

God’s Love

Objective: The students will be able to state we learn from the Exodus story that God loves His people.

For the Catechist

The Exodus was an experience of redemption for the Israelites. It is the prime story of redemption in the Old Testament and is foundational for the redemption experience of Christians. Two of the many parallels include the following: 1) just as God chose Moses to lead the people from a life of slavery to the Egyptians, God sent His Son Jesus to lead us out of our life of slavery to sin; and 2) in the story we read about the covenant God made with His people, which included the Ten Commandments. God sent Jesus to initiate the New Covenant.

Both experiences and all experiences of redemption are signs of God's love. The students will encounter the exodus story throughout this series. They enjoy it because it has action, miracles, and heroes. The covenant and other aspects of the Exodus will be the focus of other grades. It is enough for the students of grade one to see that the Bible has stories that teach us lessons. The lesson of the Exodus story is that God loves and cares for His people.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Story of Exodus

"The story of exodus is experienced by the Church in a new way during the Great and Holy Week in which we celebrate the Lord Jesus' death and resurrection. We proclaim our belief that 'a new Passover has shone upon us' (Paschal Stichera). Christ fulfilled the spiritual meaning of the exodus by freeing the whole human race from slavery to sin. This salvation is far more universal than the exodus from a physical slavery in one distant place and time. To proclaim this new covenant, Jesus established the Eucharist to fulfill the Passover meal which the Jews solemnly ate to remember the events of the exodus" (LL1 34).

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Doxology and Trisagion

Introduction: Role play of slave and master. **Need:** Rope or ribbon, heavy object to tie to slave (like a ball and chain), Bible

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic 1:* God Loves His People
- *Basic 2:* Exodus Story
- *Group:* “Exodus” Mural
- *Craft:* Unfolding Story Cards

Closing: Doxology and Trisagion

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I:
Packet II:

Teaching Pics

Passover

"These events in Christ's life took place during Passover, the most holy feast of the Jewish religious year. The Passover celebrated the Israelites' release from bondage in Egypt and their exodus to the promised land. The miracles God performed on their behalf to free them were remembered by means of various rituals. Most important of these was the sacrificing of the passover or paschal lamb. According to the Book of Exodus, a lamb was slaughtered by each Hebrew family and its blood smeared on the doorway. When the plague came killing the first-born son of each household, it spared those homes marked by the blood of the lamb. Death 'passed over' God's chosen people" (*LLII* 56).

The Bible

"Many schools and colleges offer courses in 'The Bible as Literature,' studying the scriptures as creative works. In the Church we have a very different focus. We know the scriptures to be the Word of God to us. We believe that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit who dwells in the Church and that they are the Spirit's gift to us. They have a twofold function. They record the main lines of God's dealing with the human race, in His Old Testament relationship with the Jews as well as His New Testament relationship with the entire human race in Christ. The scriptures are also the means where the Spirit speaks to us directly and individually, giving us direction for our lives, when we read them in faith" (*DC* 28).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Let's come to the icon corner and get ready to pray. [You may need to remind children to quietly stand before icon with palms open and facing upwards. Go to the icon corner and have children follow your lead.] We've learned the Trisagion prayer—the "Holy God" prayer. When we pray this prayer we make the sign of the cross and we bow each time we say "Holy God." Do you remember? [You may need to demonstrate.] Let's pray the Doxology ["Glory be..."] and then the Trisagion. First, let's quietly look at the icon. [Remain quiet for 10-15 seconds.] Pray with me now.

