

An Exodus Celebration of God's Power and Love

Materials and Preparation

For this activity, you will need a large space where noise will not disturb others. A gym or grassy playing field would be ideal. You will also need tambourines, cymbals, and other rhythm instruments. If you don't have or cannot borrow rhythm instruments, the children can each make a tambourine by punching holes around one half side of a Styrofoam plate and attaching bells with wire or string.

Activity Directions

1. **Ask** the children what meal Jesus ate with his friends the night before he died. (*the Last Supper*) What feast were they celebrating? (*the Jewish feast of Passover*)
2. **Give** a short narrative of the Exodus story in your own words. Include these points:
 - The Jewish people celebrate Passover to remember and thank God for saving their ancestors from slavery and death when they fled Egypt long ago. This is also called the Exodus. The word *exodus* means "departure" or "going out," and we call this event the Exodus because Moses led the people out of Egypt.
 - At first the ruler of Egypt said the Jewish people could go. Then he changed his mind. He didn't want to let God's people go free. He sent his soldiers to stop them and bring them back.
 - God helped his people escape. He made a path for the people right through the middle of the Red Sea. The water stood up like a wall on both sides and the people walked through safely.
 - When God's people were all across, the water crashed back down. The soldiers who were chasing them were all drowned in the sea. God's people were saved.
 - Moses' sister Miriam led the joyful people in singing and dancing, rejoicing and praising God.
3. **Teach** the children the following rhyme:

God said his people should be free
So Moses led the people right out to the sea.
The water opened up to let them pass
And drowned Pharaoh's army with a mighty crash.



4. **Choose** one child to be Moses, and then arrange the other children into three groups: God's people, Egyptian soldiers, and water. Choose one child from God's people to be Miriam.
5. **Explain** to the children they are going to recreate the Exodus story. Remind them that this should be a fun activity. It is important that they are gentle in their actions. Describe, in advance, the following actions. Then lead the children in the role-play and rhyme activity.
 - The water stands as two rows close together.
 - Moses leads God's people toward the water. The soldiers are in pursuit.
 - When the people arrive, the water parts to make a path in the middle.
 - Moses leads God's people through the water.
 - When the Egyptian soldiers are in the middle of the water, the water closes in and covers them.
 - Then Miriam begins the celebration. Holding up her tambourine, she shouts: "God has saved his people. Praise to our God forever!"
6. **Encourage** everyone to join in the celebration. If possible, play some Middle Eastern instrumental music to back up the tambourines and to provide a beat for the children to dance to.
7. **Allow** the children to take turns with the different parts if there is time.

