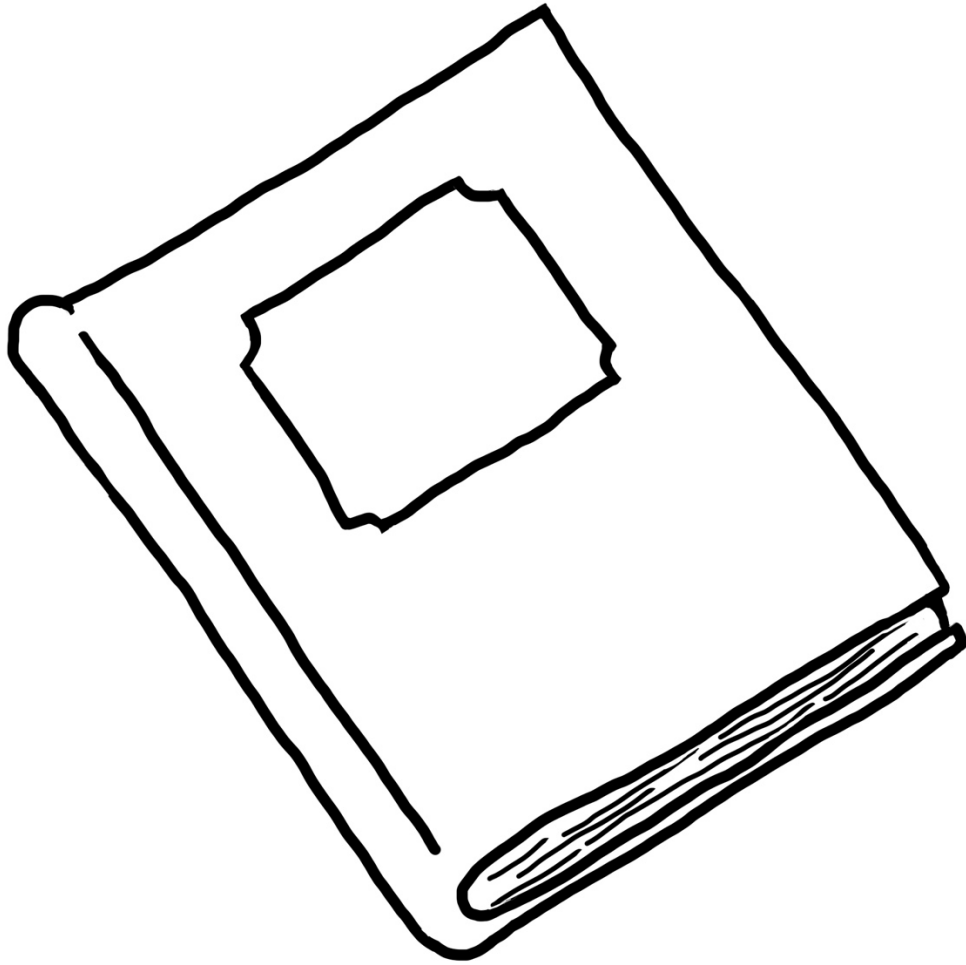


Seeds Bible Curriculum for Children

Book Three



Planting God's Word in Minds and Hearts



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Dear Children’s Ministry Worker,

This curriculum was prepared with the hope of helping churches to be better able to teach God’s Word to children in areas of the world where children’s ministry curriculum is not easily available. This curriculum is made to be adapted for other languages or Bible versions.

Our goal is not to make money from this project, so permission is freely granted for this curriculum to be copied, printed, translated, and shared. We ask that you do not sell for profit any part of these materials or use them in anything else that will be sold for profit. We also ask you do not claim the credit for any part of the materials.

While we believe that Children’s Ministry should be treated as a very important part of church ministry, we realize that many churches are not able to set aside a large budget for children’s ministry, so we have tried to avoid requiring large amounts of extra supplies. These lessons assume that your children’s ministry has a few basic supplies available: crayons, paper, and something large to write on (such as a chalkboard, whiteboard, or poster paper). Those items will not be included on materials lists for the lessons. Other items will be listed and may be marked as “optional” if they are not required to be able to teach the lesson.

Pictures have been included with each lesson. These can be colored in and used as visual aids as you teach. They are also made to be used as coloring pages. You may also wish to keep them and use them to review previous lessons.

We hope that these materials will be a blessing to you as you teach God’s Word to children. Please adapt them to work best for your ministry.

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LESSONS

Lesson 28: Slaves in Egypt

Exodus 1, 2:24-25

Purpose: To tell how God made Israel into a great nation and how they were made to be slaves in Egypt.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Pictures, books, or information about Egypt.
- Notecards with the books of the Bible written on them (optional, for activity)
- Bibles (if possible, enough for each student, if they do not have their own)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 1, 2:24-25.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- God kept His promise and made Israel into a great nation.
- The Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them.
- The Egyptians made the Israelites into slaves and tried to stop them from having lots of children.
- The midwives feared God and did not obey Pharaoh.
- God blessed the midwives.
- God heard His people's suffering, and God knew.

Teaching Notes:

- Egypt is one of the oldest countries in the world. It is still a country today. The Egyptians live around a very important river called the Nile. In the ancient times, their kings were called Pharaohs, and they worshipped many gods. The Egyptians had many great cities and buildings, and in the time when Joseph and Jacob lived in Egypt, Egypt was already a powerful and wealthy nation. Joseph helped Egypt and its Pharaoh become even greater and more powerful. Today it is possible to see some of the ancient places, and there is a lot of information about ancient Egypt online and in museums and books. You may be able to show your students some pictures, point to Egypt on a map, or tell them some interesting facts about Egypt. This can help your students understand that the Bible is about real people and real places.
- Help your students understand the slavery of the Israelites. Remember how Joseph was made a slave? A slave belongs to another person. Slaves have to obey that person and work for them. Slaves cannot do what they want to do. If they run away, they may be caught and punished. Slaves have hard lives and are often not treated very well. Sometimes in history, whole people groups were made to be

slaves. Sometimes this happened because of a war, and the winners would make the losers into their slaves. Sometimes it happened because people would go out and catch other people to sell them. The Egyptians made the people of Israel into slaves because they were afraid of them.

