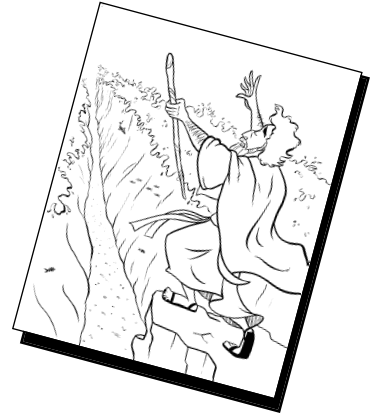




# God Parts the Red Sea

*Exodus 14–15*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will praise God for His power and deliverance.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe the Israelites' departure from Egypt.
- List the miracles God performed for Israel.
- Explain why God led the Israelites through the Red Sea.
- Define and describe Israel's worship.

## KEY VERSE

“Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.' And they did so” (Exodus 14:4).

## APPLICATION

- Submit to the awesome power of God.
- Praise God for His mighty deeds.
- Trust in God's love for His people.

## NEXT WEEK

God Preserves Israel  
Read Exodus 15:22–17:7.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

God had kept His Word that first Passover night. While there was silence among the Israelites, every Egyptian household was marked by screams of despair (Ex. 11:6). God had passed over the Israelites who had eaten the Passover meal and smeared the sacrificial blood on their doorframes. But the time for judgment had come upon Egypt and her gods. Every Egyptian family had a father, son, or brother who had been slain; even Pharaoh’s firstborn son, the heir to the throne, had been killed (Ex. 11:5). Pharaoh was quick to send a messenger to demand the quick exit of the Israelites. The Egyptians, who were afraid of more suffering, begged the Israelites to leave (Ex. 12:33). The Israelites wasted no time in leaving their 400 years of bondage, not even waiting for their bread to rise! But before long, the Egyptians wanted the Israelite slaves back, and Israel despondently wished they had never left. The situation looked bleak for Israel, but God purposely moved them into a helpless position so that they would rely on Him and rejoice in His salvation.

### God Leads His People

The Lord knew the hearts of His people perfectly. He knew that if He took them into the Promised Land by the most direct route, they would quickly face war, become terrified, and return to Egypt (Ex. 13:17). So instead of leading Israel along the heavily fortified Mediterranean coast, God led the people through the wilderness of Egypt (13:18). God’s guidance was unmistakable. His presence was before the people “by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light” (13:21). With a powerful but gracious hand, the Lord led His people through the Egyptian desert. In an unusual route, He turned the children of Israel southwest instead of northeast, the direction of the Promised Land. Although the exact locations of Pi Hahiroth, Migdol, and Baal Zephon (Ex. 14:2) are unknown today, the best estimate is that God had the people camp on the west side of the Bitter Lakes area, north of the Gulf of Suez. (The name of this body of water is often translated as the “Red Sea,” but the term can also be translated “sea of reeds.” Because Israel went directly into the Wilderness of Shur [Ex. 15:22], this sea is almost definitely not the Gulf of Suez extending from the Red Sea. The most satisfying alternative is the Bitter Lakes area.)

### Between the Sea and a Hard Heart

In Egypt, Pharaoh’s grief had turned to rage. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and Pharaoh again desired to have mastery over the Israelites (Ex. 14:4). Pharaoh regretted the loss of millions of slaves (14:5). He misinterpreted God’s unusual leading of the Israelites in the desert to be evidence of their confusion (Ex. 14:3) and decided to retrieve his lost possession. With his elite charioteers and all his army assembled, Pharaoh set off to pursue the Israelites (14:6–9).

### Additional Reference Materials

*Moses and the Gods of Egypt: Studies in Exodus*  
by John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study Bible* by John MacArthur

Although the Israelites knew that God was leading them and had set off in boldness (Ex. 14:8), their hearts quaked when they saw the approaching troops. Behind them was the sea, and in front of them were the Egyptian warriors. They cried out to the Lord, but their fear quickly turned to resentment. They regretted their salvation from Egypt and doubted God's power to save them. They said to Moses, "Better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness" (14:12).

