

# Exodus

## Teaching material for 5-11's

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Call on the LORD for salvation



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# The 'material' of Sunday school



The unfolding story of the Bible is revealed progressively through 66 books. These books were written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They were written with an agenda to a real audience. **Through these books, by His Spirit, God works.** He gives new life and discipled His people.

At Sunday school our desire is to teach through books of the Bible and allow our teaching to be directed by the Biblical author. We want to make the *main point* of our teaching the main point the author is teaching. We want the *aim* of our teaching to be the aim the author had. When we think about *how* we teach, we want to use the literary style, techniques, and content the Biblical author uses. In short, **we want to teach the Biblical author's point, for the Biblical author's purpose, using the Biblical author's practice.** The more clearly this is done, the more clearly the children will have heard the living God speak to them. As we strive to do this, we pray the fruit would be thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

The team at St Helen's has worked hard studying some key books of the Bible. As we have done so we have endeavoured to write our material following the principles above.

## 5-11's material

The 5-11's material is presented as example talks. An example talk has several functions.

Firstly, it is a talk. This talk could be given verbatim, adapted, used for ideas, or ignored by the individual assigned to give the talk. For less experienced leaders they may wish to read verbatim the example talk, adding in props and visuals. For more experienced leaders they may wish to chop, change, and adapt the example talk as they see fit. For very experienced leaders they may wish to ignore the example talk and write their own, only looking at the example to see another voice on the passage.

Secondly, it is a commentary on the passage. For those not giving the talk the example helps them to understand the passage, how it can be taught, and areas of application. It will also indicate what the speaker might say so that everyone can align their group time with this.

Additionally, there is space for working. Use this to help you prepare for your group discussion and activity.

# Teaching program | Exodus

## Call on the LORD for salvation

### Introduction to Exodus

Who would you call in an emergency? The Israelites found themselves in a bit of an emergency. They were far from the promised land, oppressed under the tyrannical rule of Pharaoh, in a land of death. Who would come to their rescue?

Fortunately God had not abandoned them. He raised up Moses—a rescuer—and at the burning bush revealed to him what he would do. ‘I am the LORD; I have come to rescue.’ God is not only the creator and promise maker of Genesis, but he’s also the rescuer who would deliver his people from Egypt.

And so the rescue mission begins. Moses approaches Pharaoh to ask him to let the LORD’s people go. But Pharaoh responds ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey him?’ He’s about to find out...

The LORD lays his hand on Egypt. Water turns to blood, frogs fill the houses. The LORD sends and only the LORD can remove these plagues. Itchy gnats, buzzing flies, the death of the Egyptian livestock. The magicians conclude only God could do such wonders. Only the LORD, the creator of heaven and earth could do all this. There is no one like him. He is smashing up Egypt with these mighty plagues. He’s like a boxer hitting his opponent—thump, thump, thump. But it’s not over. A ferocious storm of lightning and hail comes next, then locusts that devour what’s left, and darkness that can be felt. There is really no one like the LORD. Last of all the death of the firstborn. The Israelites bypass this judgment through the death of the Passover lamb. Now Pharaoh let’s the people go.

To the Red Sea they walk. But Pharaoh has changed his mind; he comes, with his army, in hot pursuit. But the LORD fights for his people. The Sea is parted and the Israelites walk through on dry ground and Pharaoh’s army is destroyed. The Israelites sing praises to the LORD: ‘The LORD is a mighty warrior. The LORD is a saviour.’

But now in the wilderness the grumbling starts. At Mt Sinai the LORD enters into a special, covenantal, relationship with the Israelites. They will be his people and he will be their God, if they obey his commandments. Even more, the LORD tells Moses he’ll come and live with them and go with them to the promised land. But down in the valley something had gone horribly wrong. Instead of building a tabernacle for the LORD they build a golden calf. They’ve broken the covenant already! There’s a big falling out. The LORD burns with anger, and the people only escape total wipe-out because Moses intercedes: He reminds the LORD of his promise to bring this people into the promised land. But even so, the LORD will not live with them and go with them. Their sin would just cause him to destroy them. (It looks like the people need another rescue—a rescue from their sin.) Moses pleads with the LORD. And the LORD agrees to go with them. How will he not destroy his sinful people on the way? Because, we learn, the LORD forgives. He is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. We’re back on track. The people now construct the tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD descends in a cloud.

Who would you call in an emergency? The LORD has shown himself to be the mighty rescuer, temporally

and spiritually.

The book of Exodus shows us that the LORD is the one who rescues, and it points forward to a rescue we all need. A rescue from exile. Humanity is in exile, separated at the fall from God and the life he gives. It's the great emergency we need saving from. We need a rescue. Who will come to our aid? In the Prophets God promises a New Exodus – an Exodus out of exile. Isaiah tells us what this new Exodus will be like. The LORD himself will come to rescue his people. The LORD will sort out the problem of sin. The LORD will destroy death forever. The LORD will put his spirit inside his people. The LORD will create a whole new creation which will be good and full of happiness. The LORD will live there with his people. This new Exodus was promised by God. This is the Exodus out of exile we need.

Two thousand years ago the LORD God entered into this world as the person of Jesus. Jesus is the LORD himself who leads his people in this New Exodus out of exile. He is the one to call on for help. As Peter said to the religious leaders in Jerusalem, "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) Who will rescue you from exile? Call on the LORD Jesus for salvation.

## **Memory verse**

'The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.' Exodus 15:2a

# Teaching plan

Week/ Talk	Passage	Title	Big idea
1	1:1-2:25	Abandoned?	Know our God doesn't abandon his people.
2	3	"I am the LORD"	God tells his people who he is.
3	5-6	The stakes are raised	The LORD will show his people there is no one like him.
4	7:14-9:12	Plagues 1-6	See that there's no one like the LORD.
5	9:13-10:29	Plagues 7-9	See that there's really no one like the LORD.
6	11:1-12:31	Passover	Remember how the LORD spared his people through a Passover substitute.
7	12:31-15:21	The Exodus	Know that the LORD is a mighty saviour
8	15:22-18:27	Desert grumbings	See what the Israelites are like
9	19	The special relationship	See the special relationship the LORD rescued the Israelites for.
10	20-24	Obey!	See that the special relationship between the LORD and Israel required their obedience.
11	25:1-33:3	The tabernacle?	The LORD wants to live with his people, but his people break the covenant.
12	33:4-40:38	The tabernacle!	The LORD will live with his people because of his forgiving character and Moses' intercession.
13	Isaiah 40-66	A new exodus	Know there'll be an exodus from exile.
14	John 1	The New Exodus fulfilled	Call on the LORD Jesus to lead you out of exile.



# Abandoned?

Big Idea | Know our God doesn't abandon his people.

## Introduction

Have you ever felt like you've been forgotten? Maybe you're in the playground or the supermarket and suddenly you realise that you can't see your mum. You have that awful feeling that she might have left without you. Have you been abandoned? Have you been forgotten? You cry out "mum!" but there's no answer. That's how God's people were feeling as we begin Exodus, the book of the Bible we're looking at this term.

In the Genesis, the book before Exodus, God had made some BIG promises to his people, Israel. God promised wonderful blessings! God promised his people would grow to be a really BIG family, as many as the stars in the sky. God promised his people a beautiful land to call home. And God promised a wonderful relationship with him. He would be their God and they would be his very own special people. But as we begin the book of Exodus, God's promises don't seem to be going very well...

## Point 1. Has God abandoned his people?

[Read Exodus 1:8-14] Israel weren't in the beautiful land God had promised them. They were far away from home, stuck in slavery in Egypt. Israel weren't receiving wonderful blessings. Their life was very hard. They were treated really badly and made to work all day long. Israel weren't God's special people. They belonged to Pharaoh, they were his slaves. They had to serve him and do what he said.

