CLIFFHANGER THE STORY D S C



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When You Believe Israel Goes through the Red Sea Exodus 13:17–14:31

HOST SUPPLIES

- Two Small Group Leaders
- Bible
- Two dry erase boards and markers
- Calculator
- Photo of a local mountain or hill in your area
- Card with the elevation of your local mountain or hill
- Week 5 Timeline Image printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

STORY SUPPLIES

- Table
- Empty jar labeled "animal scent"
- Large package of cotton candy (unwrapped)
- Handheld spray bottle of water
- Sea breeze air freshener spray like <u>this</u>
- Walking stick or staff
- Box fan plugged in and concealed under a tablecloth, if possible
- Extension cords for the box fan (if needed)

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

WEEK

FIVE

OCTOBER 2022

SMALL GROUP



SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction Early Arriver Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35 MIN STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God Welcome/Opener Worship ("Over and Over" from Everything to Me and "Hope Is Alive" from Make a Move) Bible Story Bottom Line Prayer Closer

SMALL GROUP

25

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect
Bible Story Review: God Is Still in Control (k-1st grade),
Carabiner Review (2nd-3rd grade)
Application Activity: Red Sea Painting (k-1st grade),
Guide My Hand (2nd-3rd grade)
Memory Verse Activity: Crossing the Red Sea (k-1st grade), Pop Rock Verse (2nd-3rd grade)
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email) Devotionals for Kids Parent Cue App

CLIFFHANGER THE STORY D 🕞 🗐 🗐



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When You Believe Israel Goes through the Red Sea Exodus 13:17–14:31

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God is still in control.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9, NIrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Grit—Refusing to give up when life gets hard

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WEEK

OCTOBER 2022

LARGE GROUP

K-3

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER. SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

Host enters as Worship Leaders exit.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION) OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's great to see you! We've got lots of fun planned for today! All month, we've been finding out how God can help us live with GRIT.

SLIDE: VIRTUE OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Grit is refusing to give up when life gets hard.

SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

"If you're climbing a mountain, you need grit to make it to the peak. If you have to do a difficult assignment at school, you're going to need some grit to see it through. If you're having trouble with a friend, you need grit to find out how you can solve the problem and make things right again.

"I know that when I'm facing something tough, it helps me to think about how OTHER people have held on. (Hold up Bible.) There are lots of people throughout history who faced tough situations with grit, because they knew that God was with them. Sometimes I have to stop and remember that God is with ME, just like God was with the people we read about in the Bible. That's what gives me the strength to hold on!



"I thought we could start out our time today with some fun mountain-climbing trivia. This is a game that everyone gets to play. In fact, it'll take a lot of grit AND a lot of teamwork, too!

"First, let me get two Small Group Leaders to join me on stage.

Choose two leaders—one from each side of the room. Give each of them a dry erase board and marker.

"[Leader's name] will represent this side of the room, and [leader's name] will be playing for this side.

"We'll put an image on screen of a famous mountain somewhere in the world. Our leaders will give a guess of what they think the elevation of that mountain is. In case you're wondering, elevation means how high the mountain is above sea level. Whichever leader is closest to the actual elevation of the mountain wins the round.

"But [leaders' names] don't have to just guess on their own. They have all of YOU to help them! After they give their first guess, they'll look to you to see if they should guess a higher number (give a thumbs-up) . . . a lower number (give a thumbs-down) . . . or stay the same (show a 'flat line' with your open hand).

"Let's try the first one!

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #1A (DENALI)

"This is the tallest mountain in North America. It's called Denali, and it's located in the state of Alaska. [Leaders' names], give us your best guess—how tall is Denali? Go ahead and write your answer on your board.

Let both leaders write an answer on their dry erase board.

"Okay, so [leader #1], you guessed [number] feet. That's a good guess. But I think we should ask your friends out there what they think. (to the audience on this leader's side) Should this number be higher (give a thumbs-up) . . . lower (give a thumbs-down) . . . or stay the same (show a 'flat line' with your open hand)?