### **"The LORD Will Fight for You"**

Moses encouraged the people not to be afraid. They simply had to "stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD" (Ex. 14:13). The Lord would fight for them. The angel of God and the pillar of cloud moved behind Israel, separating the Egyptians from them (14:19–20). At the same time, the cloud was darkness to the Egyptians, but gave light to the Israelites. The Egyptians could not attack the Israelites (14:20). Moses stretched out his rod over the sea, and the Lord caused a wind to divide the sea and dry the ground (14:21). God used a wind, but this miracle is beyond natural explanation. God's Word says that the Israelites walked "into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left" (14:22). Our imaginations cannot do justice to the wonder God performed. God, who controls all events and all nature, revealed Himself dramatically, demonstrating in a tangible way how powerful He is.

As the Lord fought for Israel that night (Ex. 14:20), Israel crossed through the sea on dry ground. God caused the pillar of cloud to move, and the Egyptians followed behind. God hardened their hearts once again in order to reveal His glory (Ex. 14:17–18). Early in the morning, God "troubled the army of the Egyptians" (14:24). The Lord made their chariots impossible to control on the sea floor, and the Egyptians began looking for a way to escape (14:25). After the Israelites had crossed through the sea, Moses again stretched out his rod, and just as the sun rose, the water returned to its normal depth (14:27). Every soldier who had followed the Israelites into the sea died (14:28). Before their demise, the Egyptians confessed that "the LORD fights for [Israel]."

### **The Song of Moses**

When the people saw "the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt,...the people feared the Lord and believed His servant Moses" (Ex. 14:31). God had intentionally led the people into the Egyptian desert and wedged them between the sea and Pharaoh. He had placed them in a situation where there was nothing they could do. The Israelites had been helpless to deliver themselves from Egypt, and they now were unable to maintain that freedom. Their dependence had to rest upon God. But they foolishly looked back to the time before their redemption as somehow better. How foolish and how quick to forget! But also, how sadly similar to believers who quickly deceive themselves into thinking that a life of ease is better than their current trials. The elect can be certain that all things work together for good to those who love God (Rom. 8:28). God taught the people to fear Him, the foundation of knowing Him. When God allows His children to endure suffocating pressures, our cry to Him can be made with confidence that the trials He sends secure our growth.

Those trials also result in His glory. After the believer sees all things working together for his good, his eyes lift from his difficulty to his Redeemer. The trial becomes an opportunity for praise as God's grace is remembered. This is exactly how Israel responded. In one of the most beautiful moments in their history, Israel was united with Moses, their leader, in glorying in the multitude of God's attributes. Their song is recorded in Exodus 15. The Lord is exalted for His strength, salvation, might, and power. They recounted how God delivered them as "the horse and its

rider He has thrown into the sea” (Ex. 15:1). The people responded to the greatness of His excellence (15:7) and recognized that He is unique among the gods of men, “glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders” (15:11). The Israelites knew that God would bring those He had purchased and plant them in the Promised Land. They looked to the present work of God as strong hope for the future.

Being squeezed by God’s trials is painful. But the Lord is faithful. He leads us where He chooses; He never is surprised or loses control; and He fights for those who belong to Him. The result is the sanctification of the saint as he learns to fear God and the glorification of God as he praises Him as He is.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What instructions did God give Moses for the Israelites to follow on their last night in Egypt?

*God told the Israelites to kill and roast a lamb, put the blood around their doors, and stay in their houses.*

What was the name of the special night when God took His people out of Egypt?

*Passover.*

What happened at midnight on the night of Passover?

*God sent the tenth plague to Egypt. All the firstborn children of the families in Egypt who did not have blood around their doors died at midnight. Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave Egypt quickly.*

Why did the Israelites eat their Passover meal with their coats on?

*They were obeying God so that they would be ready to leave Egypt quickly.*

Why did God keep the Israelites safe in their houses?