Israel were growing. There were loads of them. But, this had made Pharaoh very angry. So angry that he did a terrible thing. He said [Read 1:22]. Pharaoh was undoing the one promise that God didn't seem to have forgotten! What was going on? Had God abandoned his people? Had God forgotten his promises?

## Point 2. No! God doesn't abandon his people!

No, God hadn't abandoned his people. After all this bad news, a tiny baby gives us a glimmer of hope. One Israelite mum had a baby boy, called Moses. She was very scared that angry Pharaoh would kill her baby, so she made a plan to keep him safe. Baby Moses' mum hid him in a basket in the River Nile while his sister watched over him. One day, an Egyptian princess found him while she was swimming in the river. She felt very sorry for baby Moses. The princess took Moses to her palace and raised him as her own son. God saved Moses from being killed by Pharaoh. Moses was saved!

When Moses grew up, he did some saving too. Moses struck down an Egyptian who was being nasty to an Israelite. And then, when Moses had to run away from Egypt, he saved some shepherd girls from some nasty men. Moses was saved and Moses saved! Moses is going to be a big deal in Exodus. God will use him to save his people. God hadn't forgotten his people. God was

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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was getting us ready for what he was about to do for his people. Just like baby Moses was saved from being killed by Pharaoh, God will save his people from Pharaoh. And just like Moses struck down an Egyptian and saved an Israelite, God will strike down Egypt and save his people.

## Conclusion

Listen to how our passage ends. [\[Read 2:23-25\]](#) God hadn't forgotten his people. Think back to when it's felt like you've been forgotten. Maybe you've been at the supermarket and you've realised you can't see your mum. You cry out "mum!". But then you hear her voice! "I'm here!" she says. "I heard your cry. I would never forget you! I care so much about you!" Our God hears his people's cry. He will hear us when we call out to him. He's listening, his ears are open. He will always hear us: whether we're on top of a mountain or in a deep dark cave: whether we're in the playground or in the classroom. If you cry out to God, if you speak to him in your heart or with your mouth, he will hear you. There's no where you can go where he won't get the message. He always hears his people's cry for rescue.

But even if he hears us, we might think he's not helping us. Where is God's rescue when I fall over and cry out for help? Where is God's rescue when someone's picking on me and I cry out for help? Where is God's rescue when I feel lonely and I cry out for help? We might feel like the Israelites did: they were slaves in Egypt serving Pharaoh, where was God's help? Well God had a plan, he'd not abandoned them, he was raising up Moses to save his people. And as we keep reading Exodus, we'll see how God struck down Egypt and saved his people. God has a plan to rescue us too - we'll look at this plan at the end of Exodus - he's not abandoned us, he will save us. But for now, we know that he hears our cries for help, he doesn't forget his people, or the promises he makes to them.

Let's praise him for this now.

## Pray

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Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# “I am the LORD”

Big Idea | God tells his people who he is.

## Introduction

Let me introduce myself. Hello everyone. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. years old. I'm from \_\_\_\_\_. I work as a \_\_\_\_\_. My friends would describe me as \_\_\_\_\_. I like doing \_\_\_\_\_. My favourite food is \_\_\_\_\_.

In today's story God is going to introduce himself.

## Point 1.

### “Who are you?” asks Moses

Moses, who we heard about last time, was now a grown up. He'd left Egypt, married one of the shepherd girls he'd saved, and had started a family. Moses now spent his time as a shepherd rather than an Egyptian prince! One day, as Moses was out looking after his sheep, he saw something very strange. A bush behaving oddly. It was burning, but not burning up. [\[Read Exodus 3:4-12. Two leaders could act this out using the quotes in the passage.\]](#) God had come to tell Moses some exciting news - it was rescue time! And Moses was going to be the one God will use to bring his people out of Egypt. Moses might have forgotten all about God's people stuck in Egypt but as we heard last week, God hadn't. God had remembered his promises. It was rescue time.

But before Moses packed his bags and jumped on a camel back to Egypt, he had a question. [\[Read Exodus 3:13\]](#) 'What is your name?' Moses asked. But Moses wasn't just asking God what he preferred being called by or what his favourite nickname is. No, Moses was asking 'Who are you?'

Remember, last time, we heard that God's people were stuck in slavery. They were crying out for help, but they didn't know who to cry out to. It had been a very, very long time since God had made his BIG promises and God's people had completely forgotten who their God was. So, Moses asked, 'what's your name?'. 'Who are you?' And God introduced himself. [\[Read Exodus 3:14-15\]](#)

## Point 2.

### I am a rescuer

God told Moses his name. God's name is, 'I am who I am'. (In our English Bibles this is written as 'LORD'. So when you see 'LORD' in your Bible, that's God's name, 'I am who I am'.) 'I am who I am' is a strange name to have. Why not have a normal name like 'Bob'? In the Bible, someone's name tells us what they are like. Abraham means 'father of many'. So that tells us that Abraham will have many descendants. The name Isaac means 'he laughs'. He was called this because he brought happiness to his mum. Jacob means 'he cheats'. If you were to read the story of Jacob in the Bible you would see that's exactly what he's like: he's a cheater. In the Bible, someone's name tells us what they are like. The LORD says look at me and you will see what I am like. Look at what I do and you will see what I am like. Look at who I am and you will see what I am like. Who the LORD is, is what he does. 'I am who I am'.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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Imagine that when you go to school tomorrow there's a new child in your classroom. Imagine them coming up to you and introducing themselves. 'Hi, my name is Susie, and I ride horses.' Susie has introduced herself as a horse rider. Now imagine you introducing yourself back. 'Hi Susie, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, I won't tell you what I'm like, watch me and I'll show you what I'm like. Then as Susie hears you crack a really funny joke that makes everyone laugh, she'll know that you're a joker. And as she sees you painting the most beautiful painting she'll know that you're a painter. And as she watches you climbing a tree, she'll know you're strong. You have shown her what you are like. The LORD will show us what he is like.

So what is the LORD like, what will he do? He will show us that he is a rescuer. Have a listen to what he says next. [\[Read Exodus 3:15-17\]](#) The LORD will rescue his people. As we read on in Exodus we will see the LORD rescue his people. This is who he is, he's introduced himself as a rescuer. As we see him in action, we'll know what he's like. As we see him smashing up Egypt we'll know he's powerful. As we see him bringing his people out, we'll know he's a rescuer.

## Conclusion

Today we've seen the LORD introduce himself. He's told us his name. And he's said that if you want to know who I am watch what I do and see what I'm like. As we go through the book of Exodus keep your eyes open and see what the LORD does. Have a look at what he is like. Then you will know who he is.

Maybe you already think you know what the LORD is like. Maybe you can list lots of things about him: he's big, he's powerful, he's kind. But how do you know he's big – have you seen his greatness? How do you know he's powerful – have you seen his power? How do you know he's kind – have you seen him being kind? As we read through the book of Exodus let's watch the LORD in action. Then we will know better what he is like and we will see that he really is a rescuer.

Let's ask him for help with that now.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The stakes are raised

Big Idea | The LORD will show his people there is no one like him.

## Introduction

A few years ago, a youth football team and their coach went exploring some caves in Thailand. While they were venturing deep into the caves, heavy rains came and flooded their way out. They were trapped! And so a huge rescue operation began. Special divers flew in from around the world to try and help. But before they could rescue the team, things got even worse. More heavy rain, and strong currents in the water meant that the divers couldn't get to the boys and their coach. A week went by. Imagine that, being in a cold dark cave without any food for a week. Would they make it out? The entire world was in suspense! Everyone was watching the news. Were the divers good enough to reach them in time?

