

## Follow God - Older Elementary

Exodus 13:17-22

January 12, 2025

### Grow in Faith (Info for teachers)

*This Bible story, happening just after the people leave captivity in Egypt, sheds light on God's ongoing protection of the Israelites. God knows the people have been through difficult times and have a long journey ahead of them. Although the way God leads the people is not the most direct path, it is a path of protection and continues to demonstrate God's care for His people. The Israelites travel together, seeking safety and a new land, and God goes with them. You could say God's people are seeking God and God is also seeking them. This leads to a true discovery of connected faith.*

### Come Together

#### Prepare to Learn

#### Faith Focus – We Discover God Together

*Supplies – Posters (class pack 12&13, 6&19)*

**Ask:** Have you ever felt lost? What did you do? How did you find your way back? Have you ever felt afraid?

**Say:** Sometimes we feel lost or unsure what to do. God helps us through those times – if we ask for that help and trust Him to help us. Today we're going to learn about a special time when God led people to the Promised Land using clouds and lightening/fire.

Use this activity as an opening for the lesson.

**Supplies:** balloons, metal forks

**Say:** Have you ever created your own lightning? We are not going to do anything drastic today to do that but we can make something that looks like lightning but by creating static electricity.

- Give each child a balloon to blow up. Help children tie the balloons. Encourage older children to help the younger children.
- Have each child rub the balloons on their own hair.
- Shut off the lights in the room.
- Have the children hold up a fork to the balloon and watch for sparks.

Let's pray, then hear our story.

#### Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for being with us when we are afraid or lost. Help us to seek you out in times of trouble and during our everyday lives. Help us to pay attention to how you are leading us for your glory. Amen.

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### Open the Bible

**Ask:** Our story today is from the Book of Exodus. Who knows which part of the Bible that book is in? (Old Testament). Pop quiz – What are the first 5 books of the OT? (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). What do you know about Moses? (Let the kids tell you what they know and summarize a little about who Moses was (raised by pharaoh's daughter, prophet, plagues, etc.).

### Read Exodus 13:17-22

### In person will watch Big Faith DVD

**Ask:** How do you think the Israelites felt in this story?

**Say:** The Israelites traveled as a group to escape slavery in Egypt. They were not sure where to go or how to navigate the desert. They were afraid. Everyone had to work together and trust God. God led the people in some amazing ways.

**Ask:** How do we know when God is leading us today?

### Faith Response

*The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.*

#### 1. Pillar of Fire Light – Craft

Kids remember God leading the Israelites to safety and being ready to lead us.

#### **Supplies:**

- Red and Yellow flame shapes
- scissors
- double sided tape
- white piece of paper to cover flames
- tea light

#### **Instructions:**

1. **Say:** The Israelites traveled by the day or the night while they were escaping Egypt. The pillar of cloud was always with them during the day and the pillar of fire was always with them at night. God was always leading them and present with them so they wouldn't be afraid.
2. Stick the flames shape around the base of the tea light overlapping them so the tea light is completely covered.
3. Put some double-sided sticky tape or glue on top of the flames around the base.
4. Add the rectangle of white paper to make a pillar over the top of the flames. When you turn on the light the flames will be reflected through the white paper.
5. Take the pillar of fire and light it up. Place it somewhere where you can see it.

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6. **Say:** Take the pillar of fire and light it up. Place it somewhere where you can see it, perhaps by your bed. See how the light makes the flames stand out when the tea light is lit. Just as the Israelites knew that God was with them in the fire and the cloud. God is always with us to guide us and protect us. Spend some time quietly looking at your pillar of fire and talk to God.

### **Share Your Faith**

**Supplies:** Poster (8&17), sticky notes, pencils

**Say:** Our community can help us understand God's movement today. The more we get to know God through Scripture, prayer and our experience, the more we can follow where God leads. We can listen to the experiences of other people too!

*Give each child a sticky note and something to write with.*

*Invite each child to write on the note the name of a person that she or he would like to ask about their experience of God the person could be someone from the Bible, a historical figure, or someone in our church. Write these on the sticky notes and place them on the poster.)*

**Say:** When we go with our community, we can feel stronger and more hopeful. When you need help, you can also ask someone to help you.

In person – Take Home page