- Why were the Egyptians afraid of the Israelites? God had made the people of Israel into a great nation. There were very many of them, and they were doing well in Egypt. However, the Israelites were not Egyptians. They did not have their houses in the same place as the Egyptians. They did not speak the same language. They did not worship the same gods. They were a different people. This made the Pharaoh afraid. He thought that if there was a war, the people of Israel might fight against the Egyptians. He was afraid the Israelites would take over. Today, many countries still have these kinds of fears. When many people from a different place come to live in their country, people are nervous. They are afraid that these new people who speak different languages and have different customs will take over their country. Perhaps in your country there is a similar situation.
- Do your students know what midwives are? Many mothers today have their babies in hospitals, and doctors help them. But sometimes, mothers get helped by women who have been trained to help mothers give birth. These women are called midwives.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **What promise did God make to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?** (That a nation would come from their descendants, that all the peoples would be blessed through them, that their descendants would have the promised land.)
- **What did Joseph and Pharaoh invite Jacob's family to do?** (Go live in Egypt.)
- **Did God want Jacob and his family to go to Egypt?** (Yes.)
- **What was God going to do with them in Egypt?** (Make them a great nation.)
- **Would God bring them back to the promised land?** (Yes.)
- **What did Joseph make his brothers promise?** (To bury his bones in Canaan when God brought them back to the promised land.)

Lesson

Introduction: What do you know about Egypt? (Allow students to respond.) Egypt is a very old country that we have heard about in some of our lessons. (Remind them that Abraham visited Egypt, Joseph was sold to Egypt, and now Jacob's whole family was in Egypt. Share with them any information or pictures of Egypt that you have brought.) In our last lesson, all of Joseph's brothers and their families had moved to Egypt. They were no longer living the land that God had promised to give them. Let's look in the Bible to find out what happened next.

(Read **Exodus 1:6-7**.) After many years in Egypt, Joseph and his generation died. Their descendants still lived in Egypt. God had blessed them, and they had become a very large group of people. The land of Egypt became full of the people of Israel.

(Tell what happens in **Exodus 1:8-14**.) A new king or Pharaoh began to rule in Egypt. He did not know Joseph. He saw how many of Israel's descendants, or Israelites, there were, and he began to be afraid that they would take over his country. He worried that the Israelites would go to war against the Egyptians. He didn't want their numbers to keep growing, so he made them into slaves. He put taskmasters over them and forced the

Israelites to build cities for him. But they continued to multiply. He gave them even harder work. The harder Pharaoh made them work, the stronger they became! So Pharaoh decided to try something else.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 1:15-21**.) There were two Israelite women, Shiphrah and Puah, who were midwives. Midwives help women when they have babies. Pharaoh told the midwives to do something bad. He told the midwives to kill any baby boys who were born, but to let the baby girls live. He thought that he could weaken the people if there were no more boys. What would the midwives do? The Pharaoh was in charge, and they were supposed to obey him. The Bible says that the midwives feared God. This means that they respected God. The midwives knew that they must obey God above anyone else, even the Pharaoh. The midwives let the baby boys live. When Pharaoh called them and asked why the baby boys were still alive, the midwives told him that they had been born before the midwives arrived. (Note: This seems to be at least partially untrue, but Scripture does not mention this and does not record any consequences.) God blessed the midwives and provided for them because they had chosen to obey God instead of Pharaoh. The people of Israel continued to grow strong. God was keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was making them a great nation and even Pharaoh could not stop it!

(Read **Exodus 1:22**.) Since it had not worked to have the midwives kill the baby boys, Pharaoh ordered everyone to throw all the baby boys into the river!

Things were looking pretty bad for God's people, the Israelites! They were made to be slaves and forced to do hard work. And now their baby boys would be thrown into the river to die! They were suffering. This was terrible! What could they do? The people cried out to God for help. Was God listening? Did God know what was happening? Perhaps the people wondered if God knew. Would God help them? Would God still keep the promises that He had made to their ancestors?

(Read **Exodus 2:24-25**.) God did hear. God saw what was happening. God knew. God had a plan to rescue His people.

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Why did God allow the Israelites to suffer? Discuss this question with the older students. Sometimes, God allows hard things to happen to His people. God is still with them, however. God hears. God knows. He still loves His people. God has a plan to rescue His people from Egypt. We will be learning about this rescue over the next few weeks.
- Look at some verses about suffering and discuss them as a class.
 - **James 1:3-4** – Suffering produces patience.
 - **Psalms 119:67-68, 71** – We learn and grow spiritually through suffering. God is still good when we suffer.
 - **Philippians 1:19-20** – Suffering gives us opportunities to glorify God.
 - **2 Corinthians 12:10** – Suffering brings us closer to God and helps us rely on His strength.
 - **John 15:19-20** – Christians can expect to suffer.
 - **1 Peter 2:20** – Endure suffering patiently.
 - **Psalms 62:8** – Trust God at all times, even in suffering.

Activity Ideas:

- Help the students learn how to find things in the Bible. This lesson is the first lesson in the book of Exodus. Most of the previous lessons have come from Genesis. Use a Bible to show the

students how the Bible is divided. There is the Old Testament and the New Testament. Those are divided into different books. The books are divided into chapters and verses. Those chapters and verses were not included originally but were added to help us find things more easily. Help the students start memorizing the books of the Bible. You could work on all of them or begin with the first five books (the Pentateuch or Books of the Law). There are many activities that you can do to help them learn.

- Have Bibles available for them to look through. Find the Table of Contents, look for Genesis and Exodus in the Bible. Show them verses from some of the lessons that you have studied. Find where the New Testament begins.
- If the students are old enough and you have enough Bibles available, do a sword drill to practice finding things in the Bible. Students hold the Bibles completely closed while you tell them a verse to find. When you say, “go,” the students should try to find the verse as quickly as they can. If they find it first, they should read it aloud.
- Write the names of the books of the Bible onto notecards. You can do all of them at once or start with a section of the Bible. Have the students practice putting them in the correct order.

Review Questions:

- **What happened to the descendants of Jacob in Egypt?** (They grew to be a great people.)
- **Why was the new king (Pharaoh) afraid of the Israelites?** (He thought they would fight against the Egyptians.)
- **What did the new king do?** (He made the Israelites into slaves.)
- **Did the Israelites grow weak?** (No, they got stronger.)
- **What did Pharaoh ask the midwives to do?** (Kill the baby boys.)
- **Why didn't the midwives obey?** (They feared or respected God.)
- **Did God know that the Israelites were suffering?** (Yes. God saw and heard them.)

Lesson 29: Moses

Exodus 2, Acts 7:20-29, Hebrews 11:23-27

Purpose: To tell of Moses' early life and how God prepared him to accomplish God's purpose.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Basket, baby doll (optional, for activity)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 2, Acts 7:20-29, and Hebrews 11:23-27.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- Moses' parents had faith and disobeyed the king.
- God protected Moses and prepared him.
- Moses chose to be Hebrew instead of Egyptian.

Teaching Notes:

- Did Moses know he was an Israelite? Yes. In Hebrews 11, the Bible tells us that Moses chose to be an Israelite rather than an Egyptian. He chose to be a part of God's people. He also wanted to help his people. He saw how they were suffering.
- Moses lived with Pharaoh's daughter while he was growing up. Help your students imagine how his life was different from the Israelites'. Moses probably went to school and learned many things. He probably ate good food and lived like a prince. Acts 7:22 says that Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and that he became mighty in words and in deeds.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **What happened to the descendants of Jacob in Egypt?** (They grew to be a great people.)
- **Why was the new king (Pharaoh) afraid of the Israelites?** (He thought they would fight against the Egyptians.)
- **What did the new king do?** (He made the Israelites into slaves.)
- **Did the Israelites grow weak?** (No, they got stronger.)
- **What did Pharaoh ask the midwives to do?** (Kill the baby boys.)
- **Why didn't the midwives obey?** (They feared or respected God.)
- **Did God know that the Israelites were suffering?** (Yes. God saw and heard them.)

Lesson

Introduction: Do any of you have a baby brother or sister? What do babies do? Are they quiet? (Allow responses from students.) What if you couldn't let anyone know you have a baby in your house? It would be really hard to hide a baby for long! If you were trying to keep anyone from knowing about a baby, how would you hide the baby? You couldn't just put it somewhere because babies need a lot of care! How would you keep anyone else from knowing about the baby? What would you do if the baby was crying loudly? (Allow students to share ideas.) In our last lesson, we learned that Pharaoh ordered that all the baby boys had to be thrown into the river. One family didn't obey this command. They hid their baby boy for three months!

(Tell the events of **Exodus 2:1-2** and **Hebrews 11:23**.) A Hebrew woman had a baby boy. The baby's parents did not want to kill him. They chose to trust God instead of obeying the Pharaoh's command. They hid their baby boy for three months!

(Read **Exodus 2:3-4**.) As the baby got older, it got too hard to keep him hidden. The baby's mother got a basket and covered it with something to keep water out and make it float. Then, she put the baby boy into the basket and put the basket into the river. The baby's sister, Miriam, stayed to watch, so she could see what would happen to the baby. What do you think will happen?

(Read **Exodus 2:5-6**.) Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to take a bath. She saw something strange floating in the river and sent her maid to get it. When she opened it, there was a baby boy inside! She knew it was one of the Hebrew's children who was supposed to be thrown into the river to die. The Bible tells us that she had compassion for the baby.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 2:7-10**.) Miriam asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Do you want me to go find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" Pharaoh's daughter told her to go. Miriam went and got her mother. Pharaoh's daughter told the mother to take the baby home and take care of him until he was older. She even said that she would pay her to take care of the baby! The baby boy would get to live, his mother would get to take care of him without having to hide him, and she would get paid! Do you think that all of this happened by accident? No! God was in control and had worked things out in just the right way for this baby to live! Pharaoh's daughter named the baby Moses, which means "drawn out," because she took him out of the water. When Moses was old enough, his mother brought him to live in the palace with Pharaoh's daughter. He would be raised as the son of the princess!

(Tell the events of **Exodus 2:11-15**.) When Moses was grown, he went and looked at how the Hebrews were living. He saw how hard they were forced to work and how they were treated. When he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Hebrews, he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. Had Moses done the right thing? Moses was trying to help his people in his own way. The next day, he saw two Hebrew men fighting and asked them why. One of the men asked Moses, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?" Moses thought they would know that Moses wanted to save them. But they did not understand. The Israelites did not think Moses was in charge of them. They did not want him to help. When Moses realized that people knew what he had done, he was afraid. Pharaoh heard about it and wanted to kill Moses, so Moses ran away to the land of Midian. Was God still working in Moses' life?

God still had a plan for Moses, and God still cared about the Hebrews who were slaves in Egypt. God had a plan to use Moses and deliver His people. No one can stop God's plans!