*They were His chosen people.*



### Things That Frighten

Ask the class what things make them afraid. Write down the answers, and use the list for a discussion. Look up verses to help explain what God wants us to remember when we are afraid. The following are some suggested verses: 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; 1 John 4:18; Psalm 91:4–7; Psalm 91:10–11; Proverbs 3:25–26; Isaiah 54:14; Psalm 56:11; Psalm 23:4–5; Romans 8:28, 31, 35–39; Psalm 31:24; John 14:27; Psalm 27:1, 3; Hebrews 13:6. In today’s lesson, we will learn what made the Israelites afraid and what Moses told them God would do.



1  
2

## Parting the Waters

Fill a small tub or bucket with water. Ask the students whether they think you can separate the water with your hand. Run your hand through the water and emphasize the fact that you cannot do it. Turn on an electric fan and try “separating” the water. Explain that in today’s lesson, students will learn that God separated an entire sea of water and that only God could do such a miracle.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included to use during worship time. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

## Bible Lesson

### Reading of the Text

Read portions of Exodus 14–15.

### Introduction

Last week, we learned about God’s hand of judgment being set loose on the Egyptians. All the firstborn males of the Egyptians died. The people and Pharaoh himself were finally willing to let the people go. God finally delivered Israel from the heavy hand of Pharaoh. But the Lord still had important lessons to teach Israel. This was a people who needed to learn to trust the Lord. In today’s lesson, we are going to see how God taught them an extremely important lesson about whom they should trust. Let’s look at Exodus 14 and see what God did.



### Leadoff Questions

**LOQ:** Where did God tell Moses to lead the people?

**Answer:** The Lord told Moses to change directions and go northeast. They were to camp near a place called Migdol and the sea.

**LOQ:** Why did God send them there?

**Answer:** To give Pharaoh a chance to change his mind and chase after the Israelites. Pharaoh would think that the Israelites were confused and then chase after them. God wanted to teach the Israelites to trust Him. He also wanted to show all nations that Yahweh is God. He wanted to display His great power over all the nations.

**LOQ:** What did Pharaoh do?

**Answer:** Pharaoh changed his mind and sent 600 of his best charioteers to recapture the Israelites. He did not want to lose his slaves or his pride.

**LOQ:** How did the Israelites react?

**Answer:** They were very afraid. They cried out to the Lord. Then they complained to Moses that he had led them to the wrong place. They wished they had stayed in Egypt.

**LOQ:** How should they have responded?

**Answer:** They should have prayed and remembered God's promises and the great plagues God had just sent on Egypt. God could certainly be trusted.

**LOQ:** How do we often respond when tough times come?

**Answer:** We often complain, too. We do not trust God.

**LOQ:** How did Moses respond?

**Answer:** Moses comforted the people by telling them that God would indeed protect them. They would watch God deliver them from Pharaoh's army.

**LOQ:** What did God tell Moses to do and say?

**Answer:** He told Moses and the people that He would protect them and destroy the Egyptians. He told Moses to hold his staff over the sea and that God would part it. Israel would escape, the Egyptians would be destroyed, and God would be honored.

**LOQ:** What did God want the Egyptians to know?

**Answer:** God wanted the Egyptians to know the He alone was God. He wanted to honor Himself over the Egyptians.

**LOQ:** Is it right for the Lord to honor Himself?

**Answer:** Yes, because there is no one greater. He is absolutely good, righteous, and holy. He never does anything evil. We cannot honor ourselves because we are not the greatest, best, or holiest. We are full of sin.

**LOQ:** How did the Lord protect the Israelites?

**Answer:** He placed a pillar of fire and cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptians.

**LOQ:** What did God do for the Israelites?

**Answer:** He sent the pillar of fire and cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptians. This made the Egyptians very afraid. He also made the wheels on the chariots fall off. Then Moses stretched his staff over the waters of the sea, and the waters covered the Egyptians, killing the whole army.

**LOQ:** How did the people respond?

**Answer:** The people finally feared God and believed in Him and in Moses. In Exodus 15, the people of Israel sang a song of praise to God for His awesome power.

### Summary

God led the people of Israel through an important test. He wanted them to fully put their trust in Him and Moses, His servant. This is why God directed Israel to camp next to the sea. Even though the people did not trust God, He was still faithful to His promise. Throughout Israel's history, they could look at what God did for them at the Red Sea and trust that God is good and sovereign.

