

Bible background

Exodus 14

Aim of lesson

To appreciate God's power over nature, and the freedom he gives us.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. If you have displayed the pictures of the plagues made by the children last week, use them to remind the children that after the last plague Pharaoh at last said that the slaves could go free.
2. Ask the children what they would do if they had been slaves. Encourage them to think about packing up and hurrying out in case Pharaoh changed his mind again. Imagine the excitement as all the families got together, and a vast number of people marched out; fathers, mothers and children with animals and belongings. Ask them to think of what they would pack and carry. You may like to have them mime packing their case.
3. Tell how when they had left Egypt and were near the Red Sea, Pharaoh changed his mind and got his horses and chariots and galloped after them to catch them. Ask the children to do galloping actions with their feet and pretend to hold the reins of their horse. Tell how the Israelites were trapped with the sea on one side and Pharaoh and his army galloping towards them on the other. How did they feel?
4. What did Moses do? How did God answer his prayer? Tell the children what happened.
5. Give out the activity sheets and ask the children what they think different people in the picture are thinking. They can colour the picture if there is time and you can tell them what happened to Pharaoh when he tried to cross after them.
6. Use the action song/song and dance 'God Is Great' next. Sing two lines at a time for the children to repeat. When they know it well, they could do the dance as suggested.

Alternative activities

1. Make models of horses and chariots from card, 'junk' or play dough. You can use small size cartons as the body of the chariot. Cut wheels from card and attach with split pin fasteners so they turn. Cut horses from card and 'harness' to the chariots with pairs of drinking straws or strips of card. Use some wool to make a mane, tail and reins for each horse.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children how glad they would be to be free, if they had been one of the Israelite children. Are they glad to be free now and not slaves to a cruel master?

Prayer

Ask what they would have prayed if they had been Israelite children.

Verse

'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.' Exodus 13:14.

Song

God is Great (Tune: Won't you come and dance with me)

F Dm C C7 F
 Gm C7 F Bb C7 F C7 F

God is great, he set us free (*skip round in a circle*)
He has brought us through the sea
He's our God, he's our King,
That is why we dance and sing.
Pharaoh chased us angrily (*gallop holding reins*)
'I have got them now.' said he (*walk into circle with hands ready to catch*)
When we thought we were caught
God had opened up the sea. (*turn back out to edge of circle*)

Music: Engelbert Humperdink 1854-1921.

NB: Alternative actions for sitting down are: clapping, galloping feet while holding reins, hands out to catch, swing arms wide open.