Introduction

To begin our lesson today, I need two volunteers. [Choose two students—one to be a master and one to be a slave (someone whose self-concept can handle being a slave for a few minutes).] We'll call you, _____(name), "Master." We'll call you, _____(name), "Slave." Does anyone know what the word "slave" means? [Allow responses.] Now, the master is in charge of the slave. More than in charge—the master can tell the slave to do everything for him. The slave can't leave the master. [Tie heavy object to rope and tie the rope to slave's leg.] The slave will always be the slave. Can we try this? Master think of something you want your slave to do. [Have master think of a few things for slave to do: fetch a book, a pencil, tie his shoe, straighten his shirt.] Slave, how do you feel about being a slave? How do you feel about not being able to leave the master? Class, how would you feel about being a slave? Would you want to be free instead? [Allow responses, and let volunteers sit down.] Slavery is not a good thing. Whole groups of people have been slaves to other groups of people. In fact, God's people, the Israelites in the Old Testament, were slaves to the Egyptians. We're studying the Bible [Hold up Bible.] and discovering what we can learn from its stories. The story we'll be learning our lesson from today is called "The Exodus." Do you know that story? [If the children can piece together the story, help them. If not, it is offered below.]

A long time before Jesus, God's people were slaves. They were slaves in the country of Egypt. Their masters made them work very hard. God didn't want His people to be slaves any longer. He sent Moses to rescue them. Moses led the people out of Egypt.

Moses led the people to the Red Sea. How could they cross the sea to escape the soldiers? How do you think they could cross the sea? God told Moses to lift up his staff and to stretch out his hand. Moses did as the Lord commanded and the sea opened up. God's people walked through the sea! The soldiers tried to follow the people. The sea closed up and swallowed the soldiers.

God's people were free! They knew God loved them. Moses sang a song to the Lord. One verse said, "My strength and courage is the Lord!"

This isn't the end of the story. God wanted to teach His people the way to live. Moses went up high on a mountain. God gave Moses rules to teach His people the way to live.

Let's see what the lesson is that we are to learn from this story.

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God's Love

The Bible teaches us about God
The Bible teaches us that God made us and loves us.



We can learn from the stories in the Bible.
One story is about God's people
It is called the Exodus story.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

It's called the Exodus story.

Let's look at the photograph. What is the boy doing? (Reading from the Bible)

The story we're about to read is called the Exodus. To exit means to leave. What is a slave? (A slave is a person who is forced to work for someone else called a master. Slaves do not get paid.)

Moses led the people out of slavery.

Who was sent to lead the people out of slavery? (Moses)

From this story we learn that God loves His people.

God led His people out of slavery. What do we learn from this story? (God loves His people.)



*A long time before Jesus was born. God's people were slaves.
Their masters made them work very hard.
God didn't want His people to be slaves any longer.
He sent Moses to rescue them.*

*Moses parted the Red Sea and God's people walked through.
Then the sea closed again.
The soldiers who were chasing God's people were caught.
Moses led the people out of slavery.*

From this story, we learn that God loves His people.

He gave them ten rules to follow.

Why did God give them ten rules to follow? (To help them live together in peace) God has a right WAY for us to live. If we live according to God's way, we will live as He wants. The ten rules God gave His people show them the way to live.

... keep the Lord's day holy.

We've just learned a few of the rules God gave to His people. In our first lesson this year we learned how we keep the Lord's day holy. Do you remember how we do that? (We come to church.) Can you tell me one of the other rules we just read about? (Do not kill, do not lie, do not steal.)

We learn that God has rules to help us live as He wants.

From the Exodus story we learn that God loves His people. It teaches us that our God is a God of love. He loves us, His people, today also. I know God loves me because He made me. He has given me the gift of life. He has given me other gifts, too. [Name family, friends, or the students.]

Let's review: What does the word exit mean? (To leave) What was the name of the story we heard today? (The Exodus) What were God's people before He freed them? (Slaves) Why did he free them? (He loved them.) What do we learn from the Exodus story? (We learn that God loves His people.)

Activity Tracks

Basic 1: God loves His People

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

The story of the Exodus teaches us that God loves His people. Let's see if we can remember the story and fill in the missing words.

