

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

When You Believe

Israel Goes Through the Red Sea
Exodus 13:17-14:31

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What feels out of control?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hold on because God
is still in control.

HOST SUPPLIES

- Six to eight cones or chairs to mark a circle (See "What You Do")

STORY SUPPLIES

- Communicator
- Host
- Bible
- Blue strips of crepe paper, enough for one strip per person (or pool noodles, construction paper, etc.)
- Moses walking stick
- October Week 5 Timeline Image
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Jesus I Will Trust You" from *This Love*, "How Amazing" from *Everything to Me*, and "What I Choose" from *Make a Move*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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

CLIFFHANGER

THE STORY
ISN'T OVER

WEEK
FIVE
OCTOBER 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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, NIV

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.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

AUDIO:

Host enters . . .

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "What's happening, everybody?! Can you believe it is the last week of October? It's been an amazing month cliffhanging and learning more about how God can give us strength to have grit! Even though October is almost finished, we still have plenty of adventure around here! And this last game is crazy! Where are my runners who think they've got the grit to keep going? I call this one Grit Run 2022!"

SLIDE: GRIT RUN 2022

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The volunteers for this game should be able to run for a while. It is a physically demanding game. Choose several volunteers (four to eight). Introduce them to the rest of the group.

"Alright you can see I have this nice big circle marked out for us (or mark it out now). I need all of our runners space themselves out all the way around the circle (Set volunteers in place). Now, when I say go, you are all going to start running clockwise around the circle (this way!). You are in the game

UNTIL someone passes you. As soon as someone passes you, quickly sit down in the middle of the circle. We will see who can make it until the end. Remember, you are not out unless you get passed! Got it? And . . . RUN!

Note: This game can get very tiring for the final volunteers. Be cautious of everyone's safety. If you see that this is taking too long, call it a tie and celebrate everyone for showing so much grit!

"(After the game) I am tired just watching you all! That was intense. Well done, everyone. Now let's stand and worship together!"

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25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! So good to see you all on this last week of October! We've had a great month together talking about grit: refusing to give up when life gets hard. So I guess it's only fitting that we saw such an intense race earlier. Whew! Honestly, when I heard what was happening this morning, I thought that'd be pretty much impossible. I'd probably end up in a heap on the floor crying my eyes out. Wow! But that's the thing about grit, right? With God's help we can discover just how far we can go and maybe even see that the impossible might not actually be so impossible.

"As we get started together this morning, I'd love for you to chat about a question for a moment. It's a question about the impossible. Here it is:

"Have you ever found yourself in a situation that seemed pretty much impossible and you thought there was NO WAY you were going to get through? But then, somehow, you actually made it out on the other side? Turn to your small group and chat about that for a moment.

Give kids and leaders a chance to chat about this question for a few moments. After a couple of minutes, bring them back together and debrief some of the answers from the group.

"Ok, let's hear from some of you! What were some of the impossible situations that ended up being not so impossible? *(Take some responses.)*

"Wow! Thanks for sharing all of those incredible moments. It's true from time to time that we'll not only face something challenging, but that challenging situation seems beyond our abilities. Maybe it's a super advanced piano piece your teacher gave you to learn. Maybe you are having the worst time learning a new skill in math. Maybe your mom asked you to clean your room, which you've neglected doing for the past few . . . months! Not that any of you wouldn't clean the room where you stay, of course."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Anyway . . . I don't know about you, but it can be super easy to want to give up when whatever we face seems impossible. I know that I've been there. And chances are, you've been there, too. In those moments, when everything seems impossible, we might just need some help to dig in and keep going. But of course, the obvious question becomes, 'HOW?' How in the world do we keep going and face situations that seem so massive, so beyond anything we've had to do before?

"First of all, let me tell you something. It's ok to feel this way sometimes. Life can be really hard, and we need to be honest with how we're feeling. You're not alone. All sorts of people throughout history have faced moments they didn't think they could get through, but with God's help, they did!

"Secondly, discovering an answer to these sorts of questions can really help you remember where your grit comes from in the first place. Thankfully, we have many of these stories of grit told throughout the Bible. Remember, the people who God inspired to write the different parts of the Bible all experienced God first hand and wrote about

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those experiences so others could learn more about God and themselves. And I can't WAIT for us to talk about what happened in today's story."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "So last week, we ended with yet ANOTHER cliffhanger. Anyone remember the name of the two guys we've been talking about this month? (*Allow for responses*) Right! Joseph and Moses. Joseph was the great-grandson of Abraham, the man God called to leave everything and become God's chosen people. Joseph lived an EPIC life which ultimately rescued his family from a devastating famine. But after many of years of living in Egypt, Joseph's family, the Israelites, found themselves in an impossible situation. They were oppressed and enslaved in Egypt. But God saw them and had compassion on them and made a way to rescue them through the other guy we've been talking about, Moses.

