moses and took him home to the palace to be her son. The baby Moses had an older sister, Miriam, who was hiding in the bulrushes watching. She offered to get a nurse to help the princess look after her new baby. Moses' mother was able to go to the palace to look after Moses and tell him stories about his people.



Show the picture "The Burning Bush" (#8)

When he was a young man, Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of the slaves. It made him so mad that he hit the slave driver with a severe blow. Moses knew that he was in big trouble, so he ran away and stayed away for many years. While he was gone, the people of Israel continued to pray to God, asking for help. Then, one day, Moses' brother Aaron came running in, all excited. Moses had returned! Moses said that God had called to him from a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. God told him to lead the people of Israel away from the cruel Pharaoh and back to their homeland of Canaan. Their prayers had been answered. The people were so happy!



Show the picture "Let the People Go" (#8)

It turned out not to be as easy as the people had hoped. Moses and Aaron went to ask the king to let the people go free, but the king said, "No!" Then some terrible things happened like plagues of polluted water, and frogs, and flies and grasshoppers and sick animals. But still the king said, "No!" Then God spoke to Moses and said: "Get the people ready, because this last plague that is coming will cause the Egyptian people to get sick and some will die. Then the king will let you go." The people followed God's instructions and prepared to leave. When the king said that they were free, they left right away - in the middle of the night.

It was a new beginning!

Maze: Help Moses lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt