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Continue the story by telling the events of Exodus 2:15-25. Moses had fled to a land called Midian. There was a priest there who had seven daughters. Moses sat down by a well and the priest's daughters came to the well to get water. Moses helped them. When they returned home, their father asked how they had gotten water for themselves and their flocks of animals so quickly. They told him how an Egyptian man (Moses) had helped them. Their father told the daughters to invite Moses to their home to eat. Moses came and lived with this family and was content there. He even married Zipporah, one of the daughters. Moses and Zipporah had a son that they named Gershom. Time passed and eventually the Pharaoh in Egypt died. But what would happen to the Hebrews who were still slaves in Egypt? Did God forget about them? Would God still use Moses? Read **Exodus 2:23-25**. God knew everything that was happening, and God still had a plan to use Moses and to deliver the Hebrew people from slavery.
- Explore **Hebrews 11:24-27**. Hebrews tells us more about Moses that is not mentioned in the book of Exodus. In Hebrews, the Bible says that Moses refused to be called Pharaoh's daughter. He did not choose to be an Egyptian prince, with riches and a life of sin. He could have done this, but instead, he chose his own people, to be a mistreated Israelite. He chose to be a part of the people of God. Why did he do this? Moses knew that God's way was greater than the treasures of Egypt. Moses knew that God had promised a reward for the people who knew him. In future lessons we will learn that Moses would return to Egypt and leave with God's people. This passage tells us that Moses left Egypt, not afraid of the king, believing in the invisible God. Discuss Moses' choice with your students.

Activity Ideas:

- Act out the first part of the story. Have Moses' family try to keep him hidden. Have his mother place him in the basket. Have Miriam keep watch. Have Pharaoh's daughter and servants find him. Have Miriam get her mother. As you have the children act out the parts, discuss how they would have felt. Point out the ways that God was in control of the situation.

Review Questions:

- **Why did Moses' parents hide their son?** (They were not afraid of the king and loved their son.)
- **How long did they hide Moses?** (3 months.)
- **Who found Moses in the river?** (Pharaoh's daughter.)
- **Who took care of Moses for Pharaoh's daughter?** (His own mother.)
- **When Moses was older, what did Pharaoh's daughter do?** (She adopted him.)
- **When Moses saw his people's suffering, what did he want to do?** (Help them.)
- **How did he try to help?** (He killed an Egyptian.)
- **Were the Israelite men grateful?** (No.)
- **Why did Moses run from Egypt?** (The king wanted to kill him.)
- **Where did Moses live?** (In the wilderness/Midian.)

Lesson 30: God Speaks to Moses

Exodus 2:23-4:17

Purpose: To tell of how God remembered His people and had a plan to send Moses to free the people from bondage in Egypt

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Whiteboard, Chalkboard, or Paper and something to write on it (for optional activity)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 2:23- 4:17.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- God chose Moses to save His people.
- God remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Moses was afraid and did not trust God.
- God can do anything.

Teaching Notes:

- Why did God tell Moses to take his shoes off? Why was Moses afraid to look at God? Remind the students what it means for God to be holy. God is set apart from everyone and everything. God has no sin. God is perfect. There is no one like God. People are sinners. They are not perfect. When a sinful person comes near to God, they are right to be afraid and to show signs of honor and respect.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **Why did Moses' parents hide their son?** (They were not afraid of the king and loved their son.)
- **How long did they hide Moses?** (3 months.)
- **Who found Moses in the river?** (Pharaoh's daughter.)
- **Who took care of Moses for Pharaoh's daughter?** (His own mother.)
- **When Moses was older, what did Pharaoh's daughter do?** (She adopted him.)
- **When Moses saw his people's suffering, what did he want to do?** (Help them.)
- **How did he try to help?** (He killed an Egyptian.)
- **Were the Israelite men grateful?** (No.)
- **Why did Moses run from Egypt?** (The king wanted to kill him.)
- **Where did Moses live?** (In the wilderness/Midian.)

Lesson

Introduction: Have you ever made excuses? Maybe your mom asked you to do a chore, and you tried to make an excuse for why you shouldn't have to do it? Or maybe you forgot to bring your notebook to school, and you made an excuse to your teacher about why you forgot? (Allow students to share about times that they made excuses.) Most of the time, we make excuses because either we don't want to do something or we don't want to get in trouble for something we did wrong. In our lesson today, we will see that Moses also tried to make some excuses to God. Listen to hear what excuses Moses tried to use and how God answered his excuses.

(Read **Exodus 3:1-3**.) Moses was watching sheep for his father-in-law when he saw something very unusual. What did he see? (Allow responses.) He saw a bush that was on fire, but it wasn't burning up! Moses went closer to look at it. (Help your students think about how strange it would be to see fire that touches something without burning it up.)

(Read **Exodus 3:4-6**.) Then something even more amazing happened. God spoke to Moses from the bush and called him by name! Can you imagine hearing your own name come from a flaming bush that wasn't burning! God told Moses to remove his sandals because that place was holy. Then God told Moses that He was the God of Moses' father and of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses was afraid and hid his face.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 3:7-13**.) God told Moses that He had heard the cries of the children of Israel in Egypt and He was going to rescue them from the Egyptians. God said that He would send Moses to Pharaoh and that Moses would lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Moses didn't think that he was the kind of person who should go to Pharaoh or lead the people, and Moses questioned God. But God promised that He would be with Moses. He also gave Moses a sign: in the future, Moses and the Israelites would come back to that same mountain! Then Moses was afraid that the people would not accept that God had sent him. Moses asked God what he should say if the people asked who had sent him. God answered Moses in verse 14.

(Read **Exodus 3:14**.) God said that Moses should tell the people that I AM had sent him.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 3:15- 22**.) Moses was supposed to tell the people that God had heard their cries and was going to rescue them. God also wanted Moses to remind them of the promises that God had made to Abraham and his descendants. Moses was also supposed to tell Pharaoh that God wanted His people to go three days' journey into the wilderness to worship Him. God knew that Pharaoh would not agree right away, and God told Moses that He would show His power with many wonders before bringing the people out of Egypt. God said that the people would even bring silver, gold, and clothing out of Egypt with them. God would lead them to the land that He had promised to give them.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 4:1-17**.) Moses still did not trust God. He continued to make excuses. He was afraid that the people would not listen to him or would not believe what he said. God gave Moses some signs to prove that God had sent him. He told Moses to throw his rod (like a walking stick or cane) on the ground. When Moses threw it down, it became a snake! God told Moses to grab the snake by the tail and it became a rod again! Next, God told Moses to put his hand inside his clothes. When he took it out again, it was white with leprosy! God told him to do it again and the leprosy disappeared! God told Moses that if the people still didn't believe after seeing those signs, Moses should take some water from the river and pour it on the ground. God said He would turn that water into blood.

