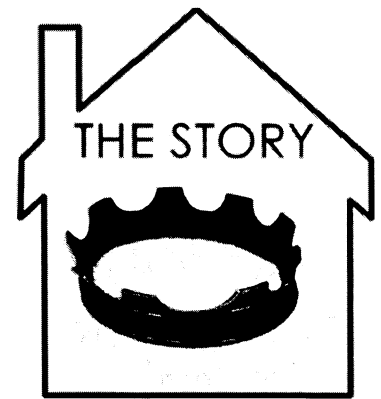


Bringing The Story Home- Ch. 4- Week of January 27th



Out of Egypt

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.

Timeless Truth: God is the ultimate deliverer.

Bible Basis: Exodus 1:1-16:15

Key Verse: *Moses answered the people. He said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today." –Exodus 14:13 NIV*

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday school class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk question to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your family look to God during hard times and follow him. The Extra Mile idea will help your family relate to the Israelites.

Key Point: *Preschool:* God sent Moses to bring his people out of Egypt. God will always help his people - including me.

Elementary: God watched over Moses and his people. God watches over me, too.

Middle School: God is the God over all gods. He sees and hears everything. He can overcome any power on earth to help me.

High School: Jesus is the new Passover sacrifice.

Table Talk:

Preschool/Elementary:

God provided for Moses through his entire life, and he provides for our family today. Share a story of God's provision in your life and then ask:

- **How did God care for Moses when he was a baby?** (Pharaoh's daughter finding him in Nile River; being raised by his own mother as an infant; growing up in the palace)
- **How did God provide for Moses when he was asking Pharaoh to let the Israelite people go?** (He protected Moses and gave him his brother Aaron to speak.)
- **How did God provide for the Israelites when they left Egypt?** (Guiding them with a pillar of fire or cloud; parting the Red Sea; manna in the morning)
- **How does God provide for you?**

Middle/High School:

Pharaoh was very stubborn and hardened his heart against God. Share a story where God was working in your life or trying to get your attention, but you didn't see it until later. Ask:

- **Do you know a friend, teacher, or relative who has hardened their heart against God and refuses to see him?**
- **Why do you think people stubbornly refuse to see God when he makes himself known in creation and everyday circumstances?**
- **What can you do to open people's eyes to the truth about God?** (Share the good news about Jesus with them; pray for them; be their friend.)
- **If somebody totally refuses to acknowledge God, what should you do?** (Pray that the Holy Spirit softens their heart; continue to show them God's love.)

Living Faith: Grab a flashlight and bring your family to a dark room or turn off all the lights in the house once the sun goes down. This activity can also be done outside on a dark night. Explain that according to the Bible, God led the Israelites at night with a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21). By following the pillar of fire at night and the pillar of cloud during the day, God's people always knew exactly where to go. Tell your family that you're going to play a game of "Reverse Hide and Seek." Instead of one person counting and everybody hiding, the person holding the flashlight will hide and everybody else will count. Have a parent hide first.

After everybody counts to 20, let them search for the person hiding. Once that person is found, let him hide again. This time after everybody has counted, wait a couple minutes and then turn on the flashlight before anybody finds you. With the flashlight on, allow every family member to get to you. Let other family members take turns hiding.

When you're finished, ask:

- **Were you ever scared of being stuck in the dark and not knowing where to go?**
- **Was it easier to find the hidden person when the flashlight was on or off?**
- **How does God shine his "flashlight" today, so it's easier for us to follow him?**
- **How does God's light deliver us and keep us safe?**
- **God's "flashlight" is on all the time. How does it make you feel to know you can go to him whenever you're in need?**
- **The Bible says, "You are in the light because of what the Lord has done. Live like children of the light" (Ephesians 5:8). What are some ways we can live as children of the light?**

Extra Mile: On a Sunday night (or early on a Monday morning if you wake up before your children), tell your family that you're going to eat breakfast like the Israelites did when they escaped Egypt. The Bible says that thin flakes of bread appeared on the ground every morning (Exodus 15:15-16). The Israelites would gather up enough for their family and eat it throughout the day. The next morning a whole new crop of manna, which comes from the Hebrew words "What is it?" would be waiting for them to eat.

Instead of manna, explain that your family will eat oatmeal every morning. Calculate the cost savings of eating oatmeal instead of cereal, doughnuts, or eggs (whatever is your family's normal breakfast food) and have your children give that money for offering the following Sunday to do God's work. At some point during the week, ask your family what the Israelites must've felt like after eating manna every day for years.

Prayer Time: *Dear God, thank you for protecting us with your Word and your promises. Help us to see you working in our lives every day. In Jesus name, Amen!*