

Crossing the Red Sea

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- paper cups
- dry beans
- tape
- stickers



Scriptures

Ex 13:17-15:21

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God protects and cares for His people.

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways God cares for us and to praise Him through songs.

Memory Verse

"He is my God, and I will praise Him."
(Ex 15:2b)



Bible Knowledge

God's Presence and Deliverance

God led the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night so they would know that God was with them on their journey to the promised land. As the Israelites looked to the pillar of cloud and fire, we can look to God's words, day and night, to know He is with us, helping us on our journey to the heavenly kingdom.

Trapped against the sea, the Israelites faced the large Egyptian army. Pharaoh regretted his decision to let the Israelites go and sent out 600 of his choice chariots to chase them. When the Israelites saw the army coming upon them, they thought God was not with them, and they lost their trust in Him. It is understandable that they were scared. After all, they were stuck between the waters and an enormous army that was charging at them. But God wanted the Israelites to learn that He was able to provide for them, no matter how insurmountable or bleak the situation may have seemed. We should adopt Moses' attitude to stand

firm and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish.

The Lord instructed Moses to tell the people to move on. Throughout the entire night, God sent a strong east wind to drive the waters back so the Israelites could pass through the sea on dry ground. This act of parting the Red Sea demonstrated that every force in nature was under God's control. It also took faith on the part of the Israelites to actually walk across the dry ground. They could have been too frightened to do anything or they might have been skeptical and thought the waters could wash over them at any time. But they ultimately chose to believe and were delivered as a result.

When all the Israelites were safe on the other side, God brought the water back again at exactly the right time for the destruction of the Egyptian army.



Understanding Your Students

The story of the crossing of the Red Sea is a very miraculous and amazing event. There is no doubt that God parted the waters because He is almighty. But the students should not see God's mighty power and deliverance only in these big "things." They can also learn to see God's guidance in every-day things. As the lesson unfolds, share examples of when God guides and helps us on a daily basis. The students need to understand that God is always present in our lives and that He cares about all our needs—big and small.

Let your children know that God has many ways of protecting and guiding us. He protects us from danger,

from sadness and from worries, just to name a few. Sometimes we can see His protection right away, but there are times when we can only see that God has protected us when we look back on certain situations. The best way to receive God's protection is to stay close to God, and to talk to Him through prayers as much as possible.

God also has many ways to guide us. He has given us the Bible and many wonderful stories that teach us how we should live our lives. He also guides us through our ministers. God's guidance sometimes comes through our parents, religious education teachers, and other brothers and sisters in the church. Take the time to talk about ways that the students have received God's protection and guidance.



Vocabulary

Canaan

the promised land God gave the Israelites

The Pillar of Cloud

a big cloud that stayed in front of the people as they walked in the wilderness

The Pillar of Fire

a big, bright light that stayed in front of the people as they walked in the wilderness

Desert

a dry land, with a lot of sand and rocks, and very little water

Chariot

a two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle used in battle in ancient times



Before You Teach

When the Israelites saw the oncoming Egyptian army, they became frightened. They cried out desperately to Moses and asked him why they were brought into the desert to die. Instead of rebuking them for their lack of faith, Moses calmly told them not to be afraid. He said, "The Lord will fight for you" (Ex 14:14a).

Indeed, throughout the entire Exodus, everything was a result of God's wonderful and mighty work. First there were the plagues. Although Pharaoh's magicians were able to reproduce the first two plagues, it was clear by the end of the whole ordeal that no one was a match for God. Even the magicians had to declare that was the finger of God. Then there was the rod that Moses used to part the Red Sea. The rod in itself held no magical powers. Rather, it was the word of God

that commanded everything to happen. And the wheels on the chariots that miraculously fell off as the Egyptian army entered into the water were not just a coincidence. All of these things happened because God fought for His people. The Israelites did not have to lift a finger or do any battle, yet they ended up safely on the other side of the sea.

Today, God is also fighting for us. He has promised to be by our side and to give us what we need. That is an incredible promise. The problem is that we, like the Israelites, often lack the trust that things will turn out all right. We aren't always sure we want God to fight for us. We want to do things our way and take matters into our own hands. Somehow, it makes us feel better to know and feel that we are in control. But in the end, we really don't know how things will turn out. And all along, God has promised to fight for us and take us to where we need to be. We know that God never breaks a promise. We really only need to trust Him and remember His precious words.



