



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

THE BIBLE

Parting of the Red Sea: Exodus 13:17-22, 14:1-17
(Isaiah 43:1-2; Romans 8:37-39)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #1 - Maze
- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #2 - Big Idea Puzzle
- **ACTIVITY** | Puzzle #3 - Paint the Puzzle
- **QUESTION** | What is the biggest adventure you've been on?
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God is with us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Exodus 13:7-22; 14:1-17
- **ACTIVITY** | Get Through the Sea
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Separated and Together
- **SCRIPTURE** | Isaiah 43:1-2
- **ACTIVITY** | Crayon Resist Picture
- **RESPONSE** | Faith Walk
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - When the Egyptians chased the Israelites, what was in the Israelites way?
 - What did Moses tell the Israelites when they were scared?
 - What incredible thing did God do?
 - Have you had a time in your life when you knew God was with you?
 - How could you let someone know God is with them?
 - How will it change your response to difficult circumstances to remember God is with you?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Romans 8:37-39
- **ACTIVITY** | Ocean Riddle and Red Sea Sensory Bags
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Colossians 3:20; Psalm 46:10



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE GREAT ESCAPE

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

THE BIBLE

Parting of the Red Sea: Exodus 13:17-22, 14:1-17
(Isaiah 43:1-2; Romans 8:37-39)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #1 – Maze

- Today is the last day of our series, *The Great Escape!* You have completed three levels of our challenge to escape from Egypt! If you can complete the fourth challenge today, we'll finally be able to escape. To begin, you must find your way through this challenging maze. All the items you need to complete the challenge are hidden in the maze.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a maze for students to walk through. You could use big refrigerator boxes to create a maze they can crawl through, tables and chairs, cones, or floor tape to make the maze around your room. Prepare a jigsaw puzzle (either paper cut into puzzle pieces or a pre-made blank puzzle) by writing, "God is with us" in big letters with white crayon (pressing hard) when the puzzle is intact. Then break it apart and scatter the puzzle pieces throughout the maze for kids to collect. Hide the following items in the maze: a paintbrush, a watercolor set, and a bottle of water.

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #2 – Big Idea Puzzle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids put the puzzle together using the pieces they found in the maze.

ACTIVITY | Puzzle #3 – Paint the Puzzle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will have to figure out to use the watercolor paint to paint over the jigsaw puzzle. After painting, they will be able to read the message that was written in white crayon on the puzzle pieces.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** At the beginning of the service, give them a set of the puzzle

pieces with the Big Idea written in white crayon. Let them work on their own during the first three activities, with the support of a peer or buddy.

- Congratulations! You have found the fourth Big Idea. You and your friends have finally escaped from Egypt. However, just like the Israelites, your adventure is not over yet.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

QUESTION | What is the biggest adventure you've been on?

- Last week, we learned about when Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free. This began their great adventure called the Exodus. *Exodus* is the name of the book in the Bible, and it also means a huge group leaving at one time. Imagine if everyone in our city decided to wake up and leave town tomorrow! That would be a mass exodus!
- Today, we'll learn about some of the amazing things God did to help the Israelites during their escape from Egypt.

THE BIG IDEA | God is with us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
 - **FOR PRETEENS:** See your weekly instructions for some fun ideas to let your preteens discover each week's Big Idea with an escape room theme.
- This week's Big Idea: **God is with us.**

BIBLE STORY | Exodus 13:7-22, 14:1-17

- We learned last week about when the Pharaoh finally decided the Israelites could leave Egypt. This week, we'll learn about the amazing way God helped them escape.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Many kids with special needs benefit from visuals because seeing something helps them comprehend it. Print or draw a simple picture of a cloud and fire and tape them on paint sticks. Provide toy people figurines for them to manipulate. Let them use these during the Bible story to bring the story to life.
- **How did the Israelites get away from the Egyptians?** God performed an amazing miracle and parted the Red Sea for them to walk on dry land!
- **Who started chasing them?** The Egyptians were chasing them.
- **After all those terrible plagues and Pharaoh finally saying the Israelites could leave, why do you think they chased after the Israelites?**
 - The Israelites might have been scared and even wondered why they left Egypt in the first place. Moses told them God would fight for them.
 - **What happened when Moses held his hand out over the sea?** The waters parted so they could

walk through it on dry land.

- **What do you think it would be like to walk through an ocean on dry land? How would you feel if you were about to do that?**
- **How does this story show God was with the Israelites?** God led the Israelites to safety, and He never left them on their own. He stuck with them. God will also stick with us through anything we face.
- It's so amazing that the God who can do anything and does incredible miracles like parting the Red Sea also is the God who is with us and loves us. He's with us when we're sick or tired, when we're happy or sad. Even if we don't notice His presence, He's always there.

