

Exodus 14

The Grand Finale

Scripture: Exodus 14-15:2

Memory Verse: Exodus 14:31 *"Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses."*

Lesson Focus: This text takes us through the magnificent grand finale of the drama between God and Pharaoh. Like our memory verse says, as the kids see the great work of the Lord in this text, we hope they also will fear, believe, and trust in the Lord!

Activities and Crafts: Parting the Red Sea coloring picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, and Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd-5th grade.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Walking on Dry Ground Craft

Starter Activity: Grand Finales

Consider starting off the lesson by having some fun discussion about the phrase "grand finale". Many kids should know that this phrase describes the most exciting and climactic finish to something. * See below for a few examples and ask the kids for some details of the grand finale of each. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some items that represent each one and pull them out as you discuss each one) *

- 1) Football (grand finale is the Super Bowl)
- 2) 4th of July (grand finale is the end of the fireworks show)
- 3) Baseball (grand finale is the World Series) *
- 4) Mario Movie/Game (grand finale is showdown between Mario and Bowser) *
- 5) Return of the Jedi (grand finale is showdown between Luke and Darth Vader) *
- 6) How to Train Your Dragon (grand finale is showdown between Hiccup and Toothless against the "Red Death" dragon boss)

In all these examples, before the grand finale, there is a slow build-up and growing anticipation of the exciting finish. Notice in these last few examples the grand finale was a final showdown between good and evil.

That is where we find ourselves today as we get back into the book of Exodus! God brought the ten plagues upon Egypt and it was the very last one that finally caused Pharaoh to agree to set the children of Israel free from slavery and oppression. * But after the children of Israel leave, Pharaoh foolishly changes his mind which brings us to the exciting "grand finale" showdown between God and Pharaoh. Like with any good grand finale, prepare to say "WOW"! * Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Exodus 14:1-2: God has been leading the children of Israel away from Egypt through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (**Exodus 13:21-22**). God instructs them to change direction and set up camp by the Red Sea in prep for this grand finale!

Exodus 14:3-4: And as He directs them, He also warns Moses about what is going to happen next. Pharaoh appears to think that they are trapped and helpless and so pompously decides to chase * after them! Notice that this is not just about the children of Israel and Pharaoh, but about God's glory!

Exodus 14:5-9: Pharaoh and his army set out in anger seeking blood and revenge.

Q: What kind of heart does it say that Pharaoh and his servants had? A: A **hard** heart! We've seen Pharaoh's hard heart throughout these first chapters of Exodus. *

Q: Has having a hard heart done him any good? A: NO! (**Teachers:** We will leave some Play-doh with you. Consider forming a heart out of the lump and talking about how after Play-doh hardens it can no longer be shaped or formed. In the same way, when our hearts grow hard, we grow stubborn and bitter, leading us to say or do foolish things that hurt ourselves and those around us)

The soft heart, rather, is the heart that listens, loves, and can be led by God!

Exodus 14:10: Imagine being in the camp of the Israelites by the sea and you see Pharaoh and his army charging towards you with rage in their eyes! Yikes! *

Exodus 14:11-12: The people of Israel, in their panic, are shouting "***I Told You So***" at Moses! * While on the one hand, I can understand the fright of seeing Pharaoh's army charge towards them. But on the other hand, it's hard to understand how they could be so quick to forget that it was the Lord who rescued them and brought them here.

Q: And yet, aren't we also quick to forget or ignore what God has done for us?

Exodus 14:13-14: Instead of joining in with their panic, Moses urges them to shift their gaze away from the Egyptian army and back onto the Lord. But notice he doesn't tell them to take up their arms and fight.

Q: Instead, what does Moses tell them to do?

A: Don't be afraid, stand still, and watch what God is going to do! WOW!

Boys and Girls: There is a very important lesson for us here! We also can be overcome by fear, by anxiety, and by sin and temptation. But if we are believers in Jesus, we have Someone who will "fight for us" too! Rather than panicking and surrendering to these things, we are to take courage, stand firm in our faith, and shift our gaze to Jesus! As **Romans 8:31** declares about believers in Jesus, "*If God is for us, who can be against us!*". No, we resolve to not be afraid, to stand firm, and to be still and trust Him!

Exodus 14:15-18: Thus, the stage is being set for this grand finale! Pharaoh thinks he has the children of Israel trapped, but it is he who is walking into the trap! * All along God has planned this to rescue His people in this most magnificent way. Why? That His people would be rescued, yes, but also so that His greatness would be known!

Exodus 14:19-20: Wow! That supernatural pillar of cloud that was leading them is now protecting them as a barrier between the camp of Israel and the Egyptian army!

Exodus 14:21-22: Double Wow! Imagine what this was like! Could they see and touch sea creatures in this "wall" of water on their right and left as they were walking thru? *

Exodus 14:23: Filled with hard-hearted rage, the Egyptian army continues in hot pursuit. Q: Again, does having a hard heart do you any good? NO! *

Exodus 14:24-25: The Egyptians finally appear to come to their senses and remember Who they are fighting against: not merely the children of Israel, but the LORD! * But it is too late for them! Their hard hearts led them into this trap and will seal their doom.

Exodus 14:26-28: Triple Wow!

Q: How many of the Egyptians survived? A: Not one!

Exodus 14:29-30: This gives a summary of this awesome grand finale! (**Teachers:** Consider having the kids do a skit reviewing what we just learned. See the skit at the back of the lesson or narrate the story yourself. Have fun!) *

Exodus 14:31: Remember all the children of Israel did was walk and **watch** God work!

Q: How did they respond to what God did? A: With fear, faith, and wonder!

Exodus 15:1-2: And also with worship! Most of this chapter is a song like the Psalms we studied the last two weeks praising God for His awesome power and favor.

Key Point: Wow! What an awesome grand finale to this battle that began in the beginning of Exodus. Before chapter 14, the children of Israel were runaway slaves. After chapter 14, they are truly set free as God's redeemed people!

We could say the same about believers in Jesus and His death and resurrection, another epic display of God's power! Before that, we were slaves to our sin facing the sure punishment we deserved. After, we are forgiven and freed as God's people!

Believer: Let's not be afraid, but stand firm, and keep our eyes on Jesus no matter what we face this week!

If you are not a believer in Jesus, you are still standing on the wrong side. Soften your heart and come before Him in faith and trust before it is too late for you! The same God that worked all of these wonders invites you to come, surrender, and become His child! *

God Empowers Moses to Free Israel Skit (Exodus 14)

*Characters: Moses (adult recommended), a few kids to be Pharoah's army, a few kids to be Israel, and a few kids to be the Red Sea **

Start out by having several kids lie on the floor in a line on their bellies facing alternate directions. They will be the "Red Sea" and when God "splits" the Red Sea they will stand up facing each other shoulder to shoulder on each side with enough room for the other kids to pass thru.

Moses and the Israelites will be standing on the "shore" with Pharoah's army some distance away "coming after" them.

Army: Look! There they are! We got 'em this time! **Mwahaha!**

Israel (to Moses): Pharoah's army is coming! We are trapped! What are we going to do? I want my Mommy!

Moses: Do not be afraid! Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord!

Moses then stretches his hand over the sea, the sea splits, and the children of Israel walk through.

Israel: WOW!

Once Israel and Moses are through then the army follows.

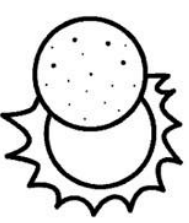
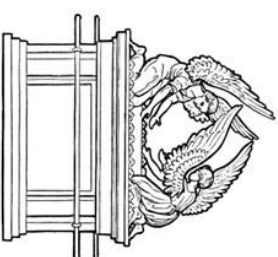
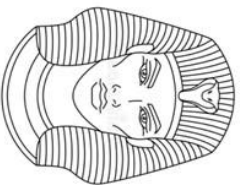
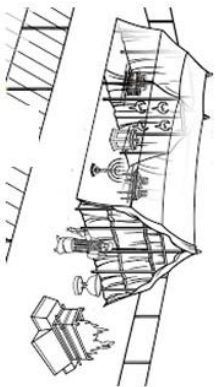
Army: We are almost through. Let's get 'em! **Mwahaha!**

Moses: Umm.....I don't think so!

Moses then stretches his hand out again and the "Red Sea kids" collapse on Pharoah's army!

Israel: WOW!

Bring It Home



ראשית First

See Exodus 14:13-14

What did Moses tell
the people to do in
their panic?

How can this help
you when you are
afraid?

שנייה Second

Read Exodus 14:31

What was the great
work that Israel saw?

How did they re-
spond?

How will you respond
this week?



Parent Challenge:

What was the bigger purpose behind the
events of chapter 14? (see v. 17-18)

