

Youth Worship Lesson – September 27, 2020

Focus Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

Purpose: To discover how we share God's power.

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

Creator God, thank you for the power which you give to each one of us.

Teach us to use this gift to help ourselves, this group, and others. Amen.

Look again at the logo for Unit 1. What does a circle symbolize? (God, whose love has no beginning or end, the world, this group.) **What other symbols are present in the logo, and what do they represent?** (our faith, respect for nature and other cultures.)

God is with us and in each of us. Each person is one of God's gifts of creation.

Song: Great and Awesome (Surf Shack VBS - on YouTube)

Introducing the Theme

Hand out a pen and paper to each child.

Let's think about power for a moment. We all have times in our lives when we feel that we are powerful. At the top of your sheet, please write, "I feel powerful or empowered when..." **Then, list times that you have felt you have had power, or times when you have been empowered to give leadership or do something important. For example, I might say that I felt powerful when I... or I felt empowered when I...** (give examples from your life)

After they are done, have them share their ideas with you.

Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

This week's Bible reading is a continuation of last week's story. Can you remember what last week's story was about? (the Israelites complained to Moses that they were starving, and God gave the people manna and quail to eat.)

Since then, the people have travelled further through the desert, and are now in a region that, in that day, was called Rephidim. (Locate Rephidim on the map)

Today, instead of looking at how the Israelites felt, we are going to look at how Moses felt being the leader of this group.

Read Exodus 17:1-7

How did the people feel towards Moses? (angry, frustrated, impatient)

How did Moses feel being the leader of these people? (hard, frightening, a big responsibility)

How do you think God was feeling? (sad that the people didn't have more faith, proud of Moses' faith)

Let's look again at the biblical passage. Was there a time when Moses might have felt powerless? (when they were looking for water but couldn't find any, when the people complained)

What did Moses do when he was faced with these problems of leadership? (cried out to God)

Some Bible scholars suggest that Moses learned about special rocks that trap water when he lived in the desert after running away from Egypt. When he prayed to God, God helped him remember this hidden source. God empowered Moses to act, to bring God's gift to the people. Does this make it any less of a miracle of God's providing for the people?

Our Leadership

This story illustrates two types of leadership power. One is the power that comes from an authority figure. The other is power given by the community. Sometimes a leader has both. For example, God called Moses to lead the Israelites, but the people had to agree to follow him. If they had not agreed to follow Moses, would he still have had authority as their leader?

Think about times when you have been a leader. Where did your authority come from? (Encourage the children to share their answers.)

In some communities and cultures, forming a circle is an integral part of their government. In the circle, all have power, and all share the leadership. For example, some Indigenous groups use talking circles. In a talking circle, there is a talking stick, and only the person with the stick can talk. No one can interrupt and all get to have their say. The talking stick empowers the person who holds it.

How can we empower each other? (help each other feel significant, affirm that we each have something to contribute, value each others' strengths, listen respectfully)

Activity or Craft – Sharing the Power

Materials: pen/pencil, paper

Copy the “Sharing the Power” activity sheet. Cut the pieces and place them in a container. Each child needs to pick a piece of paper out of this container. If some pieces are left over, continue giving them out until all are used.

As a group, you are building a boat. Each of you is the item in the picture. What role do each of you have in the task? (sealer: the boat will leak without it; saw: the boards won't be the right size without it; talk about each picture)

Who is the most important? (all are equally important, you cannot complete the task without each person, each has a piece of the power)

How does that make you feel?

Closing

Place a pitcher of water, cups and an empty bowl on the table. Pour some water dramatically in the empty bowl. Pour everyone a glass of water.

Let's share some water. As you take a sip, think about what a sacred gift water was to the people of Israel in the desert, and to all people today.