Seventeen days after the football team had entered the cave the divers came to their rescue. The divers had to swim 4km, through cold, dark water. It took them 6 hours. Some parts of the dive were so narrow that they had to drag themselves through. During other parts of the dive they had to be careful not to be swept away by strong currents. But finally they reached the boys and brought them back out of the cave to safety. It was an impressive rescue. The divers were very mighty.

Last week the LORD told us he was a rescuer. He was going to rescue his people from slavery in Egypt. Would he be mighty enough?

## Point 1. Things get worse...

The LORD replies, [read Exodus 6:1, 6-8]. The LORD allowed things to get worse to show us just how mighty he is. Because the harder the rescue is, the more impressed we will be.

If the youth football team were stuck in a swimming pool, the rescue would be easy, and we wouldn't be that impressed with the divers. But because they were stuck 4km under a mountain, the rescue was hard, and so we see how mighty the divers are.

## Point 2. ... but just you wait!

The LORD replies, [read Exodus 6:1, 6-8]. The LORD allowed things to get worse to show us just how mighty he is. Because the harder the rescue is, the more impressed we will be.

If the youth football team were stuck in a swimming pool, the rescue would be easy, and we wouldn't be that impressed with the divers. But because they were stuck 4km under a mountain, the rescue was hard, and so we see how mighty the divers are.

Or think about your favourite sports person, such as \_\_\_\_ [football player] \_\_\_\_\_. If \_\_\_\_ [football player] \_\_\_\_ was to score a goal against your little sister, you wouldn't be that impressed – that's easy! But if they were to score a goal against the best goalie in the world – that's difficult – they would show themselves to be an excellent striker.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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If Pharaoh had let the Israelites go straight away it would have been too easy, and we wouldn't be able to see how mighty the LORD is and we wouldn't be that impressed. But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart so that Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go. Now the rescue is harder. Now the LORD can show off just how mighty he is. Now Pharaoh will discover who he's messing with. Now we'll be impressed when he rescues his people.

## Conclusion

Over the next few weeks, we're going to see the LORD send some nasty plagues on Egypt. The LORD could flatten Egypt in one swoop but instead he sends ten plagues before he brings his people out. Why? So that we come to know who the LORD is. He is a powerful and mighty rescuer.

So as we look at the plagues, this is what we should look out for. The LORD doesn't want us to work out exactly how he managed to do he. He doesn't want us to feel sorry for the Egyptians. The LORD wants to show us how mighty he is, so look out for his mighty hand. And as we do, we'll find out, just like Pharaoh will, just how mighty a rescuer the LORD is.

Let's ask him to help us see how mighty he is.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


1


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Plagues 1-6

Big Idea | See that there's no one like the LORD.

[This talk purposefully has a lot of Bible reading in it. We are wanting the narrative, as told by Moses, to showcase what God is like. Think through how you could engage the children in these readings: could they be dramatised by leaders or children, could pictures be used, could props be 'thrown' at the children, could a Lego set of Egypt be a visual aid?]

## Introduction

The LORD has promised to rescue his people; but so far nothing has happened, until now. This week we're going to see what our God is like as he smashes up Egypt. But before we jump into Exodus, I'd like to share with you my favourite superhero. My favourite superhero is \_\_\_\_\_. What's your favourite superhero?

\_\_\_\_\_ is a mighty and powerful superhero who's superpower is to \_\_\_\_\_. Using this superpower they can beat up their enemies and rescue the princes. [Tell a short story about how they mightily beat up an enemy.] \_\_\_\_\_ is a mighty superhero. Today we're going to see how the LORD is far mightier. So much so that no-one even comes close to being as mighty as he is. Let's have a look at the next few chapters of Exodus to see what he's like.

## Point 1. The plan

The LORD tells Moses his plan, have a listen: [read 7:2-5]. The LORD is about to show us how mighty he is. He will do this by sending plagues on Egypt. Are you ready?

## Plague 1. Blood

[Read 7:14-21]

Imagine that: drinking blood from your water bottle, having a blood bath, watering your plants with blood, washing your clothes in blood. What mighty power the LORD had to turn all the water in Egypt into blood.

## Plague 2. Frogs

[Read 8:1-7]

The magicians are able to match the LORD, but they're not able to get rid of the frogs, they just make it worse by producing more of them! Pharaoh asks Moses to take them away. Which the LORD does. The LORD sends and takes away these plagues so that they would know there is no one like him. No one else could do such mighty works.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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### Plague 3. Gnats

[Read 8:16-19]

Did you hear what the magicians said? They know that only God could do such wonders. Only the LORD has this great power.

### Plague 4. Flies

[Read 8:20-24]

Pharaoh then pleads with Moses to ask the LORD to get rid of the flies. Only the LORD can bring these mighty wonders and take them away. Only the LORD can bring judgment and take it away. But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

### Plague 5. Death of livestock

[Read 9:1-7]

The LORD lays his hand on the Egyptians, but withholds his hand from the Israelites just like with the flies, but Pharaoh's heart is still hard.

### Plague 6. Boils

[Read 9:8-12]

### Conclusion

There is no one like the LORD. You've seen his mighty power. No person, real or imaginary, no hero, real or super, can do what the LORD could do. No one is as mighty as he. Pharaoh couldn't stop him. The magicians couldn't stand their ground. Egypt is bruised and battered. But it's not over. There's more to come, next time.

For now, let's praise him for his might.

### Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Plagues 7-9

Big Idea | See that there's really no one like the LORD.

[This talk purposefully has a lot of Bible reading in it. We are wanting the narrative, as told by Moses, to showcase what God is like. Think through how you could engage the children in these readings: could they be dramatised by leaders or children, could pictures be used, could props be 'thrown' at the children, could a Lego set of Egypt be a visual aid?]

## Introduction

[Demonstrate your strength to the children: eg. lift some heavy weights, flex your muscles.]

Last time the LORD showed us his great power as he sent plagues on Egypt. It was like he was flexing his muscles, saying 'look at me, look at how powerful I am, there is no one like me, I'm the creator of all things, I send plagues, and I take them away, there is none like me.' Last time we heard about six plagues the LORD sent on Egypt. But it's not over. There's still more to come. He's really wanting us to know that there is no one like him. Let's continue to look at what happens.

## Plague 7. Hail

[Read 9:13-14] The LORD is sending these plagues so that they might know that there is no one like him. Only he is the creator of the world – it's like play-dough in his hands. They've seen him turn water into blood. They've seen him create frogs and gnats and flies. They've seen him reverse what he has made, by killing livestock and sending sickness. Now they will see his control of the skies too as he creates a storm unlike anything seen in Egypt since the beginning of time. All these things are done so that they would know there is no one like him in all the earth.

[Read 9:15-26] The LORD is flexing his muscles and smashing up Egypt: 'Look at me, look how powerful I am, there is none like me.'

## Plague 8. Locusts

[Read 10:1-2] The LORD is doing these signs so that his people down the generations would know who he is and how he deals with his enemies. That's why Moses wrote what happened down in this book: so that *you* would know who he is, so that you would know how he deals with his enemies. What a powerful God our God is. He is like a mighty warrior. There is none like him in all the earth.

[Read 10:3-7] But Pharaoh said no. [Read 10:12-15]

The LORD is flexing his muscles and smashing up Egypt: 'Look at me, look how powerful I am, there is none like me.'