Bible Story

The Israelites Are Set Free

Last week we learned that God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Did Pharaoh listen? No. His heart was hard. So God sent many punishments, called plagues, on to the Egyptians. Do you remember what some of the plagues were? God turned all the water into blood so that there was nothing to drink. Then frogs hopped everywhere, even into people's food! There were also the plagues of gnats, flies, locusts, animal disease, sickness, hail, and darkness. The last plague, the plague of the firstborn, was the most terrible. An angel of God killed the oldest son of each family unless they had painted their door with lamb's blood. Pharaoh's own son died because Pharaoh did not listen. Pharaoh was sad and frightened. Everywhere in Egypt people were crying. At last Pharaoh said to the Israelites, "Go!"

The Israelites were all very happy to hear this. They packed up all their clothing and food as fast as they could. The women wrapped up their babies in warm blankets. The men took things they needed to protect their families. Grandparents held the hands of sleepy children as thousands of Israelites finally walked out of Egypt. They were going to the promised land of Canaan. They would be free!

The Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire

Now Canaan was far away from where the Israelites were. They would have to walk a long way to get there. And in order to get there, they had to walk in the desert. As the Israelites traveled, they learned that it was hard to travel in the desert. There is sand everywhere in the desert. During the day it is very hot and there is little water to drink. At night, it becomes very cold. It is also hard to see. There were so many Israelites that the people in the back couldn't see Moses who was leading them all the way in the front. But God helped the people by going in front of them in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire at night. The pillar of cloud made shade under the hot sun so it was not as hot for the people as they walked. The pillar of fire made light in the dark so that the people could see. Wherever God went in the pillar of cloud or fire, the Israelites followed. When the pillar of cloud or fire stopped, the

Israelites stopped. God was leading His people every step of the way. The Israelites traveled steadily.

The Egyptian Army Chases the Israelites

In a few days, they came to the shore of the Red Sea. There was water in front of them and there were high mountains to their left and right. The Israelites camped there. As they prepared their things, they suddenly heard a rumbling sound from far away. As they listened, it got louder and louder. Can you guess what was making that loud sound? When they looked up, they saw the army of Pharaoh charging at them! They saw soldiers riding on fast chariots and they were getting closer and closer. The Israelites didn't know what to think. What was going on, they wondered to themselves. Hadn't Pharaoh agreed to let them go? Why were they being chased now? Actually, after the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind. He was angry that all those bad plagues had happened to him and his land. He didn't really want to let the Israelites leave. So he sent his army to chase after the people and to make them slaves again!

When the Israelites saw this, they were very afraid. How could they run from the Egyptians if water and mountains surrounded them? How could they fight against the powerful Egyptian army? They cried out to God and complained to Moses.

"Why did you bring us to this terrible place?" they said. "It would have been better to be slaves in Egypt. Now we have to die in the desert!"

Moses knew he had to calm the people's hearts.

"Do not be afraid," Moses said. "God will save you. The Lord will fight for you."

To show the Israelites that God was protecting them, the pillar of cloud moved from the front to the back where it stood between the Israelites and Egyptians. Now, with the pillar in the way, the Egyptians could not see or pass because everything was dark.

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea and all night God sent a strong east wind to drive back the waters of the Red Sea. As the wind blew, dry land appeared where before there was the sea.

In amazement, the Israelites and all their animals crossed the Red Sea on dry land. There was a wall of water on their left and a wall of water on their right but where they walked it was only dirt. They had never seen a sea split like this before. Eventually, all the Israelites passed to the other side.

When the Israelites were safe, God lifted up the pillar and the Egyptians could finally see that the Israelites had crossed the sea on dry ground. They didn't know how it happened but Pharaoh's soldiers and chariots chased after them. They went into the dry path with their horses and chariots. The soldiers planned to capture the Israelites and take them back to Egypt as slaves. But God did not let this happen. As the soldiers raced into the ocean floor, God made their chariot wheels fall off. The Egyptians had a hard time driving the chariots without wheels. That was when Moses lifted his hand



Check For Understanding

1. **Why did the Israelites leave Egypt?** (Pharaoh was very mean to the people.)
2. **How did God guide the Israelites as they walked in the desert?** (God gave them a pillar of cloud to show them the way during the day and a pillar of fire to help them see at night.)
3. **Why did the Egyptian army chase after the Israelites?** (Pharaoh was angry and he didn't want to let the Israelites leave. He changed his mind and wanted the Israelites to be his slaves again.)



Life Application Story

Flowers Need Care Too!

Michelle went to the garden shop with her mom, Mrs. Marsh. Mrs. Marsh wanted to plant

above the water again. All of a sudden the sea came crashing down over the army. The Egyptians were destroyed that day.