Even with all these signs, Moses was still afraid. He made another excuse. He told God that he was not good at speaking. God promised to be with him and to help him know what to say. Moses asked God to choose

someone else for this job. God had chosen Moses, and Moses was still making excuses. God became angry, but still showed mercy to Moses. God said that Moses' brother, Aaron could speak for Moses. God would tell Moses what to do and lead the people through Moses, but Aaron could do the speaking. Finally, Moses was ready to surrender to what God asked him to do.

Moses might have thought that he wasn't the one for the job, but God had chosen him and would help him. Just like Moses, we also sometimes try to make excuses for not doing what God wants us to do. We should remember that God will help us to do anything that He wants us to do. We need to trust God and obey Him.

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- **Discussion:** In this lesson, Moses makes many excuses to God. This is because Moses does not want to go help the people of Israel, and he does not trust God. Every time Moses makes an excuse, God gives Moses an answer. Help the students notice how many times Moses tries to make an excuse. Compare Moses' excuses to how strong and mighty God is. Many times, God will want to use His people to do something. God does not need us to be strong and talented in those times, because God is the one who is strong for us. When we are weak, He is strong. Could Moses have gone to help the people of Israel without Aaron? Yes. God was able to help him, but Moses was too afraid and did not trust God to help him. Are we ever like Moses? Discuss with the students what hard things God might ask them to do in their lives. When they are afraid, what can they remember about God?

Activity Ideas:

- Moses made excuses instead of trusting God. If you know the hymn "Trust and Obey," this might be a good time to teach it to your students and sing it together. You may even want to work together to make up some actions for the song.
- Play Excuses and Promises Tic-Tac-Toe. Divide the students into two teams. Draw a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Have the students take turns putting X's and O's on the board, trying to get 3 in a row. To place an X, students must think of an excuse that they might give for not obeying God. To place an O, students must think of a promise of God. Play until one team wins or the board is full. You may want to play, allowing the students to switch teams, until everyone has had a chance to think of both an excuse and a promise.

Review Questions:

- **What did Moses see when he was watching sheep?** (A bush that was on fire, but not burning.)
- **Who spoke to Moses out of the bush?** (God.)
- **What did God want Moses to do?** (To go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt.)
- **Did Moses want to obey?** (No, Moses kept making excuses.)
- **Why was Moses afraid?** (He did not trust God to help him.)
- **Was God able to help Moses?** (Yes, and God had said He would!)
- **Who did God pick to help Moses?** (Aaron, Moses' brother.)

Lesson 31: I AM the LORD

Exodus 4:29- 10:29

Purpose: To tell of how God showed His power to Moses, Pharaoh, the Israelites, and the Egyptians.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- No extra materials needed for this lesson

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 4:29-10:29.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- God is powerful.
- God keeps His promises to His people.
- God gave Moses and the people of Israel a glimpse of who He is.
- God demonstrated to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He is more powerful than any false gods.

Teaching Notes:

- This lesson covers a lot of chapters with many events and details. You must think about how much time you will have and teach the things that are most important. The nine signs and wonders in this lesson can each be summarized in a short way, like this: 'Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go. God sent swarms of flies all over the land of Egypt, but not where the Israelites were. Pharaoh asked Moses to take the flies away, and he would let the people go. God took them away, but Pharaoh hardened his heart.' But if you have more time, you may be able to tell more about each of the wonders.
- The main point of this lesson is to show how Moses, the Israelites, Pharaoh, and the Egyptians did not know or understand God and His power. God showed them who He is by working great wonders in Egypt. When Moses and the Israelites saw what God could do, they began to trust Him. When the Egyptians saw it, they began to be afraid of God. In the next lesson we will see if Pharaoh learns to fear God or not.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **What did Moses see when he was watching sheep?** (A bush that was on fire, but not burning.)
- **Who spoke to Moses out of the bush?** (God.)
- **What did God want Moses to do?** (To go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt.)
- **Did Moses want to obey?** (No, Moses kept making excuses.)
- **Why was Moses afraid?** (He did not trust God to help him.)

- **Was God able to help Moses?** (Yes, and God had said He would!)
- **Who did God pick to help Moses?** (Aaron, Moses' brother.)

Lesson

Introduction: Last week, we learned about Moses making excuses to God. He was afraid to do what God had told him to do. Have you ever been afraid to do something that you knew you should do? (Allow students to respond and if time, to share about times that they were afraid.) God said that Moses' brother, Aaron could help him by speaking. Now, Moses and Aaron were about to tell the people of Israel what God had said. Do you think Moses was nervous? Let's look in the Bible to find out what happened.

(Read **Exodus 4:29-31**.) Moses and Aaron obeyed God and went to the Israelites. Right away, the Israelites believed them and were glad that God was answering their prayers. They worshiped God. This was just what God had told Moses would happen. Next, Moses and Aaron would go to tell Pharaoh what God had said.