"As great a Moses and his brother, Aaron, were, Pharaoh wouldn't listen and made life even more terrible for the Israelites. But God, in his compassion and concern, sent Moses and brought the people out with a strong arm and mighty acts. In the end, Pharaoh gave up and told Moses and the Israelites to leave.

"Now, we know where they are leaving . . . but does anyone remember where they are headed?

Allow for responses.

"That's right . . . the promised land, a land called Canaan. It turned out to be quite a journey. Just check this out."

Open the Bible to Exodus 13:18a (NirV) and read.

"So God led the people toward the Red Sea by taking them on a road through the desert."

"Did you catch that? God . . . LED them. God didn't just rescue them from Egypt and then say, 'Well, safe travels from here; hope you can figure it out.' No, God would be with them and lead them the rest of the way, all the way into the new land. God really showed up. Listen to this:

Open the Bible to Exodus 13:21-22 (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. The pillar of cloud didn't leave its place in front of the people during the day. And the pillar of fire didn't leave its place at night."

"Isn't that amazing?! The people would see this cloud leading them in the day, and they would follow it. And they would see a fire at night among them, knowing that God was with them, protecting the camp. God never left their side, leading them all the way.

"Well, as you can imagine with that many people and flocks and herds, it was SLOW going. They were not very far from Egypt when they came to rest near the Red Sea. That's when Pharaoh had an unfortunate change in his hard heart.

"Now, before we go on, I'd love it if you all helped me out. Where did we say the Israelites are right now? (*Allow for responses*) Right, the Red Sea. And, well, I'm looking out at you all and I'm thinking that you all would make a pretty nice Red Sea. Leaders, can you please help me hand out these papers? Awesome!

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25 MINUTES

Leaders help hand a length of crepe paper to each person.

“Okay, now let’s get a little direction here. Everybody hold your paper above your head with two hands and just make it gently roll like this (*demonstrate*). This can be the calm and rolling sea. Let’s all try it.

Kids all demonstrate rolling the paper with two hands.

“Okay, but what happens when the wind starts to blow and the sea starts to get a little crazy? Let go of the paper with one hand and just wave it with the other!

Kids all demonstrate waving the paper with one hand.

“Perfect! Alright let’s try this again now.

“So here were the Israelites. They were camped at the Red Sea. And the Sea was just calm and ROLLING . . .

Cue kids to roll the paper.

“But maybe every so often a strong east wind would come and stir up the waters!

Cue kids to wave the paper.

“But then it would calm down again.

Cue kids to roll the paper. Then cue them to stop.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:5a (NirV) and read.

“*The king of Egypt was told that the people had escaped. Then Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them. They said, “What have we done? We’ve let the people of Israel go!”*”

“Pharaoh all of the sudden realized that he just let all of his enslaved workers leave . . . but there was still work to be done! Pharaoh was not about to grab a shovel and start working! But he found out that they were all camped near the Red Sea, which we can imagine was nice and calm and ROLLING . . .

Cue kids to roll the paper.

“Until that east wind kicked things up again!

Cue kids to wave the paper.

“But it never really seemed to last all that long . . .

Cue kids to stop.

PRELUDE

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"Well, Pharaoh got an army together to go after the Israelites. And I mean an army: 600 of his best chariots, along with other soldiers, horsemen, and chariots! This guy meant business.

"The Israelites were terrified. OK, now I need a few Israelites to help me out here.

Calls a few volunteers up on stage to be Israelites.

"Oh, and who am I, you might ask?

Communicator walks offstage and returns with a walking staff.

"I will play the role of Moses. But, as I was saying, The Israelites were terrified.

Looking at the volunteers for a reaction until they give one. Prompt them if necessary.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:11 (NirV) and read.

"They said to Moses, "Why did you bring us to the desert to die? Weren't there any graves in Egypt? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?""

"(To volunteers) Well that was a pretty harsh thing to say to me, don't you think? After all I've done for you. Rude. (To everyone) Anyway, Moses responded."

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

"Moses answered the people. He said, "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."

"(Proud of himself) Man, that was a pretty good line if I do say so myself.