"[Leader #2], you guessed [number feet]. (to the audience on this leader's side) What do you all think—higher, lower, or stay the same? (Do the motions.)

"All right, [leaders' names]. You now have a chance to change you answer based on what you saw from your friends in the audience. (*Pause so they can update their boards.*) Great. Let's lock in your answers. [Leader #1] says [number] feet. [Leader #2] says [number] feet. The correct elevation of Denali is . . .

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #1B (DENALI)

"20,310 feet!

"That's really tall. [Leaders' names], both of you did a great job of guessing, but it looks like [leader's name] was the closest to the actual answer. Way to go!



Note: Have a calculator handy so you can do some quick calculations, if necessary, to figure out which guess is closest.

"Let's move on to the next mountain peak.

Play the game the same way, for as many rounds as you have time for. Alternate which leader guesses first for each round.

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #2A (KILIMANJARO) SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #2B (KILIMANJARO)

Note: Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa, located in Tanzania.

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #3A (EVEREST) SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #3B (EVEREST)

Note: Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world. It's located in Asia, on the border between China and Nepal.

SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #4A (ACONCAGUA) SLIDE: GAME SLIDE #4B (ACONCAGUA)

Note: Aconcagua is the tallest mountain in South America, located in Argentina.

SLIDE: PHOTO OF A MOUNTAIN/HILL IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

(You'll need to tell the elevation of this last one by reading it from a card.)

After the last question, thank the leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

'That was really fun! You were really good at guessing those elevations. It would take soooooooo much grit to climb any of those mountains. But people HAVE climbed every single one of them! Amazing. Let's all stand up now and get ready to sing to our God who always helps us during tough times. Let's sing, dance, and worship!"

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:



BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! (Hold up Bible.) We've looked at some amazing stories of grit from the Bible this month. And today's story is SO cool and SO exciting! In fact, this story is so incredibly big that I thought it would be fun to tell as a 4-D experience.

"You'll get to hear the sounds . . . smell the smells . . . and really FEEL what it might have felt like for God's people in the story.

"Does that sound like fun? Are you ready? (Pause for response.) Great! Let's look back at the story so far.

"God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham's family. The people in Abraham's family line were known as the Israelites. For hundreds of years, the Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt.

"The people cried out to God for help, and God sent a man named Moses to lead them to freedom. But first, Moses and his brother Aaron had to face Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. After a series of terrible plagues, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go. But even though the Israelites were free, they weren't safe just yet."

LEAVING EGYPT

STORYTELLER: "The Israelites began to travel away from Egypt with their families, flocks, and herds.

"Here you go-let's smell those flocks and herds of animals.

Open the jar labeled "animal scent." Take a sniff, then pretend to waft the scent with your hands toward the audience.

"Do you smell it? No? Maybe we need to make it stronger next time.

Set the jar down on the table.

"God led the people out of Egypt, guiding them along the way. As we read in the book of Exodus:

Open the Bible to Exodus 13:21 (NIrV) and read.

"By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. It guided them on their way. At night he led them with a pillar of fire. It gave them light. So they could travel by day or at night.

"Wow! That's so cool! I know it's hard for us to imagine what a pillar of cloud looked like—but I do have some cotton candy. That's kind of like a cloud, right?

Hold up the cotton candy, then hold it out above the audience like it's an object in a 3-D movie.



25 MINUTES

"To be clear, God appeared in a pillar of cloud, NOT cotton candy. But you get the idea.

Set the cotton candy on the table.

"At last, the Israelites came to the Red Sea, which stood between them and the road that would lead them to the land of Canaan.

"The Red Sea . . . here we go. Do you feel that sea breeze?

Spray the water spray bottle over the audience. (Spray it up high, not directly at them.)

"Do you SMELL that sea breeze?

Spray the sea breeze air freshener over the audience. Set the water spray bottle and the air freshener on the table.

"This huge sea was blocking the Israelites from leaving Egypt!