The Israelites Are Saved

Now the people were happy. They were glad they trusted God in the end. They knew that God would keep them safe and help them go into the land of Canaan. They thanked God for giving them the help they needed. God performed a miracle in order to keep His people safe. No one but God could make the waters part so that dry land would appear. Today we are God's children. He takes care of us too. God gives us our morning breakfast and the clothes we have. He gives us parents to love us and friends to play with. God gives us teachers who help us learn. We also have the Bible to teach us God's words. With God on our side we do not have to be afraid of anything!

4. **What did the people do when they saw the army chasing them?** (They cried out to Moses. They were scared and didn't want to die in the desert.)
5. **What did Moses say to the Israelites when they were scared?** (He told them to trust God. God would save them.)
6. **How did the Israelites cross the Red Sea?** (God parted the water so that they could walk on dry ground.)
7. **What happened to the Egyptian army?** (They were killed when the water of the Red Sea came crashing down on them as they entered into the Red Sea.)
8. **How does God protect us today?** (Allow students to share their answers.)

some flowers in the front yard since spring was about to arrive. Michelle also wanted to plant her own seeds, so Mrs. Marsh got some flower seeds for her.

"I am not sure how I should plant this, Mom. Could you help me when we get home?" asked Michelle.

"Sure, sweetheart," replied Mrs. Marsh.

When they got home, Mrs. Marsh took out the new plants from the trunk of the car and put the pots in the garden. Michelle also took her packet of seeds. She went to a nice spot in the garden and began to rip open her packet of seeds.

"Wait, Michelle," said her mom. "Let me see your seed packet, please. We need to make sure we read all the instructions before we just pour them out on top of the soil."

"Okay," said Michelle, as she handed her packet to her mom.

As Mrs. Marsh read the instructions, she also asked Michelle to get some things ready.

"First, go gather all the tools we need to plant these seeds. After you are done with that, I will help you dig the ground so it's nice and soft for the seeds to grow."

Michelle was excited that she was going to be able to plant her own seeds and watch them grow. But she realized that it was a lot of work too.

After she got everything ready, Michelle and her mom got to work and planted the seeds according to the instructions. Michelle also helped Mrs. Marsh plant her potted flowers. Then they watered everything.

"Wow, Mom. I didn't know it was so much work to plant some seeds. I thought we could just pour them out and wait for some flowers to grow."

"Well, our work isn't done. We still need to water them every day to make sure they will grow."

"Okay, Mom. I will be sure to water my seeds everyday."

"And it's not enough to just water them. They also need sunshine. Do you know where that comes from?" asked Mrs. Marsh, smiling.

"Of course. God is the one who gives us the sun and the rain. I guess that means God helps to care for the flowers too," replied Michelle.

For the first few days, Michelle was always out in the garden, checking on her seeds and watering them. But after the first week, she would sometimes forget.

One day, three weeks after the seeds had been planted, Michelle asked Mrs. Marsh, "Mom, I just went to check on my seeds and it doesn't look like anything is growing. How come?"

"Well, have you been watering the seeds every day like I told you to?"

"In the beginning I did but then after that, I sometimes forgot. I thought the seeds would still grow. Will they die now?" asked Michelle with a worried look.

Mrs. Marsh gently patted Michelle's head and said, "Michelle, flowers need good care from us each day. To grow a garden you need to water the seeds so they can grow into beautiful flowers. If we miss a few days of watering, it becomes very hard for the seeds to grow."

"I guess it really is hard work to look after the garden," said Michelle.

"Yes, it is a lot of work. But most importantly, God is the one who can make flowers bloom. With God's care and your care, I am sure the seeds can grow and become beautiful flowers one day."

"I am going to take care of the seeds every day from now on, just like how God takes care of us. Then I am sure they will grow into beautiful flowers," said Michelle.

Questions to Think About

1. **What did Michelle plant in the garden?** (Flower seeds.)
2. **What do seeds need to grow?** (Water and sunshine.)
3. **Why didn't Michelle's seeds grow?** (She forgot to water them sometimes.)
4. **How does God help flowers grow? How does He take care of us?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 1

God Protects His People

Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order.



Activity 2

Crossing the Red Sea

Cut out the pictures on the next two pages. Help the students re-tell the story using the pictures.

(He provided shade during the day and light at night.) Now cut out the pictures and re-tell the story of how the Israelites crossed the Red Sea with God's help. Fold the water picture on the dotted line so it becomes a "U" shape. Now, help the Israelites walk on the dry ground.



Activity 3

Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire

Look at the pictures of the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. How did God protect the people with them? Let the students understand how God took care of the Israelites! The same God who took care of the Israelites will also take care of the little children.