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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## Plague 9. Darkness

[Read 10:21-23, 27] Creation is like play-dough in the LORD's hands. In the beginning he created light, here he takes it away. There really is no one like our God. Who with a word 'On' and a word 'Off' he can switch on and off the sun.

## Conclusion

So far we've seen the LORD send nine plagues on Egypt. The LORD is smashing Egypt up. Over and over again, blow after blow: like a boxer hitting his opponent – thump, thump, thump; or a superhero smashing his enemy – smash, smash, smash; or your dad hammering a nail into a wall; whack, whack, whack. In all these plagues the LORD has been flexing his muscles saying, 'look at me, look how powerful I am, there is none like me.' He has been showing us who he is. He is the mighty and powerful creator of the universe who destroys Egypt and spares his people. There's no one like the LORD.

Think of the mightiest, most powerful person you know. Is it your dad, or someone at school, or someone on the TV. The mightiest person I can think of is the world's strongest man. He is very mighty. He can lift cars and pull planes. But compared to the LORD, he's like a pathetic little worm. He can't do such mighty wonders – no one can. But the LORD did. Your god is the powerful, mighty LORD. He is the most mighty person you know. Whoever you see, you will never see someone as mighty as the LORD. Wherever you go, you will never find someone who is stronger than him. There is none like him in all the earth.

Think of your favourite superhero. This is my favourite superhero [picture of a superhero]. Or at least this was my favourite superhero. I used to think that \_\_\_\_\_ was amazing. They could... [describe some things they could do]. But then I realised that \_\_\_\_\_ isn't real. My favourite superhero doesn't actually exist. Someone a few years ago just made them up. Which means they're not very powerful at all – they're even less powerful than a pathetic worm. But the LORD, he really turned the waters of Egypt into blood. He really killed the Egyptian livestock. He really turned off the sun. \_\_\_\_\_ used to be my favourite superhero, but now the LORD is my favourite superhero. There is none like him in all the earth.

Let's say a prayer of praise.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Passover

Big Idea | Remember how the LORD spared his people through a Passover substitute.

[This talk purposefully has a lot of Bible reading in it. We are wanting the narrative, as told by Moses, to showcase what God is like. Think through how you could engage the children in these readings: could they be dramatised by leaders or children, could pictures be used, could props be 'thrown' at the children, could a Lego set of Egypt be a visual aid?]

## Introduction

During a fight, the final punch is often the hardest. During a fireworks display, the last firework is often the biggest. During a concert, the final song is often the loudest. During a match, the last play is often the most dramatic. And during a movie the final battle is often the greatest. The LORD has so far sent nine mighty plagues on Egypt, but he has not yet saved his people. This week he will send one more: the great finale, the knockout blow; then Pharaoh will let the LORD's people go [read 11:1].

## Point 1. Warning

Have a listen to what this final plague will be, 'Moses said to Pharaoh... [read 11:4-5a] Put your hand up if you're the oldest/firstborn Son in your family. [Read 11:5b-7] In this final plague, the LORD will go through Egypt and kill every firstborn son. But he will make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The firstborn Egyptian sons will die, but the firstborn Israelite sons will survive. How will the Israelites escape this judgment? Listen to what the Israelites were instructed to do.

## Point 2. Instruction

[Whilst the instructions are being read out you could get a leader to demonstrate what's commanded. Remember to have all the props ready beforehand.]

[Read 12:3, 5-13] How the Israelites will escape this plague is to take a lamb, kill it, eat it, and put its blood on the frame of their front door. When the LORD goes through Egypt that night to strike down the eldest sons, he will see the blood on the door frame, see that a death has already taken place, and will pass over that house.

## Point 3. Remember

Because this is how the LORD will save his people, he wants them to remember it, and to tell it to their children, who will tell it to their children. Moses told the elders of Israel, [read 12:24-27].

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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### Point 4. The 10<sup>th</sup> plague

Having done all that they were told, they went to bed and waited. [\[Read 12:29-30\]](#) This was the LORD's knockout blow. This was the final plague the LORD sent on Egypt. This was his judgment on them.

Imagine you were in Egypt that night. Imagine being woken from your sleep by the sound of screaming and crying as families wake up to find their loved one's dead in their beds. Imagine you were an Egyptian; who in your family wouldn't have woken up? Your grandad, your dad, your brother, you? Imagine you were an Israelite that night; who in your family would have been spared? Your grandad, your dad, your brother, you?

In this final plague the LORD killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians. This was his judgment on them. But in the Israelite houses, because of the death of a lamb and its blood painted on the door frames, the firstborn were spared. The LORD had judged Egypt and spared the Israelites. This last plague was the knockout blow. And Pharaoh now let the LORD's people go. [\[Read 12:31\]](#)

### Conclusion

Today we no longer keep the Passover, but we do keep something similar: the Lord's supper. This is a special meal Christians have together to remember another Passover sacrifice. A Passover sacrifice that looked very similar to what happened at the Passover in Egypt. A Passover sacrifice which spared us from the LORD's judgment on us because of our sin. We'll hear more about this other Passover sacrifice at the end of the book of Exodus; so it's worth us remembering what happened at that first pass over sacrifice, as it's a picture of one to come.

Let's praise God for judging Egypt and sparing his people.

### Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The exodus

Big Idea | Know that the LORD is a mighty saviour.

[This talk purposefully has a lot of Bible reading in it. We are wanting the narrative, as told by Moses, to showcase what God is like. Think through how you could engage the children in these readings: could they be dramatised by leaders or children, could pictures be used, could props be 'thrown' at the children, could a Lego set of Egypt be a visual aid?]

## Introduction

What is your god like? Is he big and strong, or small and weak? Does he do what he says or forget his promises? Can you trust him to rescue you from great enemies? Can you trust him to rescue you from certain death? Today we're going to see what our god is like.

## Point 1. The exit

Let's remind ourselves of the story in Exodus so far. The Israelites have been slaves in Egypt. They cried out because of their oppression and God heard their cry for help. God remembered his promises to their ancestors: that he would bring them up out of Egypt and take them to a special land where he would bless them and make them prosper. The LORD sent 9 awesome plagues on Egypt, but Pharaoh didn't let the people go; so he sent one more: he struck down all the firstborn. This final plague was the knockout blow. Pharaoh summoned Moses and said 'Go!' The Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave and gave them whatever they asked: gold and jewelry and anything else. So the Israelites left Egypt. More than a million of them with their flocks and herds. They left Egypt just as the LORD had promised. He had delivered his people, what a great god!

## Point 2. The Red Sea

When Pharaoh had let the LORD's people go, the LORD led them by the desert road towards the Red Sea. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them, by night it was a pillar of fire. The LORD told them to camp by the sea. He said to Moses, 'Pharaoh will think "The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert." And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.' Back in Egypt, when the news reached Pharaoh that the Israelites had fled, he and his officials changed their minds. They said, 'what have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!' [Read 14:6-14]

The LORD told Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea. The water would divide in two. And the Israelites would be able to walk through. The LORD said, [read 14:17-18]. Then the pillar of cloud moved behind the Israelites, between them and the Egyptians as a

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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defensive barrier. [\[Read 21-31\]](#)

### Point 3. The song

The LORD has saved his people and defeated the Egyptians. As the Israelites look down at the bodies of the Egyptians washing up on the shore they sing a song of praise to the LORD. Listen to the first verse they sung. [\[Read 15: 1-3\]](#) The LORD is a man of war. The LORD is a saviour.

