

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina
FAITH QUEST -- Let There Be Art!
MOSES, PLAGUES & PASSOVER

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Scripture Reference: Exodus 5:1-6:13, 7:1-12:42

Memory Verse: Romans 8:39: "[Nothing} will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Teaching method: The Israelite's were instructed to tell their children about the miracle of the plagues and Passover. Use drawings and paper sculpture to tell the story of "God with us".

Leader Preparation:

Read the scripture for this lesson.

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

Materials:

Story scroll

Easel with paper

9 x 12" white drawing paper (plan on 2 per student)

18 x 24" colored construction paper (1 per student)

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Glue sticks

Instructions on creating the paper sculpture "frame" (separate from this lesson-resources at end of lesson) and one completed frame to display.

Family take-home note (see end of lesson)

Paperclips (1 per student)

Advance Preparation:

Using colored construction paper, pre-fold a paper sculpture "frame" for each student.

Write out this passage on a piece of paper that will fit into a Bible: "You will be able to tell wonderful stories to your children and grandchildren about the marvelous things I am doing among the Egyptians to prove that I am the Lord."

Exodus 10:2 (NLT). Use this paper to bookmark Exodus in your Bible.

Write on the easel paper in large letters: "Remember and celebrate".

Opening:

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the Art Workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults.

Pass around a basket to collect any offering.

Say: Let's begin with prayer. Ask for any prayer requests. Ask if anyone would like to lead the group in prayer. Be prepared to say a prayer yourself, working in prayer requests. A suggestion: "Gracious God, we know you love us, but sometimes we forget. It is especially hard when we see suffering in the world. We thank you for Bible stories that help us remember that you care about us. Amen."

Dig In:

Ask: When you get together with family or friends, do you ever tell stories?

Do you have family stories that are often repeated over and over?

[Be ready to share a short family story that your family often retells.]

Say: Thousands of years ago, before books were invented, people told stories so that stories would not be forgotten. What we now read as Bible stories were told as stories long before they were written down.

Ask: What would happen if a particular family story were no longer told?

Do you suppose people would eventually forget that story?

Say: Thankfully the people in Bible times kept telling their family stories, so that we can hear them today. Listen to what God had to say about one particular Bible story that is now part of the Old Testament

Hold open a Bible and read the verse written out ahead of time. [Note: It's important to reinforce that this passage comes from the Bible by holding open a Bible and reading the verse from the paper you wrote out earlier. The wording of the NLT is helpful.]

Say: God was saying this to Moses during a time when Moses was in a tough situation. Moses was trying to free God's people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. But the king or Pharaoh in charge in Egypt, kept saying, "NO, I won't let them go!"

Ask: You may have heard the story of what happened in Egypt. What miracles did God do in Egypt to free God's people and to prove to everyone that he was Lord? (allow all answers but guide them to: plagues affecting Egypt)

Ask: Who knows what a plague is? (something really bad that causes a lot of suffering)

Say: There were a total of ten plagues. We can talk about what the ten plagues were a little later. For now let's jump to the last plague.

Ask: Does anyone remember what the last plague was?

Say: This tenth plague was the worst. All firstborn sons of the Egyptians would die. But the Hebrew people, God's people, would be protected because God told

them what to do.

Ask: Does anyone remember what the Israelites were instructed to do? (kill a lamb and take some of the lamb's blood to paint on the door frame of their house)

Say: Let's read about this in the Bible.

Say: The story of Moses would have been taught to Jesus as a child.

Ask: Would we find such a story in the Old Testament or the New Testament?

Do you remember where in our Bibles we find the story of Moses?

Say: The book of Exodus is the second book of the Bible in the Old Testament. Have everyone turn to Exodus 12:23-27. Have students take turns reading.

Say: God commanded the Israelites to remember their rescue from Egypt and to celebrate it every year. Jewish people today still remember and celebrate this rescue from slavery when they celebrate Passover.

Refer to the easel paper. Say: They remember and celebrate when God was with them. Today you have the chance to create a picture to remember a time when God was with you.

Ask: Can you think of a time when God was with you?