Then God wanted His people to live together in peace. He gave them ten rules to follow

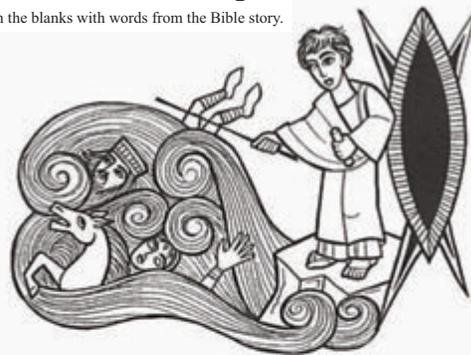


The rules are called the Ten Commandments. We still follow them today. One is "Honor your father and mother." Others are "Do not steal: do not lie: do not kill: keep the Lord's Day holy."

The Exodus is a Bible story about love. We learn that God loves His people. We learn that God has rules to help us live as He wants.

God Loves His People

A. Fill in the blanks with words from the Bible story.



God rescued His people from slavery. He parted the Red Sea and led them through. Then the Red

Sea closed again.

Later, God gave Moses the

Ten Commandments.



Basic 2: Exodus

Our story today was the Exodus. It is a Bible story that teaches us that God loves His people. What was your favorite part of the story? [Allow responses.] On our worksheet after you complete the sentences, you can illustrate your favorite part of the story.

Group: "Exodus" Mural

Materials: Roll of shelf paper OR sheets of paper and tape to make a mural, markers

Our story today was the Exodus. It is a Bible story that teaches us that God loves His people. It is a great story for a class project—a mural. Let's see if we can work together on a mural that retells the story. [Hold up part of mural.] Each of these words or phrases tells something important in the story. We'll illustrate the story below them. [Ahead of time you may want to label each paper or sections of the mural with these words and phrases: Moses, God's People Were Slaves (can be more than one section to illustrate people working at various tasks), Moses Led the People, The Soldiers Followed, Moses Parted the Red Sea, God's People Walked Through the Sea, The Soldiers Were Swallowed by the Sea, God's People Were Free!, Moses Received the Ten Commandments.]

Craft: Unfolding Story Cards

Materials: "Exodus Story Cards" worksheet copied onto heavier paper, markers, scissors, tape, yarn or string

Our story today was the Exodus. It is a Bible story that teaches us that God loves His people. For our project we are going to make a story strip. [Hold up project.] This first card says the title of the story: The Exodus: A Story of God's Love for His People. And then [Let cards fall open.] the rest of the cards tell the story. [Have the students color the worksheet and cut the cards apart. Tape the back of each card onto a long piece of string, allowing 8" of string at top and bottom so that string can be wrapped around cards to tie them together.]

Exodus

A. Complete the sentences.

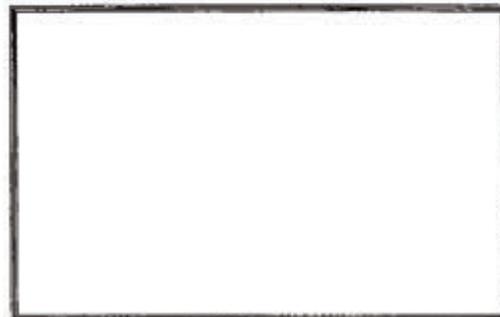
1. God sent Moses to rescue His people.

2. Moses led the people out of slavery.

3. God gave His people rules to follow called the

Ten Commandments.

B. Choose one part of the story to illustrate.

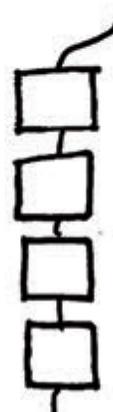


Words to Use

Ten Commandments

Moses

slavery



Closing

Let's pray the Doxology and then the Trisagion as we did to open our class today. First, let's quietly look at the icon. [Remain quiet for 10-15 seconds.] Pray with me now.

God bless you. Have a good week!