### Conclusion

This is our god. Our god is a mighty warrior saviour. I used to think that our god was small and weak. But now I see that my god is a mighty warrior; he is a strong, fierce, battle-hardened fighter who throws down his enemies. I also used to think that God couldn't do anything to save me from hurt and death. But now I see that he is a god of rescue. He hears his peoples cry for help and he comes to rescue them. My god, your god, is a rescuing god. Knowing what our God is like, we can confidently cry out to him for help. In the end, he will rescue us. We'll think more about his rescue of us later this term. For now, let's praise God using the words of the song. [\[Together read 15:1-3.\]](#)

Let's praise God for being a mighty warrior saviour.

### Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Desert grumblings

Big Idea | See what the Israelites are like.

[This talk purposefully has a lot of Bible reading in it. We are wanting the narrative, as told by Moses, to showcase what God is like. Think through how you could engage the children in these readings: could they be dramatised by leaders or children, could pictures be used, could props be 'thrown' at the children, could a Lego set of Egypt be a visual aid?]

## Introduction

The LORD has rescued the Israelites from Egypt; but uh oh, there's a problem. As we look at the next part of the story try to spot what the problem is.

## Story

[Read 16:1-31. Use pictures to tell the story/dramatize it with the group/have props whilst you read.]

## Conclusion

Did you spot what the problem was? Were the Israelites good or bad in the story? [Take answers]  
What did they do that wasn't good? [Take answers]

The Israelites are a bit like Pharaoh. They grumbled against Moses. They didn't listen to the LORD. They didn't do what he said. Could it be that they have hard hearts like Pharaoh? Oh-dear. This is a very serious problem. How will the LORD rescue them from this one? We'll find out in the coming weeks.

Let's thank god for showing us what the Israelites are like.

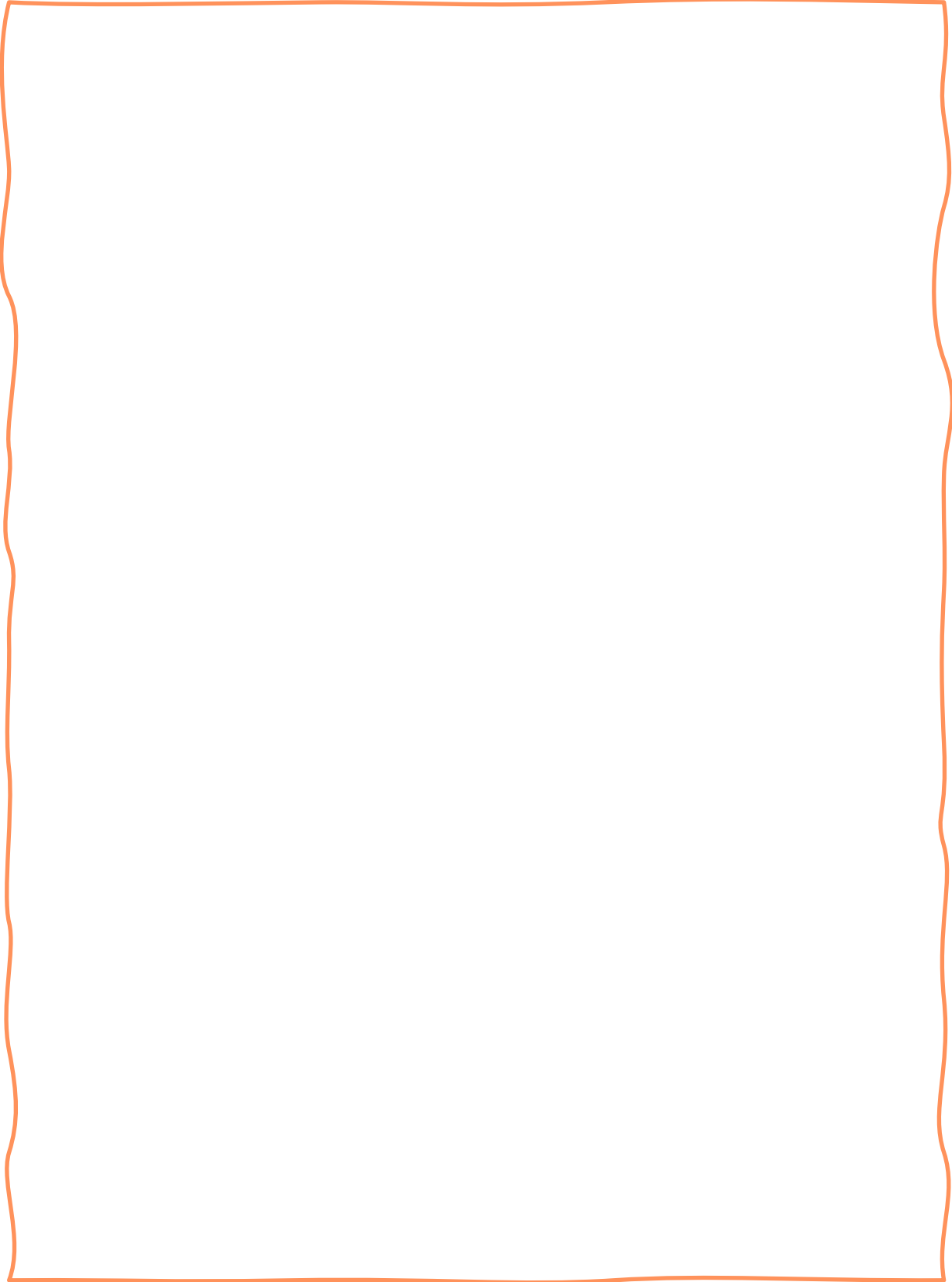
## Pray

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Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The special relationship

Big Idea | See the special relationship the LORD rescued the Israelites for.

## Introduction

Have you ever been to a wedding? Weddings are really exciting, aren't they? Whether it's a big wedding or a small wedding, whether there's crazy dancing or yummy cake or funny speeches, weddings are very special occasions. They're special because at a wedding you celebrate the start of a really special relationship. What we see in our story from Exodus today is a bit like a wedding. In our story today we see the beginning of a very special relationship between God and his people.

Remember, the LORD has rescued his people from Egypt and brought them through the desert. But before they got to the beautiful land that was promised them, the LORD brought them to a special mountain, Mt Sinai. And it's at this mountain that the LORD and his people came together into a special relationship. Just like at a wedding where the bride and groom come together into a marriage.

## Point 1. The groom

Listen to what happened when the LORD came down - when the groom arrived for the wedding. [\[Read Exodus 19:16-19\]](#) I wonder if you can imagine being an Israelite standing there at Mt Sinai. You would have heard the deafening sound of the thunder. You would have heard the trumpet blast, so loud it makes you jump. You would have seen the blazing bright lightning. You would have felt the heat of the fire and the smoke. You would have felt the trembling ground beneath your feet.

This has got to be the scariest wedding you've ever heard of! Scary because the groom is none other than the LORD God himself! How mighty and awesome he is! How holy he is! There is no one like him! It doesn't seem safe to come near.

And yet, that's what the LORD was doing. He wants to come near, to have relationship with his people. This isn't just the scariest wedding; it's got to be the most special wedding you've ever heard of! Special because the groom is the LORD God himself! How amazing that this holy, mighty god wanted to be in a special relationship with his people.

## Point 2. The bride

We've seen who the groom is, the Holy LORD God. But now we're told who the bride, his people, are to be. [\[Read Exodus 19:3-6\]](#) The LORD said Israel would be his treasured possession. They were going to belong to him! Out of all the people that the LORD had made, they would get to be his very own precious people, his personal treasure. The LORD was talking about his people like an expensive diamond he'd paid lots of money for or his favourite toy that he would never let go of!

