

The Red Sea

Materials

- Aluminum foil
- Blue “water paper”
- “Sand” paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stickers

Introduction

Shape a piece of aluminum foil into the form of a staff. Discuss:

- A real staff would be made out of wood and was usually about 6 feet tall. It was straight or crooked.
- In Bible times, who used a staff in their work?
- How might a shepherd use a staff? (A shepherd might lean on a staff during a long walk or wave it at an intruding animal or use the hook to grab and pull a stray sheep back into the flock.) Act out all these things with your foil staff.
- Today you are going to learn about someone who was a shepherd of people. He used a staff, but not for herding sheep and scaring away animals. His staff was used to do a miracle!

Story

Remember Moses and Aaron telling Pharaoh to “Let my people go!” in the last lesson? In today’s story, we will see how God rescued Israel from slavery. Sometimes it was tough for them. Even though they saw God do great things for them, they whined and complained about God. Let’s practice our whining voices. Pretend that everyone in your family got ice cream, but your parents ran out before they could give you any. Now, whine about it.

Look up Exodus 14:1-30. Ask an adult to read the story. When he or she gets to the part where the people complain, you read their words using your extra-whiny voice. Pay close attention so you will know when to whine. (Adults, stop at verse 10. Point to the kids and have them read verses 11 and 12. Then, finish reading verses 13-30.

Discuss:

- Even after leading his people from years of bondage, Moses still has to fight to win the people’s trust. Between Egypt and the Promised Land, he’s come up against the Red Sea, and the people begin to respond in fear. What sorts of things does Moses hear from them?
- How does Moses respond?
- Does Moses try to solve their problems on his own?
- What do you think of how Moses handled the situation with his people?
- Who held the staff in this story?
- What happened when Moses lifted up his staff and held it out over the Red Sea?
- What would have happened if God hadn’t been there with Israel?
- Discuss that water plays a big role in the Bible. Our bodies are composed mostly of water, and it’s an element that can both kill us and sustain us. Without it, we would die – if we’re not careful around it, we can also perish. What do you think God might be saying by parting the waters as opposed to building a bridge, or providing hundreds of boats?

- What does it mean to you that God can perform miracles to protect His people?
- How was this all part of God's master plan?

Let's do a science experiment now that's pretty amazing! Pour several ounces of water into a glass. Place a piece of paper on top of the glass, making sure that it is completely covered. Hold the paper in place and slowly turn the glass upside down.

- What do you think will happen when I let go of the paper?

The water stays in the glass! God can use everything in our world – including air pressure and gravity – to do miracles. With God, nothing is impossible.

Closing Prayer

Dear God,
You free us from bondage
Protect us from sin.
You love us and feed us,
No more walls closing in.
With the touch of a staff,
The seas roll away.
You lead us to safety
Now and always...
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Time Line & Time Capsule

Time capsule – Place your foil staff into your time capsule.