

Seashore Song

Exodus 14; 15; Psalm 106:1-12; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 287-290

ave you ever been scared or frightened and did not know what to do? That is just how the children of Israel felt at the beginning of our story. Read on to find out how their fear was transformed into joy.

he Israelites were trapped and they were afraid. Pharaoh and his army were behind them. In front of them was the Red Sea. They felt certain that they either would drown or be taken back to Egypt as slaves.

As they camped by the Red Sea, God's angel and the pillar of cloud that had been showing them the way moved behind

them. Throughout the night one side of the cloud kept Pharaoh's army in darkness. On the other side, the cloud looked like fire and gave light and warmth to the Israelites. Pharaoh's army could not get near them.

The Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. All night long, God sent a wind to blow back the sea. The wind caused the sea to divide. When it was almost morning, the Israelites walked through the sea! Walls of water stood to their right and to their left. But the ground where they walked was dry!

Pharaoh's army followed the Israelites into

the sea. But the Lord made them panic. Suddenly, their chariots would not move! "God is with the Israelites," they screamed. "Let's get away from them!" But they could not.

Again God said to Moses, "Hold your hand over the sea." He did. And the walls of water came crashing down, and all Pharaoh's army drowned.

When the Israelites saw this, they could hardly believe their eyes. They were so relieved and happy! Everyone started singing and praising God. Their song told how God saved them from Pharaoh's army. Let's "sing" it together:

"I will sing to the Lord because he is worthy of great honor.



The Message God loves and cares for us.

He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea. . . .

The enemy bragged, 'I'll chase them and catch them.' . . .

But you blew on them with your breath and covered them with the sea.

They sank like lead in the powerful water.

Are there any gods like you, Lord?

No! There are no gods like you.

You are wonderfully holy.

You are amazingly powerful.

You do great miracles. . . .

You keep your loving promise.

You lead the people you have saved.

With your strength you will guide them to your holy land. . . .

Lord, that is the place that you made for yourself to live.

Lord, that is the temple that your hands have made.

The Lord will rule forever!" (Exodus 15:1–18, ICB).

Moses' and Aaron's sister, Miriam, was so happy. She grabbed her tambourine and started dancing and singing. All the other women played their tambourines and danced and sang with her. Miriam sang:

"Sing to the Lord because he is worthy of great honor.

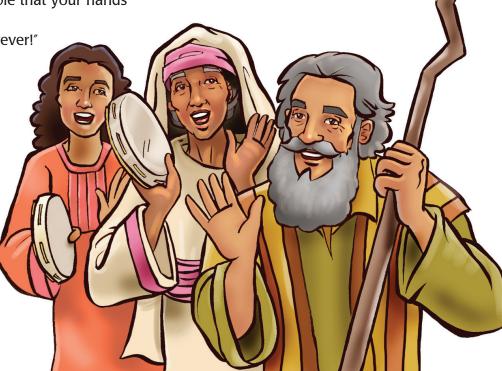


"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted" (Exodus 15:1, NIV).

He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea" (Exodus 15:21, ICB).

Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites sang about two things at the same time. They sang about being saved while crossing the Red Sea. They may have also been looking forward and singing about the future—how God will save His children and take them to heaven. We can all sing the song. We, too, can celebrate. God has helped His family through the ages. He continues to help us today.

And He will help us in the future.



If possible, go for a walk with your family by a river, lake, or sea. As you walk, see how many Bible stories you can think of that are connected with water. Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.

Imagine what it would look like if the water divided to create a path through the middle.

PRAY Thank God for water.

For family worship, take turns reading a verse at a time from Exodus 15:1-18.

Fill a shallow pan with water. Try to blow a path of "dry" land. A straw may make it easier. What happens as soon as you stop blowing?

SHARE Ask two people to tell you about an impossible situation. How did God help them?

READ Ask your family to help you find a promise of help in the Bible.

PRAY Thank God for being with you in impossible situations.

READ Look up the following texts to discover other times God did the impossible: 2 Kings 6:18; 2 Kings 20:5; Acts 12:7; Acts 28:3-5.

DO Look at a Bible map and find the Red Sea. Discover the sea nearest to your home.

PRAY Pray that God will be with all those who are traveling on water.

Make a praise instrument using an empty plastic container, paper towel tube, or other container. Put some small stones or dried beans inside to make it rattle. Tape paper over the openings. Play your new instrument as you sing a praise song at worship time.

DRAW Draw 12 big music notes on a piece of paper and write one word of the memory verse in each, including the reference. Repeat the verse, shaking your instrument with the rhythm of the words. Teach the verse to your family.

PRAY Thank God for music.

tambourine was a hand drum, made of a wooden hoop and skins. It made a tom-tom sound.



Make an obstacle course. Blindfold some members of your family and let them try it first without help; then with help.

SHAPE Talk about ways that God is our auide.

Miriam led the Israelites in songs of praise. In what other ways can we praise God?

Write a poem or song praising God for caring for your family. Read it as a prayer.

THURSDAY

During worship, read Revelation 15:2-4. Who will sing the song of Moses in the future?

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family.

DRAW Draw two pictures: one of the Israelites after they escaped from the Egyptians and one of the people on the sea of glass.

Thank God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to make it possible for us to stand on the sea of glass.

FRIDAY

Ask your family to help you act out your lesson story during worship. Read the song of Moses and Miriam in Exodus 15. Then sing your own song of praise.

Thank God for the Sabbath and for being with you everywhere you go.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the letters in the following words to find out how God helped the Israelites and how He will help you.