Closing Prayer

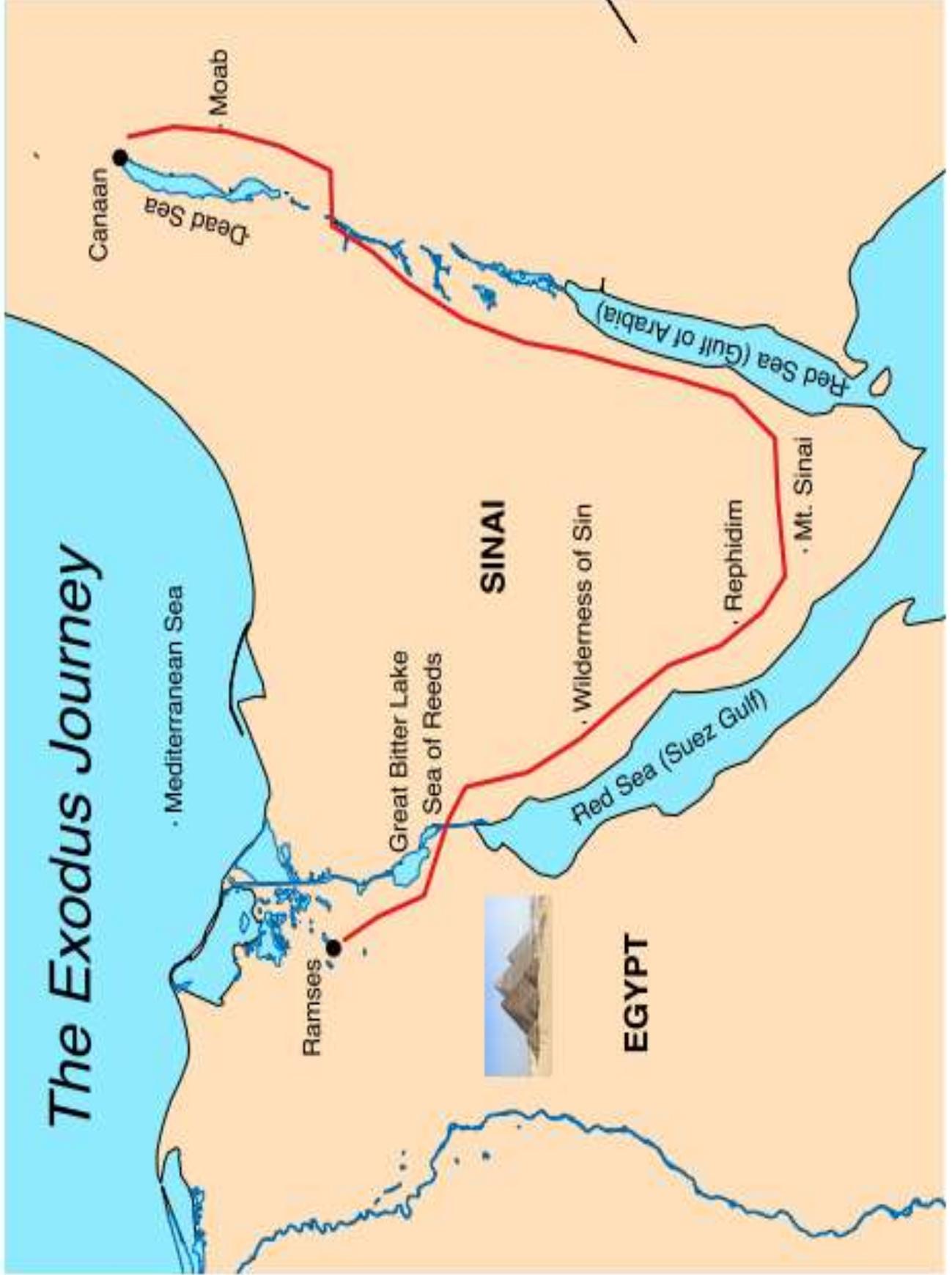
**O God, we know that just as you were with your people in the desert,
You are with us now.**

**Just as you were in Moses, empowering him to lead your people, we know that you are
within each of us.**

**And, like Moses, we hear you call us to be open so that you may act in our world through us.
Amen.**

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The Exodus Journey





Unit 1

Gathering into the Sacred Circle
September 6 to October 11, 2020