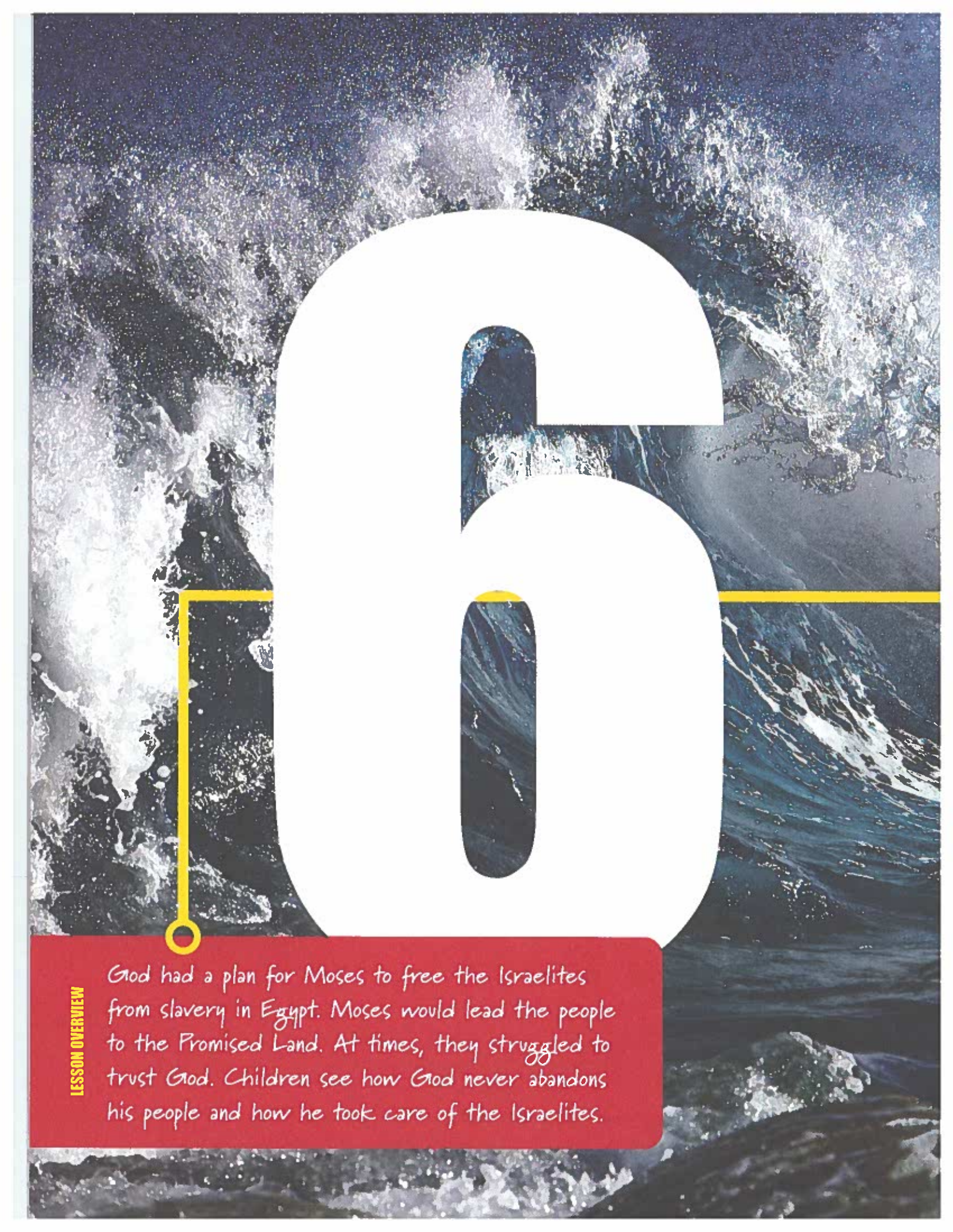