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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He also said Israel would be a kingdom of priests. Israel used to have to serve Pharaoh, but they'd now been rescued to serve the LORD. They would live for him, showing the whole world how good it is to be part of his people. And Israel were to be a holy nation. Because their god was holy, Israel were to be like him. They were to be set apart as his, living for him and serving him. Not like all the other nations who served fake made-up gods. Wow! How special to be God's precious people! How great to belong to him!

### Point 3. The vows

At a wedding, the bride and groom say vows, special promises that they make to each other as they start their marriage. As the LORD and his people came together, they made special promises too. [Read 5a and 8] The LORD promised that out of all the people that he had made, he would make Israel his precious possession. They would be the most loved and happy people in the world. They would get all the blessings he'd promised them.

But Israel had to promise something too. The LORD said, '*if you obey me fully*'. Israel needed to promise to obey. They had to do what he said and be his kingdom of priests and his holy nation. The people said, '*We will do everything the LORD has said.*'

### Conclusion

So, at this mountain, having rescued them, the LORD and his people came together in the most special relationship. Even more special than a marriage. That's why he rescued his people from Egypt in the first place. The LORD wasn't just plucking the Israelites out of Egypt to leave them in the desert. He wasn't just a delivery service taking them from Egypt to the land he'd promised. The LORD's whole plan, what he'd promised, was to take the Israelites to be his very own special people. To be their God and have them as his people.

Our god is so mighty and holy, we shouldn't be able to come near. But amazingly, that's what our god wants to do. Our god wants to have a special relationship with you too. (It'll look slightly different to the one he had with the Israelites – we don't have to obey – but it's equally as special.)

Let's praise God for that now.

### Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Obey!

**Big Idea | See that the special relationship between the LORD and Israel required their obedience.**

## Introduction

Imagine a thug, with a big grimace on your face. When walking the streets he'd push people over, and wee on flower-beds, and throw bricks through windows. When the police told him to stop, he didn't listen. When he saw signs telling him not to litter, he threw his rubbish on the ground. He was public enemy number one. A rebel against King and country. Now imagine that the King wanted to be friends with this thug. To be friends with the King, the thug can't rebel against him anymore. He can't go around Buckingham Palace pushing princess's over, weeing in plant pots, and throwing the dogs at the butler. To be friends with the King he's got to stop rebelling. How? The King will tell him how he must behave.

Last time we heard that the LORD wanted to have a special relationship with the Israelites. If the Israelites were going to be friends with a holy god, they needed to be a holy nation. So how can the Israelites be a holy nation?

## Point 1. Laws to obey

The LORD gave the Israelites laws to obey. If they obeyed these laws, they would be a holy nation and could be friends with the LORD. Many of you will know the 10 commandments. Can you help me list them. [\[Get the children to list as many as they can and fill in any gaps.\]](#) The 10 commandments were some of the laws they must obey. The first four were about how Israel needed to love the LORD their God. The next six were about how they needed to love one another. This is what they needed to do to be in a special relationship with the LORD. The Israelites must obey all these rules. Obeying these rules would make them a holy nation. And if they were a holy nation, then they were good enough to stay friends with the LORD.

It's a bit like this: If a thug wanted to be friends with the King here are some real rules he would need to keep:

- When meeting the King you must bow.
- When talking to the King you must call him 'your Royal highness'.
- No chewing gum.
- No putting your hands in your pockets.
- If the King is sitting you must sit, and if the King is standing you must stand.
- When having breakfast, lunch, or dinner you can't start until the King's started.

Those are some of the rules a thug would need to keep to be friends with the King. The LORD gave the Israelites laws they must obey to be friends with him.

## Point 2. 'We will obey!'

[\[Read 24:3\]](#) The Israelites want to be a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, the LORDs treasured possession. They want to be friends with the LORD and have a special relationship with him, so they agree to do all that he has said.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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Imagine our thug going to meet the King. Before he sees him, his servants would give our thug a list of rules he must obey. He diligently looks through them all and makes sure he know what they are. Then having read them he agrees to keep them. He says, 'Yes, I'll keep all these rules'. In order to be friends with a holy god the Israelites agreed to keep the rules God gave them. They must obey them to be friends with him.

## Conclusion

Now you might be thinking, 'Do I need to keep all these rules too? Is this how I stay friends with God?' The answer is no. The 10 commandments were how God was going to be friends with the Israelites. And I'm fairly sure none of you are four thousand year old Israelites.

But even if you were, God doesn't relate to his people in this way anymore. You don't need to obey all these laws to be his friend. The 10 commandments were what they needed to do to be in special relationship with the LORD, they are not what we need to do to be in special relationship with the LORD.

We relate to God in a new way. We are friends with God because of Jesus, not because we keep the 10 commandments. The only law we must obey is to believe in Jesus. If we believe in Jesus, then we know God, and are friends with him, and can call God 'dad' – that's a pretty special relationship!

It's a bit like this: Imagine the King had a son. And imagine that you were best friends with his son. You played with him, talked with him, ate with him. And imagine the King says to you, 'because you are friends with my son, I will treat you like a son'. You now get to be friends with the king, more than that, you get to call him 'dad' – that's a pretty special relationship! You didn't need to obey lots of rules. You only had to be friends with his son to be friends with him. We are friends with God because we know his son Jesus.

Let's thank God that we don't have to keep the 10 commandments to be friends with him.

## Pray

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Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The tabernacle?

Big Idea | The LORD wants to live with his people, but his people break the covenant.

## Introduction

Who do you live with? [\[Take answers\]](#) It's great that we live with these people. They protect us. They play with us. They take care of us. We can talk to them, and laugh with them, and cry with them, and ask for help from them. It is great having these people live with us. Today we're going to see that the LORD wants to live with his people.

## Point 1. Dwelling

In the story so far, the Israelites have been rescued from Egypt and are now on their way to the promised land. On their way they've stopped off at Mt Sinai to meet and worship the LORD. The LORD had come down on Mt Sinai and had entered into a special relationship with his people. He would take them as his special people if they obeyed his commandments. But that wasn't all. Listen to what he said to Moses. [\[Read 25:8. Explain that the word 'sanctuary' means 'a holy place', and the word 'dwell' means 'live'\]](#) Wow! The LORD wants to live with his people. The creator of the stars and planets, the mighty warrior who defeated Pharaoh and his army, the one who heard his people cry for help and rescued them, he wants to come and live with them. If you could have anyone come and live with you, who would it be? [\[Take answers\]](#) Well imagine having the LORD live with you. Imagine waking up each morning and the creator of the universe is in the room next to you. Imagine traveling to school in the family car or on the bus and the LORD, the mighty warrior who defeated Pharaoh, is sitting beside you. Imagine the one who hears his people's cries for help helping you with your homework, or when you get stuck under the bed. As the Israelites journey to the promised land, the LORD wants to go with them and live with them. He is the God who wants to live with his people.

## Point 2. Tabernacle

So he tells Moses to make a special tent for him – a sanctuary. This special tent is called a tabernacle. The LORD will live in this tabernacle in the camp of the Israelites and travel with them to the promised land. But first, they need to have a tabernacle for the LORD to live in. Who has been camping before? What do you need to do to pitch a tent? [\[Take answers.\]](#) The LORD gave Moses very specific instructions on how to build the tabernacle, a bit like an instruction manual. Let's see what these instructions are: [\[Create an instruction manual: 1<sup>st</sup> page: shopping list, 2<sup>nd</sup> page: tabernacle blueprint/picture, 3<sup>rd</sup> page: picture of a priest.\]](#)

Step 1 – Collect materials to make the tent. Get the people to bring gold, silver, bronze, and other precious stones. We need lots of beautiful blue, purple and scarlet fabrics. We need leather; wood; oil and spices. These would be the materials which the tabernacle would be made from.