(Read **Exodus 5:1-2**.) Pharaoh did not respond the same way to what God had said. Pharaoh said that he did not know God and would not obey Him. The Egyptians had many false gods, but they did not know the only true God. Pharaoh would not let the people go. This was also something that God had told Moses would happen.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 5:3-6:9**.) Pharaoh said that the people of Israel were lazy. He told the taskmasters to make it harder for the slaves to work. The taskmasters took away the straw that the Israelites used to make bricks and made them go look for it by themselves. When the Israelites could not do their work like before, the Egyptians punished them. The Israelites were even worse off than before! The people began to doubt that God would deliver them. Moses asked God why he had been sent there if the people were being treated even worse and God had not delivered them at all! God spoke to Moses and reminded Moses of His promises, some of the same promises that He had made to Abraham. He assured Moses that He would keep His promises. But when Moses told the Israelites, they would not listen. They did not believe.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 7**.) God told Moses to go to Pharaoh again, but that Pharaoh's heart would be hardened. God would do many signs and wonders to show the Egyptians that He was the true God. God told Moses and Aaron what to do. Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh. When Pharaoh wouldn't listen, Aaron threw his rod on the ground, and it became a serpent. Pharaoh called his magicians, and they turned rods into serpents too, but Aaron's serpent ate theirs! Pharaoh still would not let the people go. God told Moses to go to the water in the morning when Pharaoh was there. They told Pharaoh again to let the people go and then hit the water with Aaron's rod, and the river and water in Egypt turned into blood! The people could not drink it. The fish died and began to stink. The people had to dig for new water to drink because all of theirs had turned to blood. Pharaoh's magicians were able to do something similar, and Pharaoh still didn't let the people go. For seven days, the water was blood.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 8-10**.) God sent Moses to Pharaoh again. This time, God said he would send frogs when Pharaoh didn't let the people go. The frogs were everywhere! Pharaoh's magicians were able to bring some frogs too, and Pharaoh did not agree to let the people go. God continued to send Moses to Pharaoh and to harden Pharaoh's heart. Each time, God worked signs and wonders to show His power, so that the Israelites, Pharaoh, and the Egyptians would know that He was the true Lord God. Even Pharaoh's magicians

were not able to copy any more of the signs and wonders that God did. (Explain more of the story and share as much about each of the plagues as you have time to do.)

- Lice/Gnats (**Exodus 8:16-19**)
 - Even Pharaoh's magicians recognized that God had done this. They were not able to do anything similar.
- Flies (**Exodus 8:20-32**)
- Death of Livestock (**Exodus 9:1-7**)
- Boils (**Exodus 9:8-12**)
 - Even Pharaoh's magicians were too sick to come before him.
- Hail and Lightning (**Exodus 9:13-35**)
 - Some of Pharaoh's servants feared the word of the Lord and prepared for the storm.
- Locusts (**Exodus 10:1-20**)
 - Pharaoh's servants even asked him to let the people go because they were afraid that God would continue to destroy Egypt.
- Darkness (**Exodus 10:21-29**)

God did not allow the bad effects of these things to hurt the Israelites. They happened to the Egyptians, but not to the Israelites. God did not plague the area of Goshen, where the Israelites were living. This was another way that God showed His power.

These things that God caused to happen in Egypt showed that God was the only real and powerful God. Could God do even more amazing things? Yes. God is the one who made all things. He can do anything just by speaking it.

As God showed His power, the Egyptians began to be afraid of God. The Israelites and Moses began to trust God more. But Pharaoh kept hardening his heart. He did not yet fear God.

The God who could do these amazing things in Egypt is the same God that we have with us today. Does this lesson help us trust God more as we learn more about his power?

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Because these chapters are long and have exciting events in them, it may be a good exercise for the children to read out loud. You might give certain parts to different children and have them read to the rest of the class.
- Do a character study on Moses through this lesson. See how Moses changes as God shows his power to the Egyptians, as he goes from being afraid to speaking confidently to Pharaoh.

Activity Ideas:

- Help the children to imagine what each of the signs and wonders would have been like if they were Egyptians. It might be fun to act out some of them.
 - Pretend that all the water turned into blood. What would it be like? What would dead fish smell like?
 - What if there were frogs hopping all over our class? Let's pretend to cross the room while we try not to step on any frogs! Would it be easy to learn with frogs in our class? What about cooking? Eating? Sleeping?

- What if our town was filled with lice? What would it feel like to have them all over you? Would it be itchy?
- Have you ever had a pesky fly buzzing around you or trying to land on your food? What if there were thousands of them? Let's pretend to swat them away!
- What would it be like if all your pets died? It would be sad. The Egyptians depended on their animals for work and food too. It would have been a sad day when all their animals died. Let's make a sad face.
- Have you ever had a boil? Or maybe you have gotten a scraped arm or knee? It hurts when our skin gets injured or infected! What would it feel like if you had hurt places all over your body?
- Have you ever caught a locust or a grasshopper? What would it be like to be covered in them? What if they were everywhere? When God sent them to Egypt, they ate up all the crops. What if grasshoppers ate all your food?
- Have you ever been in a very dark place? It can be a bit scary. It is hard to do things when you cannot see! Let's close our eyes and pretend that it is very dark. Do you think you could color your picture this way? What about going home? Eating lunch? What kinds of things might happen if you could not see anything for days?
- If you were an Egyptian in Egypt when all these things happened, what would you think? Would you wonder about the God who was able to do these things? What would you think about all the other Gods that Egyptians worshipped? What would you want Pharaoh to do?
- How would you feel if you were an Israelite seeing all these things? Would it help you know how powerful God is? Would you trust God more?

Review Questions:

- **When Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go the first time, what did Pharaoh do?** (Pharaoh said the Israelites were lazy and made them work more.)
- **What did God do to show the people who He is?** (He did signs and wonders in Egypt.)
- **What were some of the wonders that God caused to happen in Egypt?** (Water turning to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness).
- **Did Pharaoh learn to fear God?** (No.)
- **After God sent each sign and wonder, what happened with Pharaoh?** (His heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go.)
- **Why did God send these signs and wonders?** (To show His power so that Moses, the Israelites, Pharaoh, and the Egyptians would all know that He is the true Lord God.)
- **Did Moses and the Israelites learn to trust God?** (Yes.)

Lesson 32: Passover

Exodus 11:1-12:30, 13:1-16

Purpose: To tell about the final wonder that God did in Egypt and of how God rescued His people.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Paintbrushes or bundles of plants, water, toy lamb, unleavened bread, or other props to act out the story (Optional, for activity).