[Hints to help get them going: a best friend moved away or they moved, then they met a new friend. Someone was really sick in their family, and then someone brought over food. They were feeling down, and a friend or family member made them feel better. A time when they felt close to God. (Doesn't have to be a time of trouble if they can't think of one.)]

Say: Think about a time when God was with you and draw a picture of that time. When you are finished with your picture, you may place it in this special frame – it makes your picture look like it's on a stage! It's a way to remember a time when God was with you.

If you have time you may use the area inside these side doors to write about your picture, or draw more pictures. If you don't have time for that part you may finish it at home.

Provide drawing paper and supplies.

When it appears that everyone has an idea and has started drawing, begin the "discussion" portion of lesson.

Discussion: (while the students are working)

Ask the students if they know what the other plagues were. Talk about the first nine plagues. Include information you learned in the overview material.

Ask: What do you suppose it was like for the Hebrews watching all those plagues?

Ask: Do you suppose God was happy that the Egyptian people had to suffer? (God was probably sad that this had to happen, he probably wished Pharaoh would have listened)

Ask: Where do you suppose God was during the plagues? (there; caring for his people)

Ask: Where is God today when disaster strikes? (right there with us or with whoever is suffering. His presence can be seen through people who help those who are suffering. Example, Disaster relief workers)

Ask: When we go through difficult times, is it easy to forget that God is with us? (sometimes things happen that we might not understand, but we can trust that God always loves and cares about us)

When drawings are completed, have the students glue their drawing on the inside of the frame opposite the frame opening. Provide them with paper to write their story (if time allows). If they complete the project, follow the instructions on creating the paper sculpture “frame” to glue end and side panels together. If students do not finish, paper clip the panels together with a parent note.

Closing:

Have students share their illustrations, briefly telling about their pictures.

Say: God commanded the Israelites to remember their rescue from slavery and to celebrate it every year. We can also celebrate the great things God has done in our lives. When we are faced with troubles, it helps to recall a time when God was with us. God loves and cares for you!

Ideas to help kids with their art

Create a deeper or lighter color by varying the pressure placed on a crayon or colored pencil. Pressing hard creates a darker color, pressing lightly, a lighter color.

Drawing with the “side” (rather than the tip) of a colored pencil or marker creates a wider line.

Outline shapes with black marker. Then color within the shapes with crayon or pencils.

Fill an area using cross-hatching: draw closely spaced parallel lines then draw lines perpendicular to these lines.

The Take-Home Note

Today in Let There Be Art! your child learned about a time when God commanded his people to Remember and Celebrate! Every year at Passover they were to remember and celebrate how God was with them and saved them from slavery in Egypt.

Today your child was given the option to draw a picture of a time when they felt God was with them. A special frame was made to highlight their picture, giving prominence to their memory. It is likely that we ran out of time to complete this project. A good family activity would be to help your child finish their picture. Talk about a time when you felt God was with you. Help them write a story about their picture and glue the story in one of the side windows. They may wish to write a poem. A suggested format would be a cinquain poem such as:

God
Loving, caring
Hears, answers, acts
Frees Israelites from Egypt
Miracles

When complete, glue end and side panels together. Remember and celebrate, God with us!

Resources:

Instructions on how to make the paper sculpture frame from: "Crayola Dream-makers: Weaving What We Are." 2002. Pages 26-27. Downloaded from www.Crayola.com (follow links to Dream-makers). (Note: The instructions include a good photo of what the paper sculpture frame looks like.)

Idea for lesson ("remember and celebrate") borrowed from a Reflection time and journaling exercise in a lesson from Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church,

<http://www.kirkofkildaire.org/quest/FQlessons/PlaguesArcade.htm>

Marshall, Jan. "Exodus: Plagues and Passover: Video." 2002. (Some discussion questions.)

<http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=7796068121&m=5996068121>

Art supply note: An unusual size of construction paper is required for this lesson.

Try your local teacher store or order from an art supplier such as Dick Blick:

http://www.dickblick.com/zz114/06/products.asp?ig_id=5945

Workshop Leader's notes: to save time, paste the paper that will be their center drawing onto the frame before starting. It was interesting to see the student's depiction of times when they felt God was with them. Most children did not finish the project but that was ok because it went home and got discussed with their families as they continued to finish it.

