

Youth 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

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

Prayer

Oh God, our Creator, we join together this Sunday, thinking of a circle which represents:
symbol of the round earth,
symbol of your never-ending love,
symbol of the unity of all.

Help us to experience your presence here with us today and always.

Amen.

Song: [All Things New \(Hillsong Worship on YouTube\)](#)

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. It was created by an Indigenous artist and includes symbols of both Christian and Indigenous spiritual traditions.

Which symbols represent the Christian community? (crosses)

Which symbols represent Indigenous traditions, and our relationship with God’s world? (feathers, sweetgrass, sun, stars)

Introducing the Theme – Summer Vacation

Have the children briefly explain what their symbol represents. How do you feel when you go to a new place or do something new? (excited, nervous, inspired) What new things have you been faced with this year, during Covid-19? How different is school for you now? How do these things make you feel?

Some people love change and things being new. Others are a little less comfortable with it. When things are new, we often wonder - and sometimes worry - about how they will work out.

In Unit 1 we are going to be exploring the Exodus saga. It is the story of the people of Israel on a difficult journey - through a desert and lasting forty years. The people experienced

a lot of new things, and there was both excitement and hardship. Mostly, though, there was a lot of learning for the people of Israel.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

A New Beginning

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

How do you think the people felt when they were slaves in Egypt? (miserable, exploited, angry)

How do you think the people felt when they were free? (excited, thankful, somewhat apprehensive about the newness of it)

At the Sea of Reeds

Today’s Exodus reading is about crossing the Sea of Reeds.

Look at the map which shows their long journey.

The people started in the city of Ramses and went across the desert to the area known as the Bitter Lakes, because they are salty. The Sea of Reeds is a marshy area just north of the Red Sea. You can see the path the people of Israel took on their forty-year journey to their homeland, Canaan. We’ll be travelling along that route with them over the next few weeks.

But let’s go back to the Sea of Reeds, where today’s story takes place. While the people of Israel were camped here, Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army to recapture them. The water was in front of them and the army was behind them. **How do you think the people felt when that happened?** (trapped, afraid, angry to be in that situation)

Read Exodus 14:19-31

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their left and right side. The Egyptians, all of Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horseman followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and began to jam the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians, their chariots and horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hands over the sea the next day and filled it back in. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them back into the sea. The water flowed back and covered everything and everyone. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and left side. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying there not moving on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord

displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in Moses his servant.

How do you think Moses felt? (frustrated, angry, sad)

As this part of the story ends, how were the people feeling? (joyful, thankful)

The people were ready to make a new beginning. **What was important for them to remember?** (to work cooperatively and be helpful with each other, to trust Moses, to trust God)

Activity or Craft – Celebration Dance

Materials: Song - Celebration by Kool and the Gang...Happy by Farrell Williams ...

Play one of the songs and sing and move to it. Encourage them to make up a simple circle dance (as the ancient Hebrews would have done).

Closing Prayer

This ancient Hebrew blessing is called Aaron's Blessing and is found in Numbers 6:24-26.

May God bless you and take care of you.

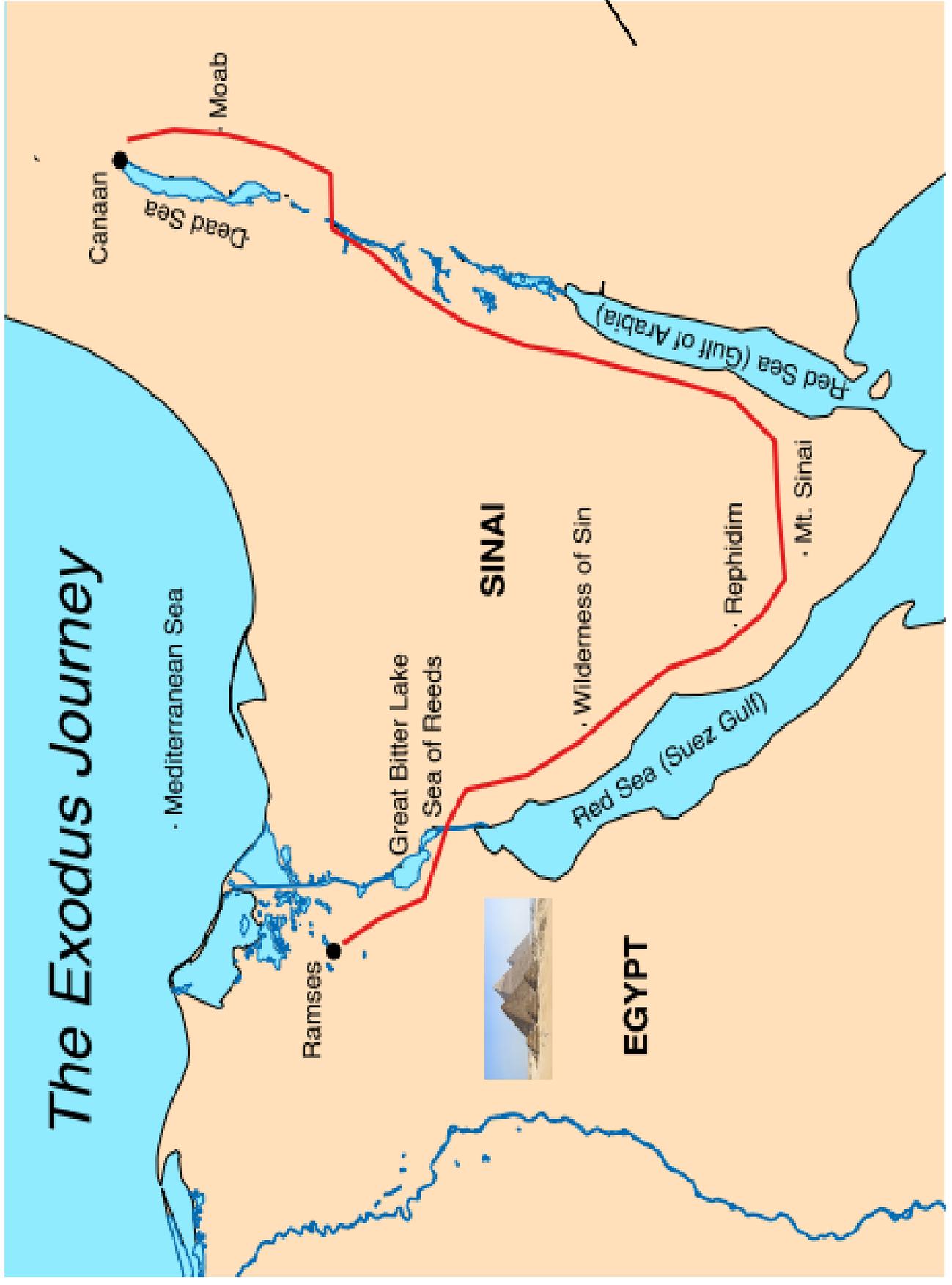
May God be kind and gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favour and give you peace.

Amen.

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The Exodus Journey



Ramses

Great Bitter Lake
Sea of Reeds

SINAI

Wilderness of Sin

Rephidim

Mt. Sinai

Red Sea (Suez Gulf)



EGYPT

Canaan

Moab

Dead Sea

Red Sea (Gulf of Arabia)

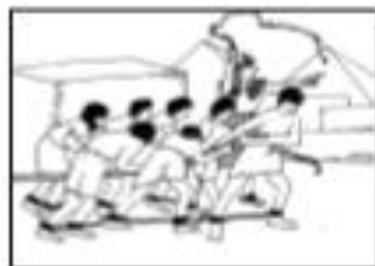
Mediterranean Sea



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!