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 11:1-12:30, 13:1-16.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- God judged the Egyptians and the gods of Egypt.
- When God saw the blood of the sacrifice, He would pass over the people in the house.
- God rescued His people from Egypt, just as He said.
- God is faithful, and God keeps His promises.

Teaching Notes:

- Discuss the lamb of sacrifice with the children. Why did an animal have to die for the first born to be saved? Why did the animal have to be without spots or sickness? This is a good opportunity to emphasize the seriousness of sin. God is holy and just. He must punish sin. **Hebrews 9:22** explains that there is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. If the children already know about Jesus and His death on the cross, you may compare how the lamb died for the firstborn in the same way that Jesus, who was perfect and without sin, shed His blood for our sins.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **When Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go the first time, what did Pharaoh do?** (Pharaoh said the Israelites were lazy and made them work more.)
- **What did God do to show the people who He is?** (He did signs and wonders in Egypt.)
- **What were some of the wonders that God caused to happen in Egypt?** (water turning to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness).
- **Did Pharaoh learn to fear God?** (No.)
- **After God sent each sign and wonder, what happened with Pharaoh?** (His heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go.)
- **Why did God send these signs and wonders?** (To show His power so that Moses, the Israelites, Pharaoh, and the Egyptians would all know that He is the true Lord God.)

- **Did Moses and the Israelites learn to trust God? (Yes.)**

Lesson

Introduction: Can you think of some special days that we celebrate? (Allow responses. Birthdays, Holidays...) Many of the special days that we celebrate are days that we remember something. On birthdays, we remember the person who was born that day and mark how many years it has been since their birth. On Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. On Easter, we remember that Jesus rose from the dead. (Your country may not celebrate some of these things, but believers may still celebrate them. You may want to think of some more examples from your country of special days that you celebrate to remember something important.) We often have special days to take time to remember important things that have happened. The Israelites did this too. In our lesson today, we will learn about an event that the Israelites would continue to remember and celebrate as a special day.

(Read **Exodus 11:1.**) God was going to bring one last plague on Egypt. After this one, Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. This last wonder that God did was very terrible for the Egyptians.

(Read **Exodus 11:4-8.**) God was going to kill all the firstborns of all living creatures. How many of your students are firstborns? Help them to think about who in their family would be a firstborn, and how terrible this last plague would be.

God promised that the people of Israel would not be harmed by this plague. God made a special way for the Israelite firstborns to be saved from death.

(Explain **Exodus 12:1-28.**) God explained to Moses what He wanted them to do. God had told the Israelites to ask their Egyptian neighbors for silver, gold, and clothes. God gave them favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that the Egyptians were willing to give them these things (**Ex. 11:2-3**). God gave some special instructions for the people to follow very carefully. Following these instructions would save them from the plague that God was sending on the Egyptians. The Israelites needed to take a special lamb and kill it. It could not be just any lamb though. It had to be a male lamb, and it had to be perfect. It couldn't be sick or injured, and there couldn't be anything wrong with it. Then, they would put the blood of the lamb on their door posts and over the door of their house. After this, they needed to get ready to leave, because God said that as soon as the plague came, the people of Egypt would want the Israelites to leave right away. So, the Israelites needed to pack their belongings and be ready with their shoes on. They would eat a special meal that night with unleavened bread and would eat it with their shoes on and walking sticks in their hands.

When God sent the plague that night, God would see the blood on the doors. When God saw the blood of the lamb, He would pass over that house, and the people inside would be saved.

This night was so important that God gave orders for the people of Israel to remember it always. The Israelites would celebrate this night and call it "Passover". Every year after this, they would eat the same meal with unleavened bread to remember. It is a holiday for the people of Israel to this day.

(Read **Exodus 12:29-30.**) That night at midnight, God came and killed the firstborns in all of Egypt that did not have the blood on the doorposts. Even Pharaoh's firstborn died. In every house that did not have blood on the door, someone had died. There was the sound of crying all over Egypt. But in the houses of the Israelites who trusted God and put the blood on the doorposts, no one had died.

The Israelites were prepared to go. God would keep His promise to free them that night! Finally, Pharaoh was ready to let them go. The Israelites and Egyptians had seen that God is more powerful than Pharaoh or the false gods of the Egyptians. God also does what He says He will do. The Israelites could trust God. God is still the same today. He is more powerful than anyone or anything, and we can trust Him.

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Compare what happened at Passover to Christ's death on the cross. Help the students see the parallels.
- Spend some more time discussing the Passover festival. Explain how it was celebrated, and remind the students that Jesus Himself kept the Passover when He was on the earth. Help the students understand the significance of the timing of Christ's death: He was killed at Passover. (**1 Cor. 5:7**)

Activity Ideas:

- Have the children act out what they would do if they were Israelites during this time. Use any props that you have. Pretend to put blood on the doorposts of your classroom (you may even want to use paintbrushes or bundles of plants and water to act this out). Go inside and pretend to eat the Passover meal. (If possible, bring some unleavened bread for the children to taste.) As you pretend to eat, talk about the unleavened bread and the lamb. Remind the students that the lamb had to be male, without blemish, and had to give its blood. Compare this to Jesus, who was male, without sin, and gave His blood to pay for our sins. Help the children understand that God was beginning to teach the Israelites about His plan to save people from sin. Pretend to go to bed with your clothes and shoes on like you are ready to leave. Wait as the angel passes over the houses with blood on the doorposts. The firstborn is saved from death if the blood is there. Pretend to hear the Egyptians crying because the firstborns in their houses have died. Help the children understand that the Israelites showed their trust in God to save them by putting the blood on the doorpost. When we trust what Jesus did on the cross, we can be saved from our sin. Depending on the ages of your students and the amount of time available, you may want to discuss **Hebrews 9:22, Romans 6:23, and Romans 3:23**. This may also be a good place to review or present the entire Gospel.

