

# The Exodus



Understand that God guides and challenges His people. Be aware of our need to grow in faith and trust in God.

## God guides and challenges

God's great plan is to lead all people into a covenant relationship of love and trust. Before people, including ourselves, are ready to enter into a covenant with God, time and time again God will make Himself known in various ways. At times it will be easy to feel that God is with us, guiding our path, but at other times there will be challenges testing our faith and trust in Him. This is what happened to the Israelites.



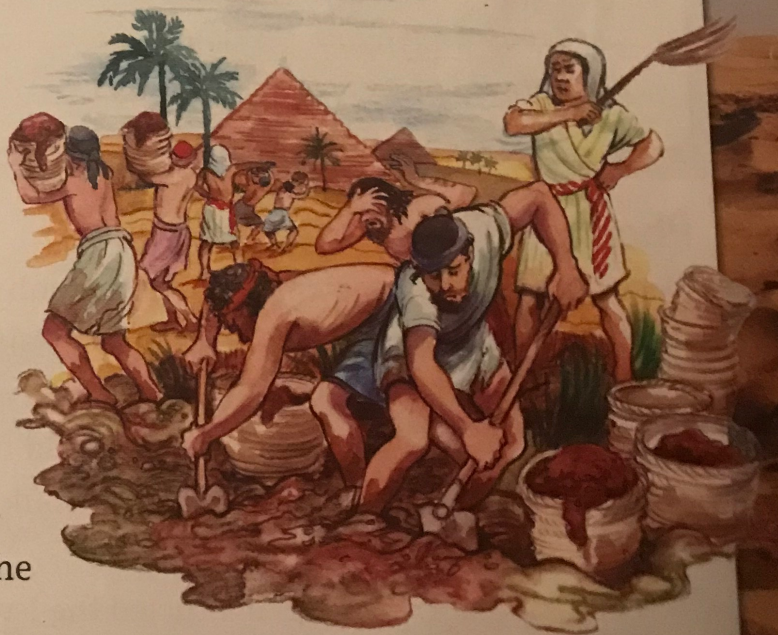
### Pause to reflect in pairs

Share a time when you felt God guided you through a difficult situation.

## The Israelites

The descendants of Abraham became known as the Israelites. They lived in Canaan (now called Israel) but when famine came, they moved to Egypt. At first, they were well treated. Later, there was a new Pharaoh who feared that the growing number of Israelites might one day rebel against him.

"Pharaoh then gave his subjects the command: 'Throw all the boys born to the Israelites into the river, but let all the girls live'" (Ex 1:22).



Use your Bible. Read Ex 2:1-10.

Briefly describe what happened to one mother's baby.

## God heard the cry of the Israelites

When Moses grew up, he left Egypt and lived in the land of Midian in Saudi Arabia.

The Egyptians made life unbearably hard and bitter for the Israelites. God heard their cry and He remembered the covenant that He had made with Abraham.

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush on Mount Horeb and said, "I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings ... I send you to Pharaoh to bring the sons of Israel, my people, out of Egypt" (Ex 3:7-10).



### Activity

Use your Bible. Record the key points of the conversation between God and Moses.

You need to include:

- the response Moses made to God's request,
- the promise God made to Moses (Ex 3:12),
- reasons why Moses doubted that he was the right person (Ex 4:10),
- how God convinced Moses (Ex 4:12-17).

## Pharaoh frees the Israelites

God, through Moses, commanded Pharaoh nine times, "Let my people go ...." Each time Pharaoh refused. So God sent nine plagues that caused destruction everywhere in Egypt. Eventually Pharaoh was given one last chance. Unless the Israelites were allowed to leave Moses told him, the eldest son of every Egyptian family, including Pharaoh's own son, would die.