## Application

We rarely face great problems like the nation of Israel faced. And we are not likely to see such great and awesome signs until Jesus returns. However, these events were real. We can believe them as if they happened yesterday. We can trust that God has the power to help us when we need it too. The Israelites are a negative example of lack of trust and submission to God. They complained as soon as there was a sign of trouble. God wants us to submit to Him and joyfully obey, even when He asks us to do difficult things.

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces to present with the lesson.



### Water to the Left and Right

Supplies: 3–4 rolls of blue cellophane, cutouts of fish and other sea creatures

Directions: Before class, cover a section of wall with wide pieces of blue cellophane, leaving a two- to three-foot gap between the pieces. Attach the fish cutouts behind the cellophane with packing tape or thumbtacks. (Variation: If a dry-erase board is available, draw several large fish on the right and left ends of the board, and then cover the drawings with blue cellophane, leaving a two- to three-foot gap in between.) When you begin your lesson, ask the students to guess what they will learn today. Explain that they will learn about a miracle by which God separated a sea of water, creating walls of water on the right and left.

## Praise and Worship

*A Shield about Me*

*Awesome God*

*Give Thanks*

*Go Down, Moses*

*Great Is the Lord*

*I Will Call upon the Lord*

*Lamb of God*

*Mighty Is Our God*

*My God Is So Great*

*Praise the Name of Jesus*

*Tell out, My Soul*

*There Is a Redeemer*

*Trust and Obey*



## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Cloud and Fire Activity Sheet

Give each student a piece of black construction paper and a piece of blue construction paper that have been glued back to back. Let the students glue cotton balls on the blue side of the paper to represent God leading the Israelites by a cloud during the day. The students can tear bits of orange and yellow “flames” and glue them on the black side to represent God leading the Israelites by a fire at night. Have the students glue copies of Exodus 13:21 to the bottom of each page.



### A Pillar of Cloud

Materials: cotton balls, construction paper, glue sticks, double-sided tape

Directions: Begin by folding a sheet of construction paper one inch from the edge lengthwise. Glue or tape cotton balls all over the rest of the paper, leaving the one-inch fold empty. Then apply glue or tape to the one inch fold, and roll and fasten the craft into a tube shape.



### Making Moses Memories

If your students are making the scrapbook discussed in the first lesson, reduce a coloring sheet to about 4 x 6 inches. Have each student color his picture, cut it out, and glue it to the next page of his scrapbook.



### “God Parts the Red Sea”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the truths of today’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of this lesson.



### Journal Page: “God Is my Helper”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheet at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

“Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12).



### Fifth Commandment

If you have decided to memorize the Ten Commandments, post the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12). Talk to the students about various ways they can honor their parents by being obedient, showing respect, and showing love, for example. Explain to the students that when they do not honor their parents, they are disobeying God and breaking one of His commands.



# God

Parts

# the Red Sea



Exodus 14–15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. God wanted Pharaoh to pursue the Israelites so He could gain \_\_\_\_\_ over Pharaoh and his army (Ex. 14:4).

2. Were the Israelites afraid when they saw the Egyptian army pursuing them? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was going to fight for the Israelites against the Egyptians? See Exodus 14:14.

Miriam

Pharaoh

the Lord

4. God helped the Israelites flee from the Egyptians by \_\_\_\_\_ the Red Sea.

5. In what ways did God fight for the Israelites?

He troubled the army of the Egyptians.

He took off the Egyptians' chariot wheels.

He caused the Red Sea to come back down on the Egyptians.

6. After the Israelites were delivered from the Egyptian army, they \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Ex. 15:1).



# GOD IS MY HELPER

“Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord” (Ex. 14:4).

How would you feel if an army were pursuing you from behind and a mighty sea stood in front of you? Helpless? God often allows His children to be in helpless situations so that they will call on Him. Then He will answer them, and they will give Him glory. That’s how it was in today’s Bible lesson. See if you can put the following actions in the correct order.