Step 2 – Build the tabernacle. Make an enormous structure made of wood covered in

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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gold with a canopy of leather and thick curtains made with beautiful, coloured fabrics. Inside, put special furniture: a golden table, a golden altar of incense and a golden lampstand. Right at the back of the tabernacle, sectioned off by a giant curtain will be the most holy place where the LORD would come and live. Make a very special golden box to go here, called an ark, and put the stone tablets of the covenant inside.

Step 3 – Make special clothes for the priests, Aaron, and his sons.

These were the instructions the LORD gave Moses. The tabernacle was the special place the LORD would live with his people as they journeyed to the promised land. The LORD gave Moses all these instructions whilst he was up the mountain. But down in the valley, something had gone horribly wrong...

### Point 3. Calf

[Read 32:1-6] What have the people done! They've abandoned the LORD. They want another god to go with them to the promised land. Instead of collecting their gold to make the tabernacle, they've made a cow! Instead of worshiping the LORD for rescuing them they're bowing down to this idol. Instead of Aaron being a priest to the LORD, he's making sacrifices to this metal statue. And the people have a festival where they commit the most appalling sin. This is awful! The people have turned their back on the LORD. They have not obeyed the rules the LORD gave them. They have broken their special relationship with him. It's as shocking as a bride running away from their husband the day after their wedding.

So, the LORD burned with anger. [Read 32:7-10] The people have ruined the special relationship they had with the LORD. And this made the LORD angry. So angry that he wants to wipe them out. Moses had to step in. He reminds the LORD of his promise to bring the Israelites to the promised land. And because the LORD can't break his promises, he doesn't destroy the people, phew! But he does send a plague on them as punishment. [Read 33:1, 3] The LORD wanted to live with his people, but he can't. They're so sinful! If the LORD moved in with his people, their terrible sin would anger him so much that he'd have to destroy them. So the LORD is going to stay at Mt Sinai.

### Conclusion

From our story today, we've heard an amazing thing and a terrible thing. The amazing thing is that the LORD wants to live with his people! That really is amazing. But the terrible thing is that their sin makes this impossible. Before the LORD could even move in, it all came crashing down. Sin ruins the special relationship. Sin means he can't live with his people.

How will this problem of sin be solved? What will it take for the LORD to live with his people? We'll have to wait for next week to find out.

### Pray

**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The tabernacle!

Big Idea | The LORD will live with his people because of his forgiving character and Moses' intercession.

## Introduction

Remember the last time you fell out with a friend. Maybe it was a friend from school. Maybe it was your brother or sister. Perhaps they said something nasty to you. Or perhaps you did something mean to them. And because of this you had fallen out: There was a bit of a scuffle. Some hurtful words were said. And now you weren't talking to each other. The one who was hurt is angry. The one who had hurt regrets what they did. Your friendship had been damaged – you'd fallen out.

Last time in Exodus we saw that the LORD and his people had fallen out. The LORD had wanted to live with his people. He wanted to go with them to the promised land. And he had instructed Moses to build a special tent for him to live in. But can you remember what they built instead? They built a golden calf – an idol. The people had broken the rules they needed to obey to be in special relationship with the LORD. And their sin had made the LORD angry. He said, 'I won't go with you! If I go with you your sin will just make me angry and I'll end up destroying you on the way'. Because of their sin, the LORD and his people had fallen out and he wasn't going to live with them anymore.

## Point 1. Moses' intercession

The people were devastated. They were sad that the LORD wasn't going to go with them. They regretted what they did. But Moses thinks he can help. He goes to the LORD and he says that even if the LORD has fallen out with the people, 'Please still go with us because you're friends with me'. [Read 33:17] Because the LORD is pleased with Moses, he will go with them. Phew, we're back on track. Thank goodness for Moses.

It's a little like this: Imagine you went on a walk with your mum and a friend. It was going to be a fantastic walk: through fields and woods, up hills and down them again. You could build a den out of branches and a dam in the stream. You could talk about Lego/football/similar with each other and play eye-spy. It was going to be a great walk. You all set off together. But not long into the journey, you see a great big muddy puddle, and you think, 'wouldn't it be funny to push your friend in it?' So you go behind him/her, and when they're approaching the puddle, you give a big heave and push them in. They fall flat on their face. Your mum looks on in horror, "What have you done!" Getting to their feet your friend in the puddle stands up. From head to toe they are covered in mud: it's in their eyes and up their nose, and the thick gloopy mud is all over their clothes. They open their mouth and scream. You thought it'd be funny, but it's not. Your friend is angry and upset. How could you do something like that? They say to your mum that they want to go home. They don't want to go with you anymore. It was going to be such a fun walk. But now your friend won't go with you. You regret what you did. Your mum sees this is a problem. So she tries to make things better, 'Please go with us, please' your mum says. 'No', your muddy friend replies, 'I'll just keep on being pushed in puddles and it'll make me really angry'. Your mum tries again, 'If you won't come with us because of my naughty son/daughter, come with us because of

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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me – I haven't pushed you into any muddy puddles.' Your muddy friend agrees. They'll still go with you, not because of you, but because of your mum.

The LORD agrees to still go with the Israelites. Not because of them, but because the LORD is pleased with Moses.

### Point 3. The LORD's name

But Moses wants to be sure. Will the LORD really let it go? How can Moses be sure that the LORD won't burn the Israelites up the next time they sin? So Moses asks, 'Show me your glory'. Basically, Moses is asking the LORD to show him what he is like. If the LORD is someone who forgives sin then it'll be ok for him to travel with a sinful people. But if the LORD doesn't forgive sin then that's going to be a recipe for disaster!

So the LORD shows Moses what he is like. Early in the morning Moses climbed up the mountain. And on the top he hid in a small crack in the rock. Then the LORD came down in a cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name. [\[Read 34:6-7\]](#) The LORD forgives sin. Even though sin makes him really angry and upset, the LORD is compassionate and gracious, and forgives wickedness, rebellion and sin. He is the God who forgives.

When I was younger I pushed my friend in a muddy puddle. They had mud in their eyes and mud up their nose and thick gloopy mud all over their clothes. They were very upset, and they were very angry. I was upset too. I was sorry for what I did. I didn't want it to ruin my friendship with them. I also didn't want them to have revenge and to push me in a muddy puddle! But how would I know my friend wouldn't do this? Well because when I said I was sorry, they said, 'I forgive you'. And they didn't punish me for my bad behaviour. Although the Israelites had sinned a great sin, the LORD is the God who forgives.

### Conclusion

The tabernacle is back on track. The LORD will go with them to the promised land and live with them. So the people get building. Step 1 – they collect the materials. Step 2 – they Build the tabernacle. Step 3 – They make the special clothes for the priests. [\[Read 40:33-35\]](#) The LORD now lived with his people and would go with them to the promised land. Hooray! He is the God who lives with his people.

Let's praise the LORD that he is the God who forgives his peoples sin and the God who lives with his people.

### Pray

**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# A new exodus

Big Idea | Know that there'll be an exodus from exile.

## Introduction

What's your biggest problem? Maybe you think it's when you fell over, or stubbed your toe, or hurt yourself this week. Maybe you think it's the bully in the playground. Maybe you feel lonely or sad. Maybe you think your biggest problem is a school test coming up. Maybe you think it's an illness you have. Or perhaps you think it's that you'll die one day.

All of those are real problems which are very hard. Today we'll be talking about a problem even greater than any of those. In fact, it's a problem which causes all of those other problems. It's my biggest problem, and your biggest problem. Your friends' biggest problem and your family's biggest problem. This is the biggest problem of everyone in the world.

## Point 1. Exile

The Bible tells us that our biggest problem is exile. Let me explain what exile is... It's a grown-up word which means to be away from God and the life he gives. Remember when God made the world. It was so good: fruit to eat, animals to pet, people to play with, and God himself would live with and love the people he had made. But you'll remember something terrible happened. The people God had made turned against him. God was angry. So God sent them away from him into exile. He sent them away from himself and the good life he gives. Now there is pain, and unkindness, and sickness. People are now slaves to sin and face the punishment of death. This is exile. We all live in exile—it's our biggest problem. We need a way back. We need a rescue.

Today we're going to see God promise a new Exodus. Like he rescued the Israelites from Egypt, he promises to rescue you from exile.

## Point 2. The new exodus promised

Hundreds of years after the Exodus the LORD spoke to many prophets. You can find these prophets in your Bibles. One of these prophets was a man called Isaiah. [\[A leader could dress up as Isaiah and read the Isaiah passages below.\]](#) Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus. Isaiah says these words which remind us of what the LORD did in the book of Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 43:16-17\]](#) Isaiah is describing how the LORD brought his people through the Red Sea and destroyed the Egyptian army. Then he tells us what the LORD says. [\[Read Isaiah 43:18-19\]](#) The LORD is saying he's doing a new thing. It's like the Exodus out of Egypt, but it'll be new. It'll be a new Exodus, a new rescue. Could this be the rescue from exile we all need? Let's have a listen/look at a few more verses from Isaiah to learn about this new Exodus. [\[Think about how you could visualise each of the below to build a picture of the New Exodus.\]](#)

- Remember how at the burning bush Moses was sent by God to deliver his people out of Egypt. Let's hear from Isaiah who will deliver us in the New Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 40:3, 43:11\]](#) In the New Exodus the LORD himself will come to rescue his people.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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- Remember how the Passover lamb was killed to save God's people from his judgment. Let's hear from Isaiah a Passover sacrifice which will save us from God's anger at our sin. [\[Read Isaiah 53:5-6\]](#) In the New Exodus a man will die as a Passover substitute for God's people.
- Remember when the Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army and the LORD saved them from death by parting the sea and destroying Pharaoh's army. Let's hear from Isaiah what the LORD will deliver us from in the New Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 25:7-8a\]](#) In the New Exodus the LORD will get rid of death so that his people will live forever.
- Remember how the Israelites entered into a special relationship with the LORD at Mt Sinai. For this relationship to work they had to obey all that the LORD commanded. But we saw that because of their sinful hearts they didn't obey. Let's hear from Isaiah the relationship of the New Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 59:21\]](#) In the new Exodus the LORD's Spirit will be inside his people – they can't be any closer than that.
- Remember how the LORD lived with his people in a special tent – the tabernacle. Let's hear from Isaiah where the LORD lives in the New Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 57:15\]](#) In the New Exodus the LORD will live on his holy mountain and his people will live with him.
- Remember how the LORD was taking his people to the promised land of Canaan. Let's hear from Isaiah about the land he will take people to in this New Exodus. [\[Read Isaiah 65:17, 19b, 21, 23b, 24, 25\]](#) In the New Exodus the LORD will create a new heaven and a new earth and bring his people into this wonderful new creation.

## Conclusion

All these things were promised by God. Wow, this New Exodus is incredible! It is truly amazing! This is the Exodus out of exile we need. This would be an Exodus back to the LORD, solving the biggest problem we have. The LORD has promised to rescue you, like he rescued the Israelites. But would this New Exodus really happen? We'll find out next time.

Let's thank God for promising an exodus out of exile.

## Pray

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Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The New Exodus fulfilled

Big Idea | Call on the Lord Jesus to lead you out of exile.

## Introduction

Today we're thinking about who you'd call in an emergency. [Have a pre-made giant phone.]

Here are some emergencies:

- Who would you call if there was a fire in your house? [Take answers: (fire brigade)]
- Who would you call if you were stuck up a mountain in a blizzard? [Take answers: (mountain rescue)]
- Who would you call if you felt really, really, poorly? [Take answers: (mum/dad/doctor)]
- This term we've been in the book of Exodus. Remember at the start how the Israelites were stuck in Egypt. Who did they call on to rescue them? [Take answers: the LORD]

In Exodus we've been seeing that the LORD is the God of rescue. He rescued the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses wrote Exodus because he wants us to know who we can call out to for help. And we need help! Last week we heard that there was a big emergency – we are in exile. Because of sin we have been separated from God and the life he gives. This is exile. And it has led to suffering, and death. Who can we call for help? [Giant phone] Who will come to our rescue?

## Point 1. The Lord Jesus leads a new Exodus

Two thousand years ago a man named John wrote a book. It was a book about a man called Jesus. John said that Jesus was the LORD God. He said that Jesus could give life. He said that Jesus had come to tabernacle (live) with his people. He said that Jesus was the Passover lamb who took away sin. He said that Jesus would give people the Holy Spirit. He described how Jesus had performed amazing miracles, showing he could bring in the New Creation. John wants us to see that Jesus is the LORD himself. Jesus is the God of rescue. He has come to do another Exodus. Like the Exodus out of Egypt, but this time it's an Exodus out of exile.

We're now going to do some call and response. When I ask a question, you respond with, 'the Lord Jesus'. Who rescues? [Children reply, 'The Lord Jesus.'] [Practice this a few times.]

[For each of the below bullet points have images/visuals which help to remind us of what happened in the Exodus story.]

- Remember when the Israelites groaned because of their slavery to Pharaoh and the LORD heard their cry. Who will hear our cry for help? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus'.]
- Remember when Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go. But the LORD sent mighty plagues to change Pharaoh's mind. Who will rescue us? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus'.]
- Remember when the firstborn sons were going to die in the final plague. But the LORD gave a way, the Passover lamb, for the Israelite sons to live. Who dies as our Passover lamb? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus'.]
- Remember when the Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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army and the LORD saved them from death by parting the sea and destroying Pharaoh's army. Who will save us from death? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus']

- Remember when the Israelites got to Mt Sinai and the LORD entered into a special relationship with them. Who can bring us to know God? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus']
- Remember when the Israelites built and worshipped a golden calf. The LORD almost destroyed them because of their bad hearts. Who now gives new hearts which worship God? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus']
- Remember when the LORD came to live with his people in a tent. Who came to earth to live with people? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus']
- The LORD safely brought the Israelites to the promised land. Who will bring us to the New creation? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus']

## Point 2.

### Call on the Lord Jesus for rescue

The Lord Jesus is the God of rescue. He came to rescue us from exile. Which means we now know who to call for help. [Giant phone] We started by thinking about who you would call in an emergency. If there was a fire, you'd call the fire brigade. If you were stuck up a mountain, you'd call mountain rescue. If you felt really, really, poorly at school you'd call your mum or dad. We heard last time that our biggest problem was exile. We are in exile, away from God and the life he gives. This is an emergency. A really, really, big emergency. So, who will we cry out to for help? Who will we call for a rescue? [Children respond, 'the Lord Jesus'] We can call on the Lord Jesus. He is the God of rescue. We can call on him to rescue us from exile.

And if you already have called out to him for help, then he is already leading you out of exile. You are in an Exodus story. You are in the New Exodus.

- God has forgiven you of your sin.
- You have a new heart which knows and loves him and call's him 'dad'.
- And you can look forward to rising from the dead, and living with God in a new world where there is no sickness or brokenness.

## Conclusion

What we've learned today is that Jesus rescues us, in a new Exodus, from exile.

Let's praise him and thank him for what he's done.

## Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

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 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Materials**