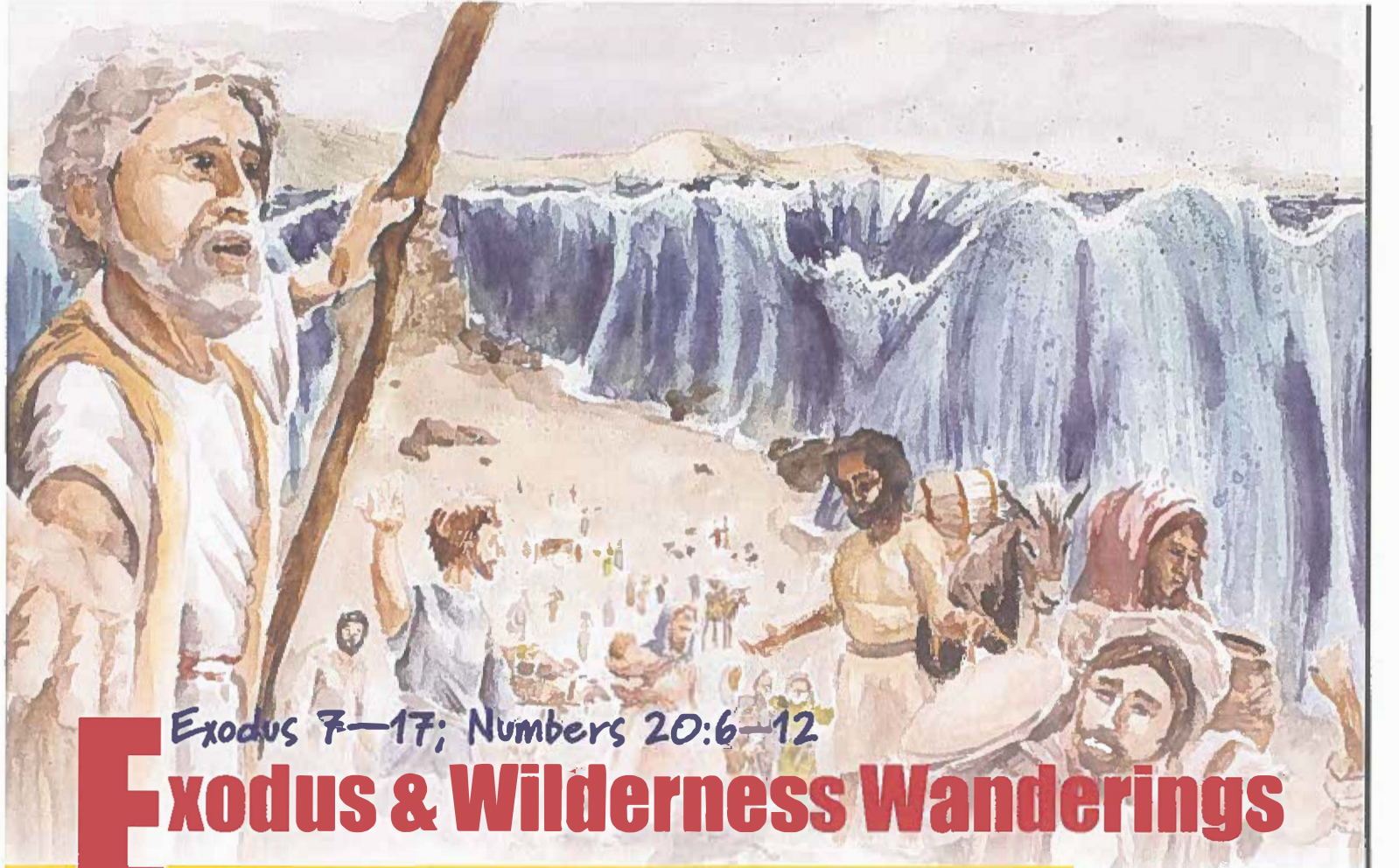




6

LESSON OVERVIEW

God had a plan for Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Moses would lead the people to the Promised Land. At times, they struggled to trust God. Children see how God never abandons his people and how he took care of the Israelites.



Exodus 7–17; Numbers 20:6–12

Exodus & Wilderness Wanderings

Introduce It!

Time Line

1446–1406 B.C.

Key Events & People

The Exodus; Aaron,
Moses, Pharaoh

Time Line Materials needed. (See p. 4.)

Begin the lesson in prayer. Thank God for always caring for us and for never abandoning us.

Moses has already been rescued as a baby in basket, fled to the desert, and encountered God in a burning bush. Though Moses wasn't sure he was the man for the job, he obeyed God. Now it's about 1446 B.C. (place time line marker at 1446 B.C.), and Moses is headed to Egypt with a message for Pharaoh.

Imagine if you were Pharaoh and in charge of a whole country. You have servants and slaves that do anything you tell them to do. If someone like Moses comes to you and demands you let your slaves go free, would you? What would your response be? Children respond.

God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to "let my people go!" (Exodus 9:1). Pharaoh had no plans of letting his slaves go. Scripture tells us that his heart was hardened. God, through Moses, gave Pharaoh ten chances to free his people.

Memory Verse

*This is my command—
be strong and
courageous!
Do not be afraid or
discouraged For the
LORD your God IS with
you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

Play the Pharaoh
Pharaoh activity
found on page 55.

PHARAOH PHARAOH

Tell It!

Choose a way to tell the story while reading the account from the Bible or telling it in your own words. Ideas for creative storytelling include acting it out, using props, or incorporating pictures.

Ten Plagues

When Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, a series of bad things happened each time:

- Blood—the Nile River turned to blood
- Frogs—thousands of frogs covered the land
- Gnats—everything was covered with gnats
- Flies—even more annoying
- Livestock—all the Egyptian farm animals died
- Boils—the Egyptian people were covered with painful sores
- Hail—people, animals, plants, and trees were damaged by an icy storm
- Locusts—plants were devoured by a swarm locusts
- Darkness—a deep darkness fell on Egypt for three days
- Death of firstborn—the oldest son in every Egyptian home, both human and animal, died



Pharaoh refused to let God's people leave when each of the first nine terrible things happened. After the tenth and worst plague of death, Pharaoh finally said, "GO!"

A Path through the Red Sea

Moses led the Israelite people away from Egypt. They were finally free! But they didn't exactly know where they were going, and there was no such thing as a GPS! But God was with them.

Read Exodus 13:21.

God gave them the guidance they needed. By day, they walked, following a pillar of cloud! And at night, he provided them with a pillar of fire. This continued until one day when they realized they couldn't walk any farther. They had reached the Red Sea, which was too big to walk around or across. Even worse, Pharaoh had changed his mind and wanted the people to come back and be his slaves again! Pharaoh sent his army after God's people. They were stuck! The sea was in front of them, and Pharaoh's army was behind!

Read Exodus 14:15–28.



Manna and Quail

God performed amazing things in the presence of the Israelites. The ten plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, the pillars of cloud and fire, but the Israelites easily forgot that God was continually caring for them.

They had been wandering around in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and they became hungry. They were so hungry that they wished they had died in Egypt!

How would you complain if you were hungry wandering around in the desert? Give me 10 seconds of your best hunger-complaints.

Read Exodus 16:3-5.

God made food fall from the sky—a food like bread! He promised that he would take care of the Israelites, and he answered their prayers. God knew that the people would get tired of bread, so he also sent quail for them to eat.

Read Exodus 16:13-15.

The Israelites had never seen food appear out of nowhere. They were so surprised. They called the bread *manna*, which means “what is this?” God gave the Israelites special instructions only to take enough for what they needed that day. They had to trust that he would provide for them.

Water from a Rock

God provided food for the Israelites, but as they traveled to the Promised Land through the desert, they began to complain and grumble again. They were thirsty!

Read Numbers 20:7-11.

Once again, God provided for the Israelites. But this time, Moses did not obey him. God said to speak to the rock, but instead Moses hit the rock. Because of his disobedience, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Pray It!

Dear God, help me to be strong and courageous.
Remind me to pray when I feel scared. I know that
you are always in control. In Jesus' name, amen.



Act It Out!

Pharaoh, Pharaoh

Overview

Children act out the ten plagues.