Review Questions:

- **What was the last plague that God sent to Egypt?** (All the firstborns would die.)
- **What did people need for the firstborns in their homes to be saved from death?** (The blood of a perfect lamb.)
- **What did they do with the blood?** (They put it on their doorposts.)
- **What happened when all the firstborns of Egypt died?** (There was the sound of crying all over Egypt.)
- **What do we call the night that God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt?** (Passover night.)
- **Do people celebrate the Passover today?** (Yes.)
- **Who is more powerful than the false gods of the Egyptians?** (God, the only true God.)

Lesson 33: Exodus from Egypt

Exodus 12:30-42, 13:17-22

Purpose: To tell of how God led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Materials to make a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. (Optional, for activities.)
 - You may just draw them or use other materials to make them (cotton balls for cloud, and tissue paper or red glitter for fire).

Teacher Planning:

- **Study Exodus 12:30-42, 13:17-22.** Make sure that you have read it enough times to tell the story accurately. It is important to study the Bible and not just the lesson plan. Think about what the children might find hard to understand. Think about how you can tell the events in an interesting and clear way.
- **Find and prepare** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- God delivered the Israelites from Egypt.
- God was the one leading the Israelites.
- God keeps His promises.

Teaching Notes:

- As you teach this lesson, try to help your students see attributes of God. God showed His power and sovereignty in how He delivered and led the Israelites out of Egypt. This didn't just happen this way. God had planned it to be this way all along.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

- **What was the last plague that God sent to Egypt?** (All the firstborns would die.)
- **What did people need for the firstborns in their homes to be saved from death?** (The blood of a perfect lamb.)
- **What did they do with the blood?** (They put it on their doorposts.)
- **What happened when all the firstborns of Egypt died?** (There was the sound of crying all over Egypt.)
- **What do we call the night that God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt?** (Passover night.)
- **Do people celebrate the Passover today?** (Yes.)
- **Who is more powerful than the false gods of the Egyptians?** (God, the only true God.)

Lesson

Introduction: Have you ever tried to follow a map? Or maybe a GPS? Has someone ever given you instructions for getting somewhere? When we don't know where to go, it is helpful to have something to guide or instruct us! In our lesson today, the people of Israel would finally be able to leave Egypt, but how would they know where to go? (Allow students to share ideas.) Listen to see how the Israelites knew where to go.

(Read **Exodus 12:30-33.**) Pharaoh was finally willing to let the Israelites go, just as God had said would happen. The Egyptians had seen the power of the true God. They were afraid that they would all die if the Israelites stayed. They tried to get the Israelites to leave quickly.

(Tell the events of **Exodus 12:34-42.**) The Israelites asked the Egyptians for gold, silver, jewels, and clothing. The Egyptians were willing to give them anything they asked. This is one of the ways that God would provide for the Israelites.

The people of Israel took food and all their animals with them. They didn't have time to let their bread rise before baking it. They gathered up everything quickly and were ready to go because God had told them to prepare. They were finally leaving Egypt! It was a huge group of over 600,000 men, plus their wives, children, and animals. Can you imagine?

(Tell the events of **Exodus 13:17-22.**) God had promised many years before that He would give the land of Canaan (Israel) to the descendants of Abraham. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph had trusted God's promise. Before Joseph died, he asked his family to take his bones out of Egypt when God led them to the promised land. Joseph did not know how long it would be, but he did know that God would keep His promise. When the people left Egypt, Moses took the bones of Joseph with them. God led the people out of Egypt into the wilderness toward the Red Sea. God had a special way of showing the people where to go. During the day, God used a pillar of cloud to lead the people. They would see where the cloud was moving and follow it. At night, God used a pillar of fire. It would light their way. Everyone could see that God was with them and was showing them where to go.

The people of Israel had lived in Egypt a long time. They did not know where to go or how to live somewhere else. They probably had a lot of questions about the future, but they would have to trust God and follow Him. We may not be travelling to live in a new place, but we do often wonder about our future. Did you know that the same God Who led the Israelites knows your future too? We can trust Him and follow where He leads us!

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- **Discussion:** What are some things that you worry about? Why is it hard to trust God with those things? Is God still in control? How does God lead us today? (Through His Word.) What can we do when we are worried about the future? (Pray, Read the Bible, Trust God, Ask another Christian to pray with us.)
- Look at the following verses and discuss how they can encourage us when we are tempted to worry about our future.
 - **Psalm 37:3-7**
 - **Jeremiah 29:11-13**
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6**
 - **Proverbs 21:1** (God is ultimately in control, even over leaders.)
 - **Psalm 9:10**

What other Bible verses can your students find to help them trust God?

Activity Ideas:

- Make a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud. You may just draw them or use other materials to make them. Carry them around the room and have the students pretend to be Israelites following where God leads them. Have the children stay still with the pillars are not moving and follow when the pillars move. If time, you may want to let students take turns holding up the pillars and leading their classmates. As you do this activity, remind the students that God had a plan as He led the people. The pillars reminded the people that God was with them. God was guiding them and taking care of them.
- If you have materials, you may want to let the students make their own pillars of cloud and fire to take home as a reminder of the lesson.

Review Questions:

- **What did Pharaoh agree to do?** (Let the Israelites go.)
- **Why did the Egyptians want the Israelites to leave quickly?** (They had seen God's power and were afraid that they would all die if the Israelites stayed.)
- **What did the people of Israel get from the Egyptians before they left?** (Silver, Gold, Jewels, and Clothing)
- **In this lesson, how do we see God keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?** (He is bringing the people out of Egypt to the land that He promised to give their descendants.)
- **Whose bones did Moses take with them?** (Joseph's bones)
- **How do we know that Joseph trusted God to bring the people out of Egypt someday?** (He made his family promise to take his bones when God led them out of Egypt.)
- **How did God lead the people in the wilderness during the day?** (With a pillar of cloud.)
- **How did God lead the people in the wilderness during the night?** (With a pillar of fire.)