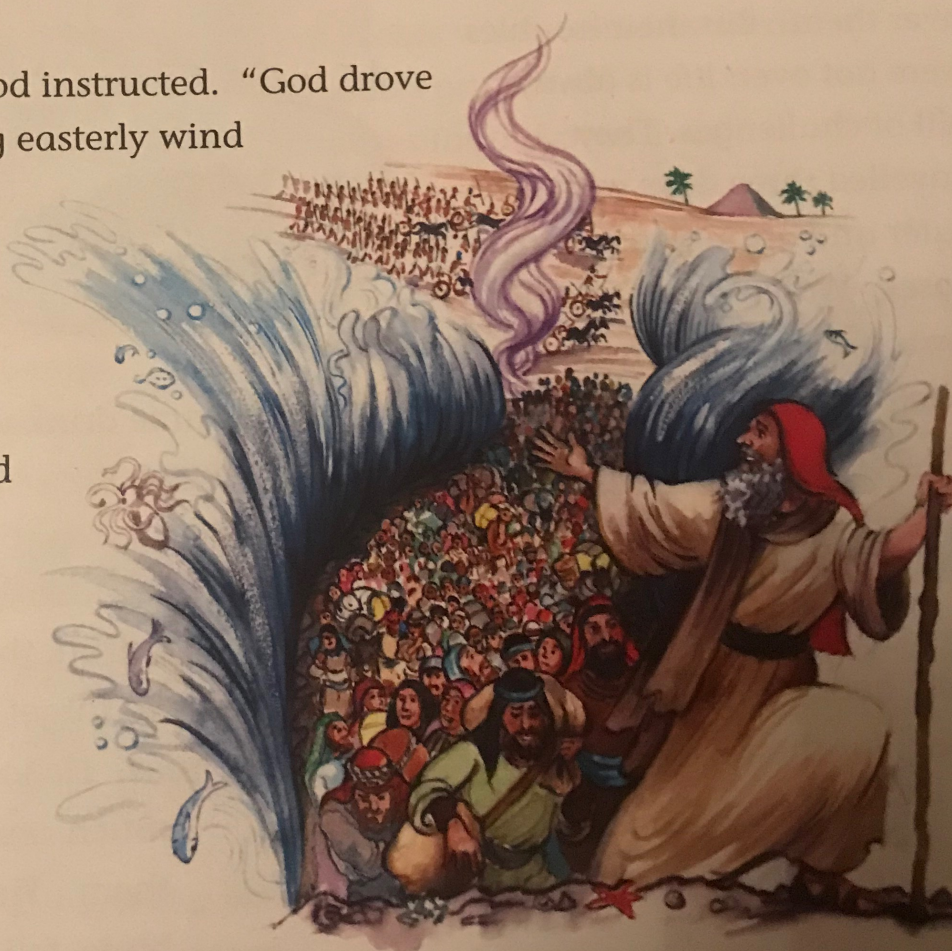


Moses instructed the Israelites to get ready. They had to cook and eat a special meal. They had to be ready for a quick getaway after the meal. They were to mark the door frames of their houses with blood from the lamb prepared for the meal. That would be a sign that these were the homes of Israelites, not Egyptians, so the angel of death would pass over them.

That night, all that Moses had told the people came true. All first-born sons of the Egyptians, including Pharaoh's son died. Pharaoh ordered the Israelites out of Egypt. God guided and protected the Israelites as they left Egypt. But once they reached the banks of the Red Sea, the people panicked. How were they going to get across? Had they come to a disastrous end?

Moses trusted in God. God said to him, "Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground" (Ex 14:15-16).

Moses lifted his staff as God instructed. "God drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night. He made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen" (Ex 14:22-24).



Think of the experiences Moses had of God's power and guidance. Imagine you are Moses, write a letter to God. Mention:

## Challenges and Blessings

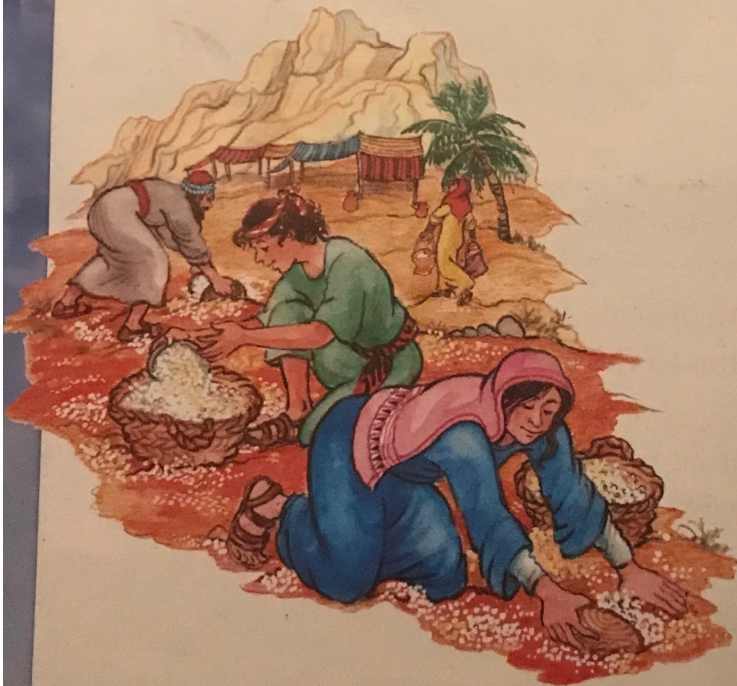
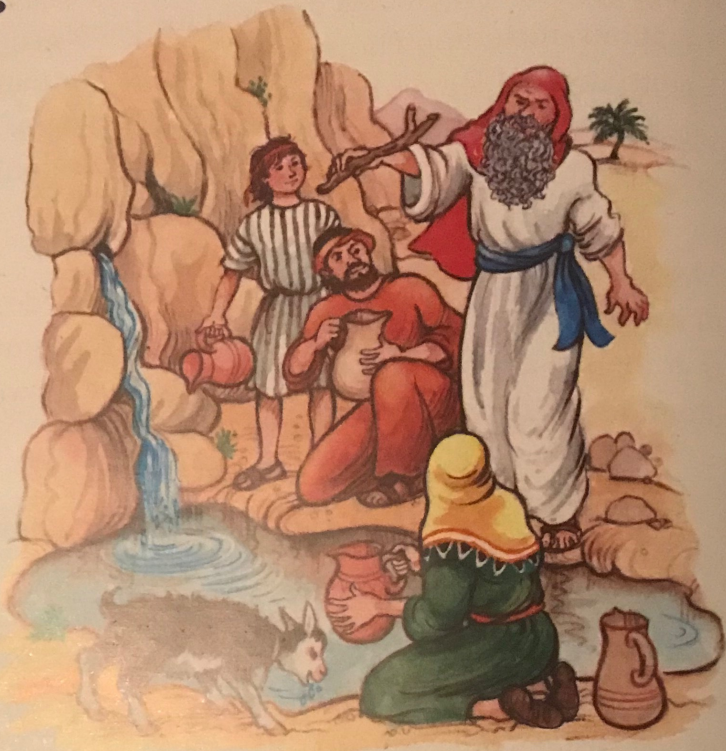
Through Moses, the Israelites had experienced God's power in freeing them from slavery in Egypt. But when their faith was tested at the Red Sea, they failed because they lost trust in God.

Moses led his people out into the desert where God watched over them. But their troubles were not over; life is always full of challenges. They travelled three days without water and grumbled against Moses. Water was found but it was bitter. Moses asked God

to help and through His power, the water became drinkable. At the next stop they made, there were twelve springs of fresh water.

Before long, the freed Israelites grumbled against Moses again. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? We had plenty to eat and drink there. We are hungry and thirsty here in the desert" (Ex 16:3). It was easy to forget the wonders God had worked for them. God was faithful to His promise. He loved His people very

much and He provided food for them. First quails, small plump birds, fell from the sky, so the people had meat to eat. Then they woke up in the morning and discovered a sweet kind of bread on the ground; this was called manna. The people collected the manna in various quantities and when they went home, they discovered they had exactly enough for their needs. Moses ordered them not to keep any for the next day but some would not



listen to him. What they kept overnight bred maggots and smelt foul (Ex 16:20). The people had to learn not to hoard things but to take only what was necessary.

On another occasion, the Israelites rebelled again because they did not have drinking water. Moses prayed and God instructed him to strike a rock with his staff. A stream of water flowed for all the people and their animals to drink.