"Now that night, some of the most miraculous things happened. First, the cloud that had been moving in front of them leading the way—God's very presence—moved BEHIND the Israelites to block the Egyptians from seeing them. On the Egyptian side there was darkness, but on the Israelite side it was light. I told you this was miraculous. But that's not all!

"We still have a problem, right? There is a sea blocking the way. Even though it's a calm and ROLLING sea.

Cue kids to roll papers.

"It is too big to cross!

Communicator takes the Israelite volunteers and attempts to get through the crowd. They get spit back out onto the shore. They try several times unsuccessfully to cross at several different places. They can't get through the sea.

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"God instructed Moses to take his staff and reach out his hand over the water to divide the sea. Let's give this a try.

As Communicator reaches out his staff, a leader comes and parts an aisle in the crowd. All kids on the aisle raise their arms up high to make walls.

"It's working! I can't believe it! It's working!"

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:21 (NirV) and read

"Then Moses reached out his hand over the Red Sea. All that night the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong east wind. He turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided."

"(To volunteers) Let's go!

Communicator and volunteers begin to walk through the aisle.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:22 (NirV) and read.

"The people of Israel went through the sea on dry ground. There was a wall of water on their right side and on their left."

"Hold on a second, I have an idea. Hey, [Host's name]!"

Host enters on stage and sees what is happening.

HOST: "Woah! This is awesome! What is going on?"

Communicator opens the Bible to Exodus 14:23 (NirV) and reads.

COMMUNICATOR: *"The Egyptians chased them. All Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea."*

"(To Host) Would you mind coming through this aisle for a second?"

Host begins to walk down the aisle, mesmerized at the kids holding their hands up like walls.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:26 (NirV) and read.

"Then the Lord spoke to Moses. He said, "Reach out your hand over the sea. The waters will flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."

HOST: "Do what now?"

COMMUNICATOR: "You heard it, everybody. Flow back!"

Communicator and volunteers exit crowd while the crowd closes over on the Host.

CLIFFHANGER

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HOST: *(From the middle of the crowd)* "Did I just get Red Sea-ed? Did you just Red Sea me? I walked right into that, didn't I?"

COMMUNICATOR: "Literally."

HOST: "Alright well, I'm off to get a towel, and a change of clothes, and a snack . . ."

Host exits.

COMMUNICATOR: "You're not even wet . . . anyway! Let's thank the volunteers here for helping out. And also give yourself a big hand for being an awesome Red Sea!"

Volunteers sit.

"Look at this passage at the end.

Open the Bible to Exodus 14:29,31 (NIV) and read.

"But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. There was a wall of water on their right side and on their left . . . The Israelites saw the amazing power the Lord showed against the Egyptians. So the Israelites had great respect for the Lord and put their trust in him. They also put their trust in his servant Moses."

"Afterwards, The Israelites sang a song of celebration from the other side of the Sea, led by Moses' sister Miriam."

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

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.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, there were definitely a lot of moments in that story that felt out of control. Even handing you all a piece of paper to wave around was a bit out of control, right? But seriously, that story was intense. Backed up against the Red Sea with an army in hot pursuit, it sure didn't look good for the Israelites. They had very little control at that point. They couldn't run. They couldn't hide. They couldn't swim. They couldn't fight. But God reminded them over and over again of something important: God was always with them, a cloud by day and a fire by night. Blocking the view of the Egyptians. Parting the waters of the sea to reveal a path where there was not previously one. It was God who was in control, and God would be the One to save them. All they had to do was trust God and then take that first step.

"Have you ever been backed up against the Red Sea before? OK, of course, I don't mean the actual Red Sea, but have you ever had an obstacle that was so big, so scary, you just couldn't ever imagine a way through? Maybe there is trouble at home and you think, 'How will I ever get through this?' Or you have something happening at school, and it is scary. Maybe it feels like it is coming from all sides and there seems to be no way around. When you feel stuck or like you have no control, remember: God knows what you are facing. God can give you the strength you need to get through it. God can even rescue you from it. You can always trust God no matter what!"

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LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to small groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What feels out of control?" This could be a pretty big question for some of you. But it's important to name some of these moments to help us realize just how much God can help us. So think about it: where do you most feel stuck? What do your Red Sea moment look like? Maybe you're on the other side and could share how God came through for you in the past. You'll have a chance to talk about all of this and more with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for showing up and helping us find the grit we need to get through even the most difficult situations. Let's pray."

Dismiss students to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP