

Bible Point ▶

God loves us and can do anything.

Bible Verse

“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- know that God loves them,
 - learn that God can do anything,
 - hear how God parted the Red Sea to save his people, and
 - express thanks for God’s help.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **God parts the Red Sea and saves his people.**

**Exodus
13:17–15:2**



Picture this: more than 2 million Hebrews leaving Egypt. Following a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, God’s people headed out into unknown territory toward the Promised Land.

The Israelites couldn’t see how God would lead them, but God knew what he was doing. With their backs to the sea, mountains to their sides, and Egyptians coming toward them, the Israelites must have thought the situation was hopeless.

However, God responded to the needs of his people by parting the Red Sea—leaving a path for the Israelites to cross safely and providing enough water to drown the Egyptian army.

Prayer

- Read Exodus 13:17–15:2.
- When has God provided you with a way out of an impossible situation?
- How can you share that experience with the children?
- Pray: Dear God, thank you for providing for me in all situations. Please help me show the children that you love them and can do anything. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Basket name tags made in Lesson 1	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Nice Rice —Divide a "sea" of rice and learn that God parted the sea to help his people.	Uncooked rice, large cake pan or jellyroll pan, newspaper	
	Option 2: Follow Moses —Pretend to be Moses and lead each other around the room.	Broom, blocks	
	Option 3: Chariot Rides —Pull each other on blanket "chariots."	Old blankets	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Play a thumbs-up thumbs-down game and learn that God can do anything.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the story of Moses and learn how God parted the Red Sea to save his people.	Bible, blanket from Option 3	
	Do the Bible Story —Use puppets to tell the Bible story.	Glue, craft sticks, scissors, tape	
Closing 	Double Bubble —Teach Whiskers that God can do anything!	Small towel or washcloth	
	Finger-Rhyme Fun —Learn an action rhyme, and review the Bible story.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: basket name tags made in Lesson 1

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "Who did God call to be his special helper?" and "How can you be God's special helper?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► God loves us and can do anything.**
- Hand out the basket name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class the first week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 22. You can find the directions for making the name tags on page 13.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "When do you ask for help?" and "Who helps you when you're in trouble?"

■ Option 1: Nice Rice

SUPPLIES: uncooked rice, large cake pan or jellyroll pan, newspaper

Before class, pour uncooked rice into a large cake pan or jellyroll pan. Spread newspaper on the floor under the pan.

Invite children to spread rice evenly over the bottom of the pan and run their fingers down the center to part the rice. Point out how parting the rice makes little paths. Explain that in today's Bible story, they'll hear how God parted water to make a path so Moses and the Israelites could escape. Allow children to make lots of little paths in the rice and then smooth the paths over again.

■ Option 2: Follow Moses

SUPPLIES: broom, blocks

Provide a broom to use as Moses' staff. Explain that a staff is like a walking stick. Let children take turns pretending to be Moses and using the "staff" to lead the other children around the room. Encourage "Moses" to lead the followers through an obstacle course that goes under tables, around chairs, and over blocks. Be sure everyone has a turn to be Moses. As you play, explain to children that in today's Bible story, they'll hear



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how God helped Moses lead his people away from Egypt. Mention that the Israelites found that ▶ God loves us and can do anything.



teacher tips

If weather permits and you have a helper, you may want to take the children outside for Option 2.



■ Option 3: Chariot Rides

SUPPLIES: *old blankets*

Provide several old blankets, and invite children to take turns pulling each other in pretend chariots. Have the children riding in the chariots be Soldiers and the ones pulling the chariots be Horses. Encourage children to take turns being Soldiers and Horses. Explain that in today's Bible story they'll learn how mean King Pharaoh sent soldiers to chase God's people. Explain that the soldiers drove fast chariots. Tell children that God's people were afraid when they came to the sea but that God parted the sea so his people could cross safely.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: *CD player*



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: *none*

Tell the children you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Drove pretend chariots; played Follow the Leader; made paths through rice.)

Say: **If you drove a chariot, stand up and say, "Go, horsey, go!" Then sit**

down. Pause. If you followed Moses, stand up and say, “Follow me!” Then sit down. Pause. If you made paths through rice, “walk” your fingers across the floor. Pause. You were all learning important things about today’s Bible story.

In our story today, we’ll find out that God can do anything! Let’s play a game. I’ll ask if you can do something. If you can do it, hold your thumb up. But if you can’t do it, hold your thumb down. Ready? Read the following questions, and let children give thumbs-up or thumbs-down signals.

- Can you jump to the moon?
- Can you touch your toes?
- Can you eat a tree?
- Can you put an elephant in your pocket?
- Can you tickle your tummy?
- Can you lift a mountain?

Say: We can do lots of good things, but there are some things we can’t do. Do you know what? God can do anything. God can move mountains and make the rain start and stop and even push back the sides of the sea! Isn’t that amazing? Let’s listen to our exciting Bible story and find out that **God loves us and can do anything.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” with the CD (track 3) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



Three- and four-year-olds are generally happy; however, they can be influenced by the reactions of other children. They are also sensitive to the moods and reactions of adults.



SING

I’m so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
 I’m so glad for God’s book today.
 I’m so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—
 Keep me learnin’ all about his way.

Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
 Let me hear ’bout God’s love for me.
 Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
 Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
 Let’s shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who’s holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child’s hand with the *burning bush stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing

you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the CD (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

teacher tips

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, blanket from Option 3



Spread out a blanket, and invite children to sit on the floor around the blanket and hold the edges.

Open the Bible to Exodus 13:17–15:2. Hold the Bible up, and say: **Our story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible, God's special book.** Hold up the *Bible Big Book*, opened to page 1. **Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Point to Moses. Then ask:

- **Who is this man?** (Moses.)
- **Who talked to Moses from a burning bush?** (God.)
- **What did God want Moses to do?** (Be a special helper; help God's people.)

Say: **Good for you! Now let's see what Moses did next. We can use this blanket to help tell the story. I'll read the Bible story and tell you what to do.**

Show children pages 2 and 3 of the *Bible Big Book*. Then read the story below, and lead children in using the blanket to do the story actions.

Read: **King Pharaoh was mean to God's people. He made them be slaves and work hard day and night. God's people, the Israelites, cried out to God for help. So God chose Moses to be a special helper.**

God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh was mean and wouldn't let the people go. So God sent many troubles to the Egyptian people. God sent frogs to jump all over Egypt.

Make the blanket hop up and down like a frog. Pause while children lift the blanket edges up and down.

Then God sent little flying bugs to buzz around the Egyptians' ears. But Pharaoh still said no. Shake the blanket and buzz like little bugs. Pause for children's response.

So God sent pounding hail and more bugs—jumping bugs this time. Keep bouncing the blanket and buzzing! Pause. **Then the Egyptians' animals got sick, and the Egyptian people broke out in sores.**

But God didn't let any of these bad things happen to the Israelites. They just happened to Pharaoh's people, the Egyptians. Each time a bad thing happened, Moses went to Pharaoh, and said, "Let my people go." But mean King Pharaoh just kept saying no.

Finally, all the firstborn sons in Egypt died. Have children stop shaking the blanket. **Then Pharaoh agreed to let God's people go.**

So Moses led God's people out of Egypt. They stopped to camp on the shore of the Red Sea. We can lie down on the blanket and pretend we're camping by the Red Sea. Pretend to sleep and gently snore. **Now wake up, and we'll hear the rest of the story.**

The people were glad to be free from mean King Pharaoh at last! But back in Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind. He sent his soldiers to catch God's people and bring them back to be his slaves again.

When God's people saw Pharaoh's soldiers chasing after them, they were scared. They couldn't run away because the soldiers were on one side and the sea was on the other.