Directions

1. Select a child to be Pharaoh and a child to be Moses. Everyone else is a Plague Player.
2. There are ten rounds to this game. Each round begins when Moses says, "Pharaoh, Pharaoh, let my people go," and Pharaoh says, "No."
3. Call out the corresponding plague for the Plague Players to act out. Children can make up their own actions or follow the suggestions below.
 - Round 1: Nile River turns to blood and all the fish die. Children pretend to take a drink, and then stick out their tongue.
 - Round 2: Frogs. Children hop or leap like frogs.
 - Round 3: Lice. Children scratch their heads.
 - Round 4: Flies. Children buzz around the room.
 - Round 5: All the animals die. Children make an animal sound, and then fall down dead.
 - Round 6: Sores and rashes break out the Egyptians' skin. Children make a disgusted face as they look at their arms and legs.
 - Round 7: Hail. Children cover their heads.
 - Round 8: Locusts eat all the crops. Children shove imaginary food in their mouths.
 - Round 9: Darkness. Children close their eyes and walk across the room.
 - Round 10: Death of first-born child. Children rock babies and pretend to cry.
4. Moses says, "Pharaoh, Pharaoh, let my people go," and Pharaoh says "Go!"

Conversation

God sent terrible plagues to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery. Can you all name the ten plagues? Children respond.

Plague after plague, Pharaoh said NO until which plague? Children respond.

Pharaoh only let the Israelites go after the last plague, the death of the firstborn. The Israelites were finally free after 400 years of slavery.



Play It!

Marshmallows from Heaven

Overview

Children play a relay race to toss marshmallows into their partners' mouths.

Materials

miniature
marshmallows

Conversation

Every morning, the Israelites woke up to find bread from heaven! As much as they could eat. God provided for them. We aren't going to snack on manna from Heaven, but we are going to play a game called Marshmallows from Heaven. God provided food for his people, and we are going to provide a fun snack for our friends!

Preparation

Place two bowls of marshmallows on the other side of the room.

Directions

1. Divide children into teams.
2. Decide the first two players for each team. Assign one the role of thrower and one the role of catcher.
3. Say "Go," and two children from each team rush to their team's marshmallow bowl.
4. The thrower tosses a marshmallow into their catchers mouth.
 - If the catcher misses, try again until they do.
 - If the catcher catches it, the thrower runs back to the team and tags the new catcher. The old catcher becomes the new thrower and waits for the new catcher to arrive at the bowl.
5. Continue until everyone in the group has played.
6. Winners answer Talk About It questions from page 59.



Talk about It!

Basic Questions

1. Who did God send to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites? *Moses and Aaron.*
2. Name the ten plagues. *Nile turns to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locust, darkness, death of the firstborn.*
3. What did God provide for the hungry Israelites? *Manna and quail.*
4. What was the rule for keeping manna? *They could not keep any for the next day. It had to be eaten the day it was gathered.*
5. When the Israelites were thirsty, how did God provide for them? *Water came from a rock.*
6. How was Moses supposed to get water from the rock? *Speak to it.*
7. How did Moses disobey God while getting water from the rock? *He struck the rock with his staff instead of speaking to it.*
8. How long had the Israelites been slaves in Egypt? *About 400 years.*
9. How did the Israelites feel when wandering in the desert? What did they complain about? *Hungry, thirsty, annoyed. They kept complaining, saying they were better off in Egypt.*
10. Would Moses be allowed to enter the Promised Land? *No, he disobeyed God by striking the rock.*

Go Further

1. Moses disobeyed God by striking the rock instead of speaking to it. How was he punished? Does God punish sin?
2. What ways had God shown the Israelites he had not forgotten them?
3. How has God shown you he cares for you and won't forget you?

Wrap it Up!

For 400 years, God's people were slaves in Egypt. God had never forgotten his people. He sent Moses (refer to time line, 1446 B.C.) to free his people. Throughout their journey in the wilderness, God would show the people again and again that he did not and would not forget them. God is always in charge. He cares for his people, both Moses and the Israelites, and us today!

