

## Exodus 14: The Parting of the Red Sea



God wants everyone to know who He is—not just His people, but the whole world. That's why He let the Israelites camp near the Red Sea where it looked like they were trapped. Pharaoh thought he had them cornered. But God had a plan.

Back then, people didn't know the one true God. Many had been tricked by Satan into worshiping false gods. They looked at the sun and thought, "It's so powerful and beautiful! It gives us light and warmth!" So they made up a sun god and gave it offerings, hoping it would bring sunshine. They didn't realize that the true God made the sun—and He alone deserves our worship.

When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army coming, they got scared. They didn't understand what God was doing, and they forgot how He had rescued them before. They thought God had brought them out of Egypt just to let them die. They didn't trust that He loved them and would protect them.

But even though they doubted, God was faithful. He told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea—and God parted the Red Sea. The people walked across on dry ground! When Pharaoh's army chased after them, the water crashed down and wiped them out. God saved His people.

When they saw what God had done, the Israelites finally understood: God is powerful. God is faithful. God is real. They sang songs of praise and celebrated!

## Big Truths to Remember

- God wants people to know Him.
- Satan tries to trick people into worshiping things that aren't God.
- Sometimes we forget what God has done—but He is always faithful.
- God can make a way even when things look impossible.

## Activity: "God Made a Way" Story Map

Have kids draw a 4-part comic strip or use boxes with labels:

1. The Problem – Israelites are trapped at the sea. Pharaoh's army is coming!
2. The Fear – The people panic and forget God's help.
3. The Miracle – God parts the sea and rescues them.
4. The Celebration – The people rejoice and sing to God.

Then, ask:

- When have you felt stuck or scared like the Israelites?
- Can you remember a time God helped you?
- What does this story teach you about trusting God even when you don't understand?

# Bitter Water Made Sweet

Exodus 15:22–27 | Ages 10–13

After God parted the Red Sea and saved the Israelites from the Egyptians, the people were full of joy! They sang songs of victory and praised God. But just three days later, as they traveled through the hot desert, they had no water. Finally, they came to a place called Marah—but the water there was bitter and undrinkable.

Instead of praying and trusting God, the people began to complain to Moses. “What are we supposed to drink?” they demanded. But Moses didn’t join in their complaining. He prayed and cried out to God for help.

God showed Moses a piece of wood and told him to throw it into the water. When Moses obeyed, the water turned sweet! Everyone could drink.

After this miracle, God reminded the people that He is holy. He gave them instructions to follow—rules that would help them stay healthy and strong. God told them, “If you listen carefully to Me and do what is right, I won’t let you suffer the diseases the Egyptians had. I am the Lord who heals you.”

God was teaching them to trust Him—not just when things were easy, but even when they were thirsty, tired, and unsure. He wanted them to learn to pray, not complain.

## Activity: Trust Test Jar

Supplies:

- A clear jar or cup
- Water
- Lemon juice or vinegar
- Spoon
- A small paper sign that says “Trust God”
- Sugar (or a sweetener)

## Instructions:

1. Fill the jar with water and add some lemon juice or vinegar to make it bitter.
2. Ask the kids to taste it (just a tiny bit!) and describe the flavor.

3. Talk about how the Israelites felt at Marah—tired, frustrated, and bitter.
4. Add sugar (representing obedience and trust in God) and stir.
5. Let them taste it again. What changed?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why do you think God let the people come to bitter water?
- What should the Israelites have done instead of complaining?
- How can we “sweeten” our hearts when we face tough situations?

**Memory Verse:**

- “I am the Lord, who heals you.” – Exodus 15:26 (NIV)