Bible



rules



teach

Exodus

A. Complete the sentences.

1. God sent _____ to
rescue His people.

2. Moses led the people out of
_____.

3. God gave His people rules to
follow called the

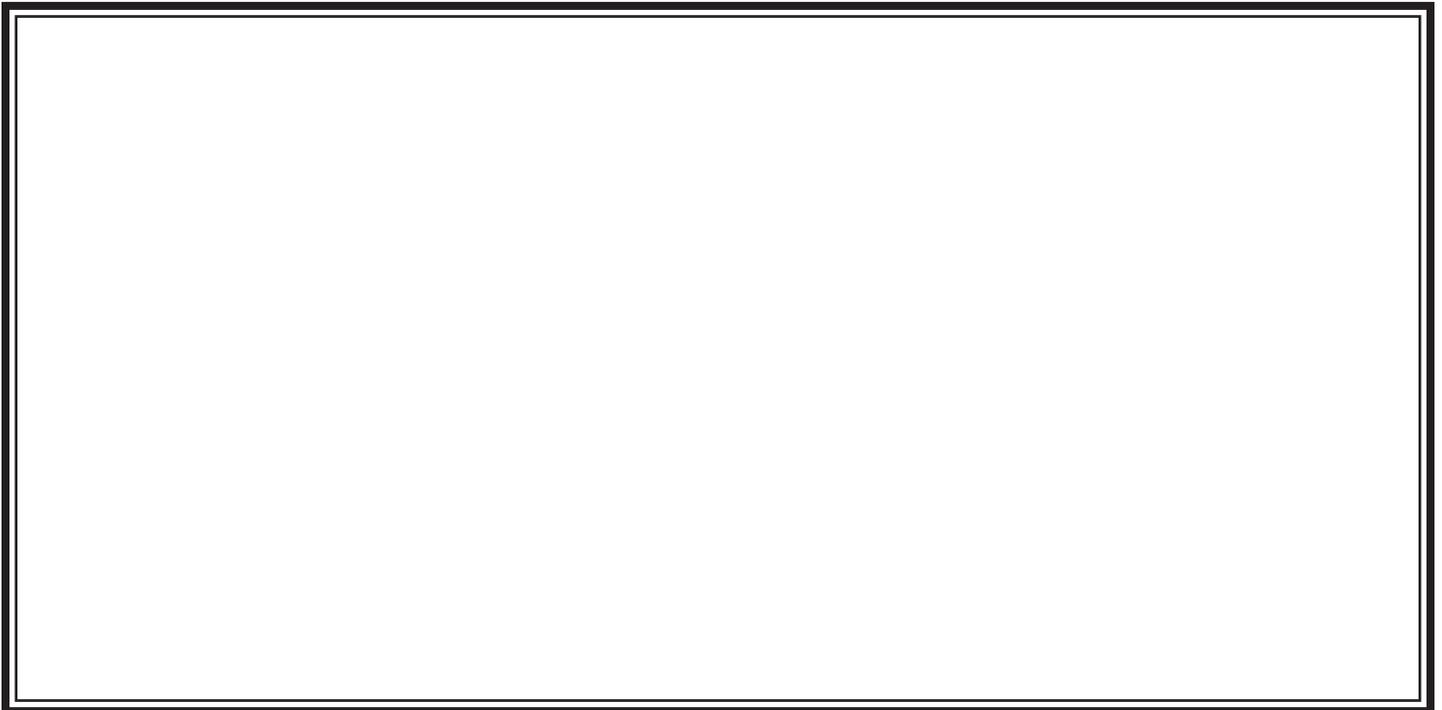
_____.

*Words to
Use
Ten
Commandments

Moses

slavery*

B. Choose one part of the story to illustrate



The Exodus



Unit 2 Review

Who Is God?

1. Who is the Trinity?
(Lesson 3: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)
2. Who created the world?
(Lesson 4: God made the world.)
3. Who made you and loves you?
(Lesson 5: God made me and loves me.)
4. Which book tells us about God and the world?
(Lesson 6: The Bible tells us about God and the world)