"Moses," they cried out in fear, "why did you bring us here?" Let's hide under the blanket to show that God's people were afraid of the mean soldiers. Have children stand under the blanket.

But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Watch and see how God takes care of us."

Now let's hold the blanket high over our heads. Help children hold the blanket up. **Then Moses held his staff over the sea and a mighty wind began to blow. The wind blew a dry path right down the middle of the sea making big walls of water on both sides.** Let children bring the blanket slowly to the floor.

Moses and all God's people crossed the sea on a dry path. Have children walk across the blanket and then sit around the edges again. **Then Pharaoh's soldiers tried to cross the sea, so God let the walls of water come crashing down! All of Pharaoh's soldiers were washed away. Let's wave the blanket to show how God closed the sea again.** Lead children in shaking the blanket and setting it on the floor.

But God's people were safe and dry on the other side. They sang songs and thanked God for taking care of them. Stand up, and let's give God a big cheer for saving Moses and his people. Yea!

► ***God loves us and can do anything!*** Moses was God's helper, wasn't he? **Moses led the people across the Red Sea, and God saved them from the mean king.**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Say: **God loves his people and he loves us, too. That's why he sent Jesus to help us. Jesus loves us and wants to take care of us. He can do anything! He can make it rain or help us find our lost cat.**

Let's thank Jesus for taking care of us. Are you ready?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for taking care of us and for being able to do anything. We love you. In your name, amen.** Pause. **Now let's thank Jesus by giving a cheer. Ready?** Encourage the class to stand up and cheer for Jesus.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: glue, craft sticks, scissors, tape



Before class, remove the “*Palace Puppets*” poster from the Learning Lab. Cut off the bottom section of the poster. To create puppets, cut out the figures and glue a craft stick to the bottom of each figure. You'll need the Moses puppet, the Pharaoh puppet, the two Bible-Times Man puppets, and the Bible-Times Woman puppet. Place the Esther puppet and the Persian King puppet back in the Learning Lab to use in a later lesson.

Say: **Today we learned how God helped the Israelites escape from Egypt. God sent Moses to tell the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to let God's people go. After God sent a lot of plagues, or really awful things, Pharaoh let God's people leave Egypt. As they left Egypt, God split the Red Sea and let his people walk across. God is powerful! He loved the Israelites and did amazing things to help them escape from Egypt. God helps us, too. ► God loves us and can do anything!**

Show children the “*Palace Puppets*” poster and the puppets you cut out before class.

Say: **Let's use this palace and the puppets to retell our Bible story. We can pretend that this palace is Pharaoh's palace.** Show children the Pharaoh puppet and the Moses puppet. **This is Pharaoh and Moses. Hold up the other puppets. We can pretend these puppets are the Israelites.**

Use tape to hang the “*Palace Puppets*” poster on the wall at children's eye level. Let children crouch below the poster and hold up the puppets so it looks as if the puppets are standing in the palace. Encourage children to use the puppets to retell the Bible story. Make sure each child gets a chance to use the puppets.

After several minutes, gather the children in a circle.

Ask: • **What surprising things did God do to help save his people?** (He sent bugs; he split the Red Sea; he made the Egyptians sick.)

• **What wonderful things has God done for you?** (He helped me feel better when I was sick; he gave me a baby sister; he helped me learn to jump real high.)

• **How did it feel to have God help you in such a wonderful way?** (I'm glad God helped me; it helped me know God loves me; I thanked God.)

Say: **God loved the Israelites, and he helped them escape from the Egyptians. God helps us, too. ► God loves us and can do anything!**

Return the poster and puppets to the Learning Lab to use in Lesson 12.

Say: **Let's see if Whiskers knows that God can do anything.**



Closing

■ Double Bubble

SUPPLIES: *small towel or washcloth*

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



(Have children sit down and call for Whiskers. Have him come out holding a small towel or a washcloth.)

Whiskers: Bubbles, bubbles, bubbles! I love bubbles in my bath. I can slip around in the bubbly water and make lots of waves.

Teacher: Hello, Whiskers. You look so nice and clean! Did you just take a bath?

Whiskers: Yes, I did. It was a bubble bath, and the bubbles smelled like bubble gum. I blew in the water and made more bubbles, too. I wish I could have a whole sea full of bubbles!

Teacher: We heard a Bible story about a sea today, Whiskers. Children, can you tell Whiskers about the amazing thing God did in our story? *(Lead children in telling Whiskers about how God parted the Red Sea to save his people.)*

Whiskers: You mean God made a path right through the middle of all that water? Wowie, neat-o!

Teacher: That's right, Whiskers. ► *God loves us and can do anything.* He loved his people and wanted them to be safe. He made a path right through the sea so they could walk safely to the other side.

Whiskers: That's a neat story. God can do anything! I'm going to go see if my cousin Joey knows that story.

Teacher: *(Laughing)* That's a great idea, Whiskers.

Whiskers: See you later! 'Bye, everyone!

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■ Finger-Rhyme Fun

SUPPLIES: none

Gather children in a circle.

Ask: • **Who loves us and can do anything?** (God.)

Say: **We've been learning that ►God loves us and can do anything. Our Bible verse for today says: ►“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b). Moses obeyed God, and God helped him. God parted the Red Sea so Moses and the Israelites could cross safely to the other side. Let's learn a finger rhyme to remind us that God can do anything.**

Lead children in the following finger rhyme. Go slowly the first time through, and then repeat the rhyme a second time.

Moses and God's people (*hold up your thumb and wiggle your fingers*)
Stood beside the sea. (*Hold your hand in front of you.*)
“How can we get across?” (*turn your palm upward*)
They asked unhappily. (*Make a fist and wipe your eyes.*)

Then God told Moses (*hold up your thumb*)
To lift the staff in his hand. (*Hold up your hand.*)
Then the water split apart (*bring palms together and then part them*)
And made a path of dry land. (*“Walk” your fingers down your arm.*)

The people were so happy (*wiggle your fingers*)
That they began to sing (*wiggle your fingers*),
“Thank you, God, for your great love. (*Cover your heart.*)
You CAN do anything!” (*Clap your hands.*)

Say: **That was fun! God's people sang songs and prayed to say thank you to God. We can say a prayer to thank God, too. Pray: Dear God, thank you for loving the Israelites and loving us. We're glad that you can do anything! In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Rhythm 'n' Rhyme**

Have children spread out and sit on the floor. Have them practice slapping the floor and clapping their hands. Then teach them this rhyme. Do the rhyme twice and then add the slap-clap actions.

Only God could part the Red Sea (*slap, clap, slap, clap*)

And set his special people free. (*Slap, clap, slap, clap, slap.*)

God loves you, and God loves me. (*Slap, clap, slap, clap.*)

Let us thank him joyfully. (*Slap, clap, slap, clap.*)

■ **Make to Take: Parting the Sea**



Give each child a copy of the “Red Sea” handout (p. 86) that you’ve cut along the scalloped edges. Set out 3x5-inch strips of sandpaper, blue crayons or washable markers, and glue sticks. Help children fold their papers on the dotted lines so the edges of the sea fold inward. Then show each child how to glue a sandpaper “path” down the center of the sea. Let children use blue crayons or washable markers to draw waves on the folded sides of their handouts. Then show children how to fold and unfold their papers to “part” the sea. Remind children that ►God loves us and can do anything—even part a sea!

■ **Treat to Eat: Edible Chariots**

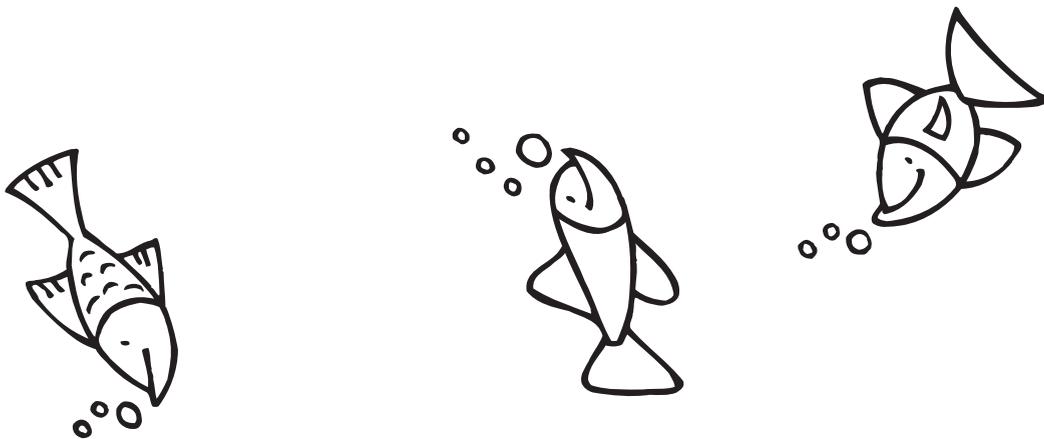
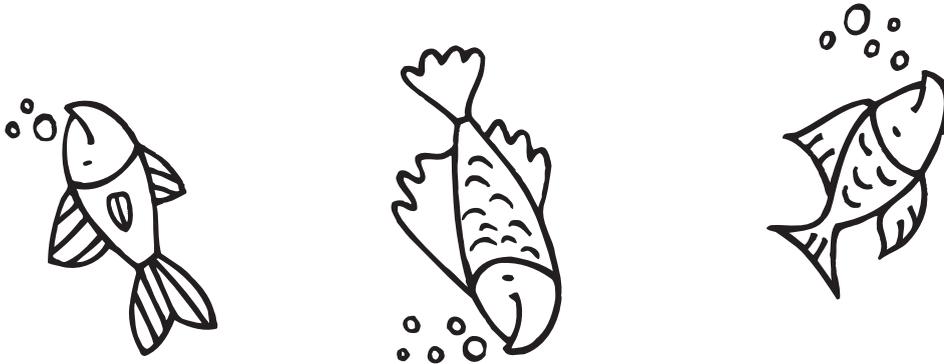
Set out graham cracker squares, cream cheese, plastic knives, and round butter cookies with holes in the centers. Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Give each child a spoonful of cream cheese on a paper plate. Show children how to make a delicious chariot by spreading a bit of cream cheese on the edges of a graham cracker square. Then show them how to place butter cookies on the cream cheese to make chariot wheels. As children prepare their treats, tell them that mean Pharaoh sent soldiers in chariots to chase God’s people. Point out that God saved his people by parting the Red Sea so they could walk safely across. Remind children that ►God loves us and can do anything.



■ **Story Picture: God Parts the Red Sea**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out blue tissue or construction paper, glue sticks, and cotton balls. Let children glue bits of torn blue paper to the sea and cotton balls to the clouds. As children work, encourage them to retell the Bible story in their own words. Remind children that God parted the Red Sea and helped the Israelites escape because ►God loves us and can do anything.

The Red Sea



Today I learned...

God loves us and can do anything.

Help me learn this:

"I obey your commandments with all my heart" (Psalm 119:69b).

Ask me:

- What is God like?
- How did God help Moses and his people escape?
- When can you ask God to help you?

Family Fun

- Make Red Sea pudding cups for dessert. Stir blue food coloring into instant vanilla pudding. Pour the pudding into cups. Let family members "part the sea" by drawing a spoon down the center of the pudding. Ask your child to tell you the story of how God parted the Red Sea.

Lesson 6
 Today your child learned that **GOD LOVES US AND CAN DO ANYTHING.** The preschoolers heard a story about how God parted the Red Sea so that Moses and the Israelites could escape Pharaoh's soldiers. They expressed their thanks to God for his love and power.