ORDER

ACTIONS

- 1. Prayed
- 2. God answers
- 3. God is glorified and praised

- The Israelites sing to God
- Fear, pray, grumble
- The Red Sea parts

What do you think the Israelites may have learned about themselves from this series of events? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think they may have learned about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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God is concerned about your troubles, too. When you are in trouble and feel helpless, call on Him. As a child of God, you can be sure that He is working all things regarding your problem together for good (Rom. 8:28).

I am having this problem: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will believe God and call on Him. (Write your prayer in the space below)

Dear Heavenly Father,

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Expect and trust the Lord to answer your prayer. He often will use His power in simple everyday situations to change your circumstances and answer your prayer, so watch for the subtle as well as the awesome.

God helped me and answered my prayer in this way:

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Write your praise to God for hearing and answering your prayer. \_\_\_\_\_

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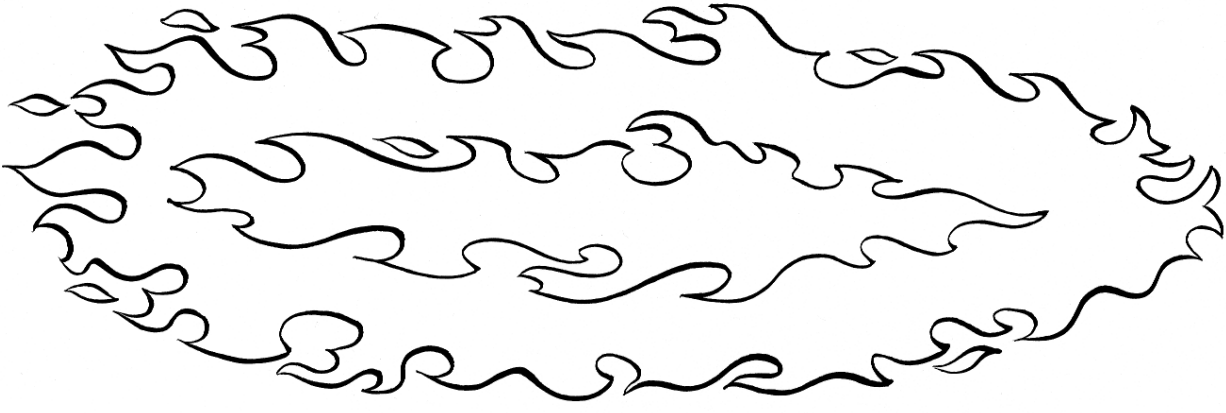
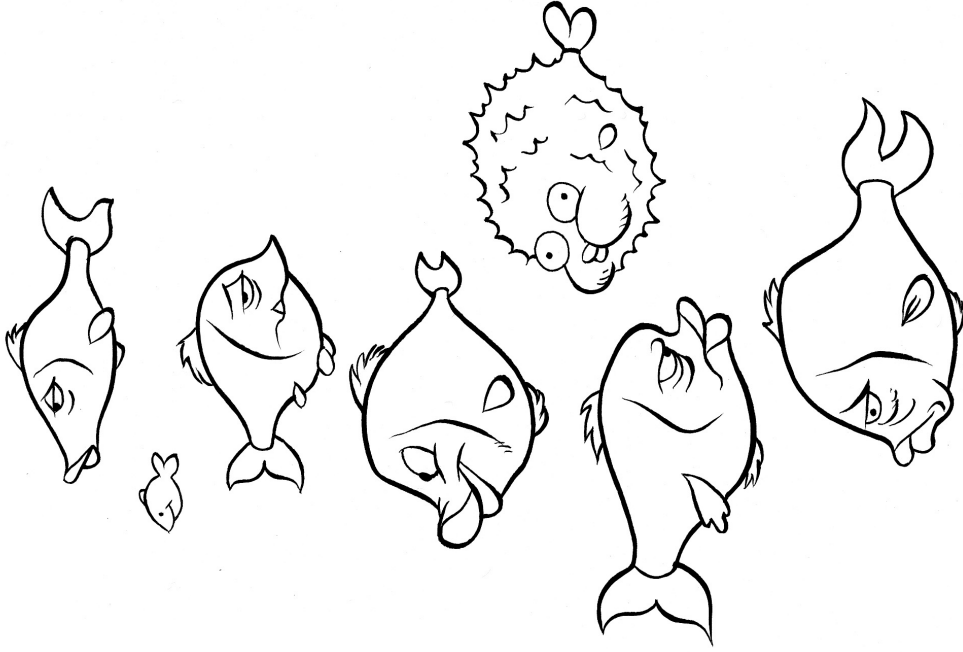
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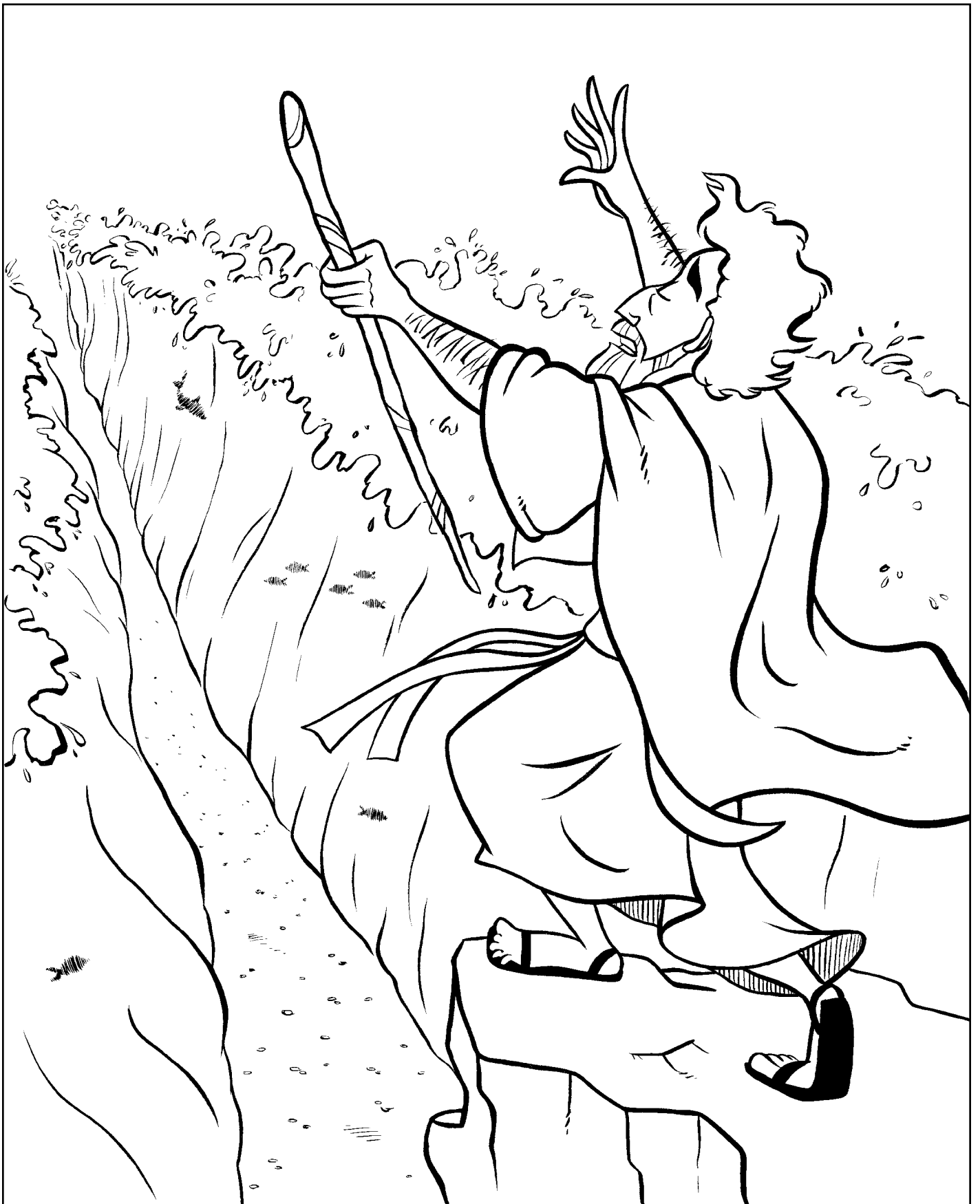
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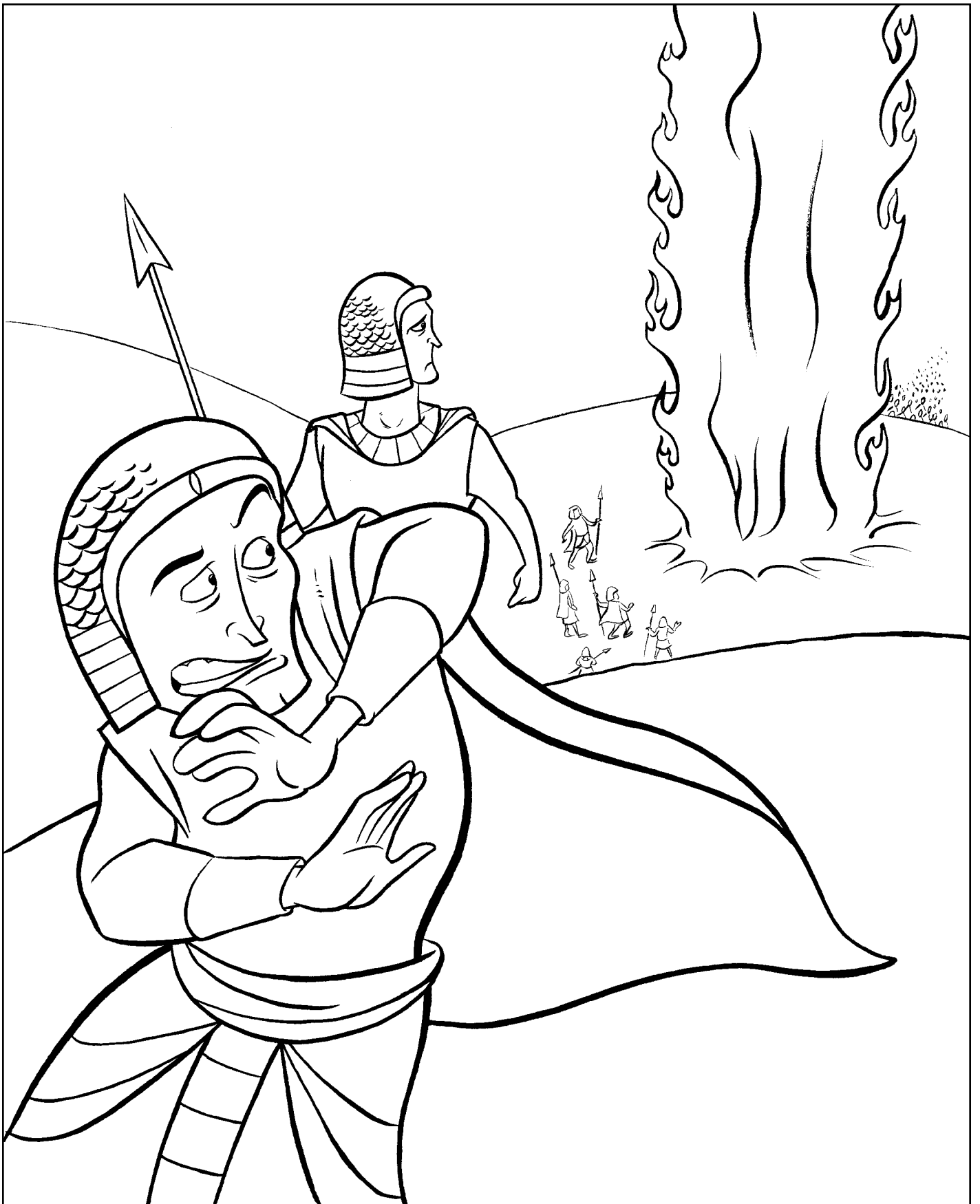






**“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided” (Exodus 14:21).**





**“Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians” (Exodus 14:24).**

