

The Exodus

Exodus 11:1–15:21

God was with the People as they “went out” (the literal meaning of the word *exodus*) from slavery into freedom through water. The People of God look back to this time to sustain them when God is hidden and they feel lost. For the Jews, especially, the Feast of Passover keeps alive this core event. For Christians, Baptism reawakens this event.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustrations on the back page and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today’s Godly Play presentation. Invite your child to respond to the drawings. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today’s story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or

her own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today’s presentation offered below. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

The Presentation

When the People of God came into the land of Egypt, they found food and work, but the Pharaoh trapped them. They could not go home again. They had to do everything the Pharaoh said. They were slaves.

One of the people, whose name was Moses, came to the Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go.” The Pharaoh said, “No.”

Moses went back many times to tell the Pharaoh to let his people go, but the Pharaoh always said, “No.”

Then something terrible happened. The oldest boy in each Egyptian family, even in the family of the Pharaoh, died. The oldest boys in the families of the People of God did not die, because the people made a mark on the doors of their houses, and the Angel of Death passed over them.

When Moses went back this time and said, “Let my people go,” the Pharaoh said, “Yes.”

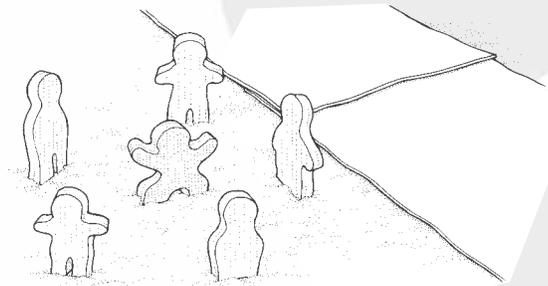
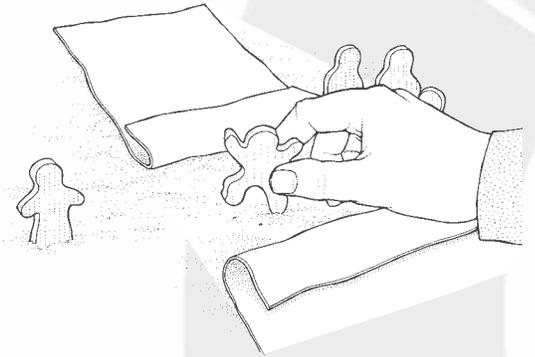
Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of this story you like best?
- **I wonder** what part is the most important?
- **I wonder** where you are in the story? What part of the story is about you?

The people quickly packed all they could carry. They baked bread for the journey. They left as fast as they could. Suddenly they heard the sound they did not want to hear. The Pharaoh's army was coming after them! The army pushed the people against the water. What could they do?

God came so close to Moses and Moses came so close to God that he knew how to take the people through the water into freedom. When all the people were safe on the other side, the water closed behind them and they were free! The army of the Pharaoh could not get them.

Now all of the people were free on the other side. They were so happy they just had to give thanks to God, and Miriam, Moses' sister, led the dancing!



Godly Play

In today's Parent Page, we offer a brief but delightful "Godly Play moment," as related by Godly Play Trainer Nancy St. John:

One Sunday, when I was teaching my fourth-grade class, the story ended and the wondering began. After some silence, I looked up at the children and was about to ask another wondering question when one of the boys said, "Oh no! Here comes another wondering question!"

Another said, "How come you always say, 'I wonder?'"

Before I could say anything, someone said, "That's because she doesn't know the answers either!"

At this point I was not at all part of the conversation as another child said, "No that's not it. She wants us to find our own way." The circle fell silent. Amazing how the teaching happens without the teacher...