

Go with God

God rescues the Israelites from the Egyptian army (which is chasing them) by miraculously parting the waters of the Red Sea.

After the last plague, Pharaoh told Moses and the Israelites to go. So they left quickly. Their Egyptian masters gave them clothes and gold, some even went with them because they feared God. The Israelites took their families and animals and went east into the desert, led by an angel of God.

But then Pharaoh changed his mind. Why should he let all his slaves go? So he sent his army chasing after them.

It seemed as though the Israelites were trapped. In front of them was an impassable body of water: the Red Sea. Behind them was the Egyptian army, ready to destroy them. As night fell, they must have feared they might die, but God protected them, placing both an angel and a pillar of cloud ☼ between them and the Egyptians.

While the Israelites were shielded from their enemies, Moses stretched his hand over the sea and God divided the waters in two with a strong easterly wind. The waters stood up on either side like walls, leaving a path through the sea and the Israelites began to walk along it. Of course, the Egyptians, in their war chariots ☼, followed after them.

As morning approached, God caused the Egyptians to panic. Their chariot wheels got stuck in the mud and they said, 'God is on the side of the Israelites. We can't win! Let's turn and run while we can.'

But the Egyptians were too late. God said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea again, and the water will cover the Egyptians and all of their war chariots.' Moses did what God commanded and the sea returned to its normal depth, swallowing up the entire Egyptian army. The people of Israel continued to the other side, walking on dry land.

God had rescued the Israelites. They had escaped from an impossible situation. The people believed in God and trusted in Moses, God's chosen servant.



See session outline on p.14

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the ✦ to share these points with the children.

- ✦ During their years of wandering in the desert, God's presence was with the Israelites in the form of a cloud and a fiery pillar.
- ✦ War chariots were two-wheeled, horse-drawn vehicles, which allowed soldiers to shoot arrows or hurl spears while moving. They were symbols of military power, like modern-day tanks.