ACTIVITY | Get Through the Sea

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, use a serrated knife to cut some blue pool noodles in half (enough for each kid to have one). Give each kid the halved pool noodle and have them line up in two lines facing each other. Play some high-energy music. When the music is playing, kids should hold their pool noodles in the air while the kids at the end of the line take turns walking through the line. When they get through the end, the next kids will run through. When the music stops, have the kids lower their pool noodles really fast. Whoever gets stopped by the noodles coming down is trapped and is out of the game. Keep playing until you have a few winners who didn't get caught.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *This game could be overwhelming for them with the amount of people and getting trapped, but they may love the aspect of running through the pretend water. Give them some blue tissue paper or pool noodles and let them play their own version of running through water off to the side with a leader or a buddy.*
- The Egyptians got caught by the waters when God closed them! This game reminds us that God was with the Israelites when they walked through the water. God is with us today, too!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

OBJECT LESSON | Separated and Together

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a small plastic water bottle halfway with water and add red food coloring. Then, pour some vegetable oil on the water. Shake the bottle, mixing the oil and the water. Then let it settle and allow the oil and water to separate.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *A water and oil sensory bottle will help a child with special needs focus during the service. You can make your own by putting some water with food coloring into a clear plastic bottle, then mixing some oil in and screwing the lid on tight. You can even put some glitter in and let them shake it up.*
- When the Israelites escaped Egypt, it was an exciting but chaotic and scary time, especially when the Egyptians started chasing them.
- When God parted the sea, He showed the Israelites His power, but He also showed them He was right there with them the whole time.
- Just like the oil and water in this container divided into two distinct liquids, God divided the waters of the Red Sea. But we can also look at this illustration a different way. If the water represents us and the oil represents God, it reminds us He is with us in the chaos and in the calm. When life is going well, it is easy to remember that He is right beside us like this oil and water.

- But when life is messy, He is right in the middle of it with us as well. God is with us even when we face hard things or when we're sad or scared.

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 43:1-2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What does God promise in these verses?**
- **Why is God with us during these tough times according to verse 1?**
- **Does this verse mean that if you stick your hand in a flame, you won't get burned? What does it really mean?**
- Whatever we go through, we can trust God is with us. He doesn't leave us or abandon us in tough times.

ACTIVITY | Crayon Resist Picture

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out pieces of white paper to every kid. Have the kids use a brown crayon to completely color a path across the middle of the paper. Make sure the path is completely colored. They can also draw people on the path and fish on either side. Then have them use blue watercolor paint to paint over the entire piece of paper. The crayon will repel the watercolor paint so it will only cover the two blank sides of the paper.

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Our God" by Yancy or "I Am Not Alone" by Kari Jobe. Encourage kids to praise God because He is always with them.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** For preteens and this lesson, we like the [song](#), "You Will Never Run" by Rend Collective and the [song](#), "My Lighthouse" by Rend Collective. Lyric videos are a great, simple tool to use with worship for preteens.

RESPONSE | Faith Walk

- Today, we learned how God was with the Israelites as they fled Egypt and walked through the Red Sea. Just like God was with the Israelites, He is with us, too.
- We're going to pretend we're walking through the Red Sea like we did earlier, but this time, we won't get caught in the sea. We'll make it to the other side, like the Israelites did, because God is with us! As you are walking through the sea, I want you to pray in your mind. Maybe you want God to help you with a situation that is scary for you. Pray that God will help you to remember that He is with you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a pool noodle and have them make the Red Sea by forming two lines facing each other. Have them hold their pool noodles up in the air to form a tunnel for other kids to walk through. The two kids at the end of the line will walk through the tunnel first and then join their new place at the front of the line. The next two kids at the end of the line will pass through, and kids will continue to move up the line until everyone has passed through the Red Sea.
- How wonderful that we have a God who never leaves us; He is always with us!

TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We've had a great month discovering how to escape and learning about God's power and love.
- The first week, we learned that **God can send people to help us** when we heard the story of baby Moses in a basket in the river.

- Then we heard the story of Moses and the burning bush and learned that **God can help us do great things.**
- When we heard the story of the plagues and the Passover and learned that **God can do anything.**
- When we heard the story of the parting of the Red Sea and we learned that **God is always with us.**

MEMORY VERSES | Colossians 3:20, Psalm 46:10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **When the Egyptians chased the Israelites, what was in the Israelites way?** (*The Red Sea.*)
- **What did Moses tell the Israelites when they were scared?** (*God would fight for them.*)
- **What incredible thing did God do?** (*Parted the sea so they walked on dry ground.*)
- **Have you had a time in your life when you knew God was with you?**
- **How could you let someone know God is with them?**
- **How will it change your response to difficult circumstances when you remember God is always with you?**

SCRIPTURE | Romans 8:37-39

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- **What are three things the verses say cannot separate us from the love of God?**
- **Because we can't be separated from Him, what does God call us in verse 37?**
- **What is a situation in your life where you need to remember God's love?**

ACTIVITY | Ocean Riddle and Red Sea Sensory Bag

- You did a great job pretending to escape from Egypt, but you have one more riddle to answer before you complete *The Great Escape!*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the Ocean Riddle printable to give the kids clues to the "What Am I?" riddle. The answer is the ocean. Read the clues and let the kids guess the answer. When they do, give them a "Red Sea Sensory Bag." Prepare them ahead of time using a sandwich-sized, freezer-style storage bag. Fill each bag with about half a bottle of blue hair gel (or hair gel-colored with blue food dye). Add some fish/ocean confetti and glitter. Close the bag, and use heavy-duty tape to secure it. Kids can then move the gel around from the outside of the bag and reenact the splitting of the sea.
- Since you used your mind with the riddle, now use your hands to reenact your escape from Egypt using these sensory bags.

MEMORY VERSES | Philippians 4:23, Psalm 46:1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then, work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.