"Back at the palace, the pharaoh was having second thoughts. He realized that he had lost all his workers. So he led an army of chariots and horsemen across the desert to try to get the Israelites back!

"Quick—if you're sitting around the edges of the room, can you make the sound of galloping horses?

Demonstrate by making a galloping sound with your hands on the floor. Cue the kids on the edges to make the sound after you.

(to the "galloping" kids) "Great job! Love that surround-sound!"

CHASED AND TRAPPED

STORYTELLER: "The Israelites could see Pharaoh's army coming. But they knew they weren't fast enough to escape. They were trapped! They blamed Moses and asked why he brought them into the desert to die.

"Moses responded to the people this way.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:13-14 (NIrV) and read.

"Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today. Do you see those Egyptians? You will never see them again. The LORD will fight for you. Just be still.

"God then spoke to Moses and told him to hold out his walking stick over the sea.

Pick up the walking stick and hold it out above the audience like it's an object in a 3-D movie.

"God told Moses that when he did this, the waters would divide, and the Israelites would be able to walk through the sea on dry ground!



Set the walking stick on the table.

"The pillar of cloud then moved to the back of the Israelites. It stood behind them all night to block them from view of the Egyptians."

THROUGH THE RED SEA

STORYTELLER: "The moment of truth had come. Moses reached his walking stick over the sea. Through the night, God sent a strong wind to push back the waters.

Reveal the box fan. Turn it on and blow air onto the audience.

"The waters were divided, just as God had said.

Spray the water spray bottle over the audience.

"And God's people went THROUGH the sea, on dry ground! BUT . . . the Egyptians chased them!

"Quick—all you gallopers around the edges, can you make the galloping sound again?

Pause for the kids on the edges to make the galloping sound again.

(to the "galloping" kids) "Great job, thanks!

"The Egyptians followed the Israelites right into the Red Sea. But once the Israelites made it through, God spoke to Moses and told him to reach out his staff again. When Moses did this, the sea rushed back into place . . . washing over the Egyptian horses and chariots.

Spray the water spray bottle over the audience.

"God's people were saved! Give me a big cheer, everyone!"

Lead the whole audience in a big cheer.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "The Israelites were safe and dry on the far side of the Red Sea. God had protected them and brought them out of danger!

"The Israelites were so thankful that they sang a song, which we can find in Exodus chapter 15. They sang . . .

Open the Bible to Exodus 15:1-2 (NIrV) and read.

"I will sing to the LORD. He is greatly honored. . . The LORD gives me strength and protects me. He has saved me.

"The people could see for sure that God was in control!



"It's important for us to remember that God is in control of OUR lives, too. God has a good plan for us, even if we can't always see or understand it. We can choose to trust God, and that will help us live each day with grit!

"Let's remember this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Hold on because God is still in control.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us with that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, You are amazing! Thank You for rescuing Your people and bringing them through the Red Sea. You brought them to freedom in such a huge and powerful way! Thank You for having a good plan for our lives, too. Thank You for always taking care of us. Help us remember that You are always in control. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Moses and the Israelites were in a really scary situation. God had brought them out of Egypt, but they still weren't safe. When they looked in the distance, they saw the Egyptian warriors coming after them!

"But God was always in control of the situation. God protected the Israelites and brought them safely THROUGH the Red Sea. Amazing!

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE SLIDE SLIDE: WEEK 5 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"It'll help us keep going if we can remember that God is in control of OUR lives, too.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God is still in control.

"It always helps if we take time to think about Jesus and think about how HE showed grit. Jesus gave us the perfect example of what it looks like to keep going. Jesus loves us so much that He went all the way to the cross for us. When we follow Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and help us.

"Sometimes in life, you might feel stuck. Some things go wrong that you just don't expect. Sometimes things that you hope will happen . . . DON'T happen. It's those times when we need to remember that God is with us, because that will help us have grit!

"You can **hold on because God is still in control.** God has a GOOD plan for your life. You really can **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.**

"Let's head to Small Group and talk about how we can remember that and live it out each day!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT. SLIDE: THEME OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP