**The Israelites Cross the Red Sea**

**A Bible Story From**

**Exodus 14:15-31**

**Bible Story Number: 1010540**

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**The Israelites Cross the Red Sea**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

**Story from the Bible**

**Exodus 14:15-31**

This is what the Bible says.

God had led the Israelites to this location next to the Red Sea. Pharaoh and the Egyptian army were approaching, just as God had arranged.

God spoke to Moses and asked him why he was crying out to Him. He instructed Moses to tell the Israelites to break camp and prepare to move. He told Moses to take his staff and hold it out toward the sea and divide it so the Israelites could go through on dry land. He also told Moses that the Egyptian army would follow them. God said he would receive glory when Pharaoh and his army were destroyed.

Then the pillar of cloud moved from in front of the Israelites and stood between the Israelites and the approaching army. It was lit up by fire at night and became a protecting barrier between them and the army of Egypt.

So Moses obeyed God. He stretched out his staff over the sea and God divided the sea with a powerful east wind that blew all night. The sea divided and became dry land, with a wall of water on each side.

The Israelites crossed on dry land.

All of Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, his horsemen and his army followed them. God caused confusion among Pharaoh’s army. God caused their chariot wheels to begin to swerve and made them difficult to drive. The Egyptians realized that God was fighting for the Israelites and they tried to escape.

Then God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea once again so the waters would cover the Egyptians and drown them all. Moses obeyed God and at daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptian army tried to escape but could not. They all died.

The Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on each side. That day God saved the Israelites from the Egyptian army and they saw the Egyptians dead all along the seashore. When they saw God’s great power, they feared God and believed in Him and His servant Moses.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What was Moses’ first reaction to being trapped between the sea and the Egyptian army?
* What instructions did God give Moses?
* What miracles did God perform that allowed the Israelites to safely cross the Red Sea?
* What did God do to the Egyptian army?
* How did the Israelites respond to what God did for them?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.