The Crossing of the Red Sea: God Makes a Way

From fear to thanksgiving

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:20 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God led Israel through the sea into freedom. Catholics see the crossing as a sign pointing toward Baptism and the new life Jesus gives.

Learning goals Recall the danger at the sea and God's rescue; explain the change from fear to thanksgiving; connect the crossing with Baptism.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Recall the family leaving Egypt after Passover. Ask: What helps you when a good journey becomes difficult?

Watch and notice

Follow the traveling families as the army approaches, the sea opens, and Miriam leads thanksgiving on the far shore.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why were the Israelites afraid beside the sea?
The sea was in front of them and Pharaoh's army was coming behind them.

2. How did God make a way?
God protected the people with the cloud and opened a passage of dry ground through the sea.

3. How did the people respond when they were safe?
They trusted God and sang thanks. Miriam and the women celebrated with drums and dancing.

4. What sacrament does the story help Catholics understand?
Baptism. Through Baptism Jesus frees us from sin, gives us new life, and makes us members of His Church.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Read prompts aloud. Accept drawing, pointing, dictated words, or spoken responses. Avoid frightening battle imagery.

Read & Write Invite one remembered detail, one explanation, and one response of gratitude. Short or dictated answers are welcome.

Adapt by readiness

Younger children: focus on the families crossing safely and thanking God together.

Older children: read Exodus 14:10-31 and the song in Exodus 15 with an adult. Discuss why the Church connects the crossing and Baptism.

From fear to thanks | Optional 4 minutes

Fold a paper into two panels. Draw the families worried beside the sea on one side and singing on the far shore on the other. Name a trusted helper for a difficult moment, then write a simple prayer of thanks to God.

Look for understanding The child describes the danger and rescue, names a response of thanksgiving, and identifies Baptism as the sacrament connected with the crossing.

Closing prayer Faithful God, thank you for hearing your people and leading them into freedom. Jesus, thank you for the new life you give in Baptism. Help us walk with you and care for one another. Amen.

At home Ask an adult about a Baptism in your family or parish. Thank Jesus together for welcoming us into His Church.

Handout answer notes Remember: sea ahead, army behind; God opened dry ground. Explain: the people were freed from their pursuers and sang thanks. Connect: Baptism gives new life in Christ and membership in His Church.

Teach with care

Preview the pursuit and the return of the waters. Have a Bible, paper, pencils, and crayons ready; choose discussion depth suited to the children. The story includes slavery, fear, armed pursuit, and the loss of the pursuing army in the sea. Explain gently without graphic reenactments or triumph over suffering. Do not portray Egyptians today as enemies. People of every nation have dignity. Trust in God does not promise that every frightening situation will end in a visible miracle; children should seek help from trusted adults. Discuss Baptism reverently; do not stage a pretend sacrament.

Words to explain Pharaoh: the title of Egypt's king. Deliverance: being rescued or set free. Miriam: Moses' sister. Baptism: the sacrament of new life in Christ and entry into His Church.

Sources for the leader

Scripture: The crossing - Exodus 14

Scripture: The song of thanksgiving - Exodus 15

Catholic teaching: Catechism: Baptism in salvation history, 1217-1222