God’s Big Story: Out of Egypt

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| scripture focus |
| Exodus 1-15 (esp. 3:1-15, 13-15) |

big picture

Abraham’s family grew large and moved to Egypt to escape famine. There, they became trapped into slavery, forced to build monuments for a corrupt ruler. The story of God’s great rescue that we call the Exodus – the Passover and the crossing of the Red Sea – is central to both Jewish and Christian faith. It’s a transition from slavery to freedom, from oppression to joy. It’s a foretaste of the grand redemption of all people coming with Jesus. It shows God’s miraculous rescue of God’s people, and it tells us who we are: the redeemed people of God. God *saw* the misery of the Israelites in slavery; God *heard* their cries; and God decisively answered. The Creator God who gathered together the waters so that dry land would appear on the third day of creation works again, separating water from dry land to create a liberated people. In turn, the Israelites are given the task of both trusting God’s leading and remembering what God did, through the rhythmic yearly celebration of the Passover.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.84-99\*  (“God to the Rescue” & “God Makes a Way”)  *Psalms for Young Children:*  Psalms 28, 46, 69, 70 | Exodus 3:1-15, 13-15  Psalm 46, 70, 77\*, 105\*, 114\*  \*Psalms about the Exodus |
| discuss/ ask | What are all the ways that God rescued the Israelite people in the story?  Have you ever needed to be rescued? Who rescued you? How? How did you feel? Have you ever rescued anybody or anything? Tell the story.  How is the Passover similar to Communion, or the Lord’s Supper? What were the Israelites supposed to remember when they celebrated Passover? What do we remember when we celebrate Communion?  The Israelites got scared when they came to Red Sea and couldn’t cross it. Moses told them, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today…Just stay calm.” (Exo. 14:13-14). When makes you feel scared? What things are too big for you to be able to deal with by yourself? What helps you to stay calm and trust in God in those times? | |
| do together | Make up a ritual to remember and celebrate a time of rescue or deliverance for your family. Did somebody get well after being really sick? You found something (or someone) lost? An accident was averted? Celebrate! Play a game, eat something special, and enjoy a time of intentionally remembering how God delivered and saved you.  Listen to (and maybe sing) “[No Longer Slaves](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQqkXg-C9jo)” together | |

\*This story follows the story of Joseph (which we skipped) – so either insert the explanation of Abraham’s family moving to Egypt, or read the story of Joseph. Also, p.89 contains a dramatic retelling of the death of Pharaoh’s son. If your child is sensitive, you may want to edit this.