Optional Activity

Praise Maracas

Materials:

1. paper cups (2 per student)
2. dry beans
3. tape
4. stickers

Directions:

1. Give each student 2 paper cups.
2. Give each student a handful of beans they can put into one cup.
3. Put the other cup rim-to-rim to the first cup and seal off by taping them together.
4. Let the students decorate the outside of the cup with stickers.
5. Ask the students when they can praise God. Then pick out a simple hymn the children already know and use the maracas as part of the hymn-singing.

Activity 7:1

God Protects His People

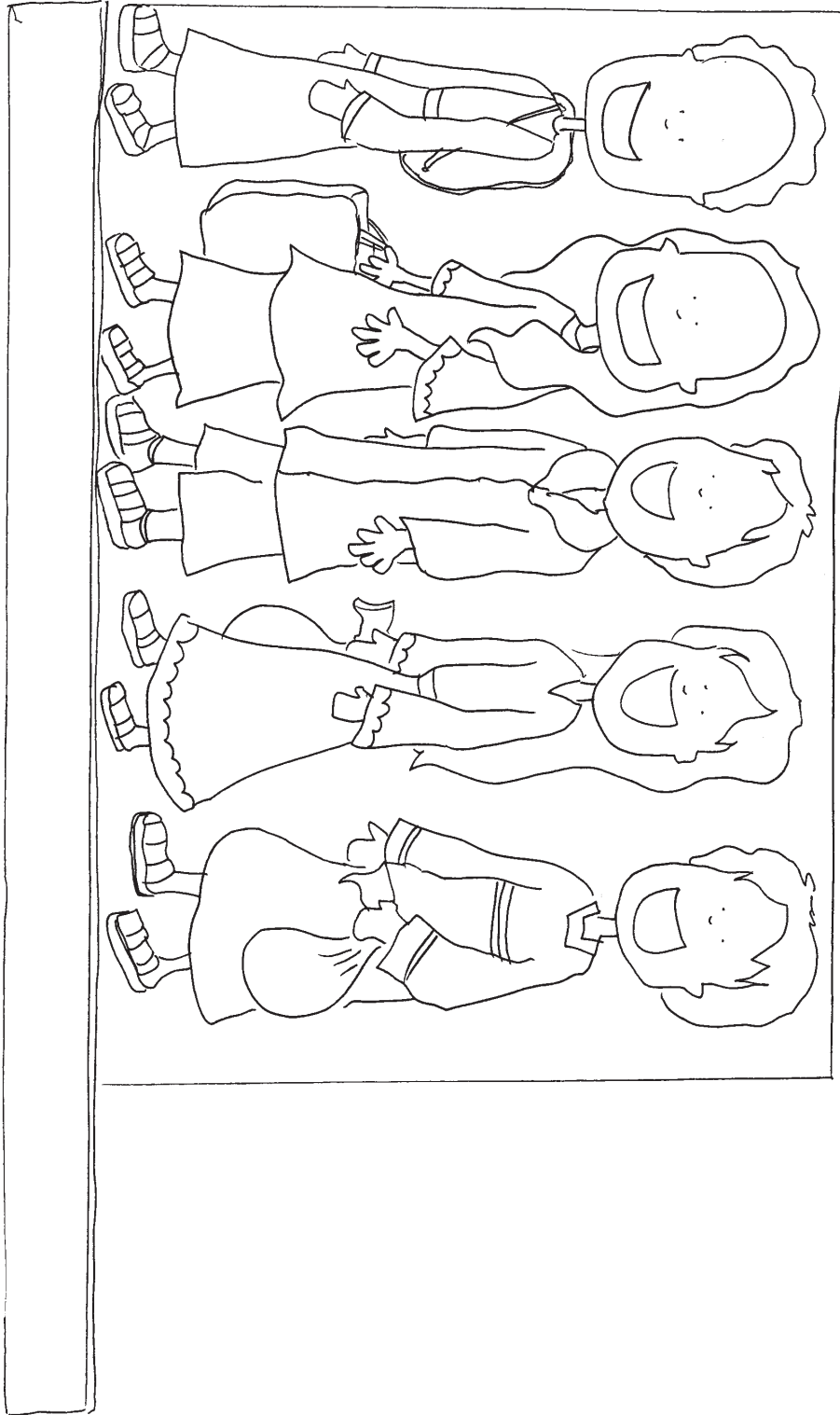
Look at the pictures. Put them in the right order by filling in the numbers.



Activity 7.2

Crossing the Red Sea

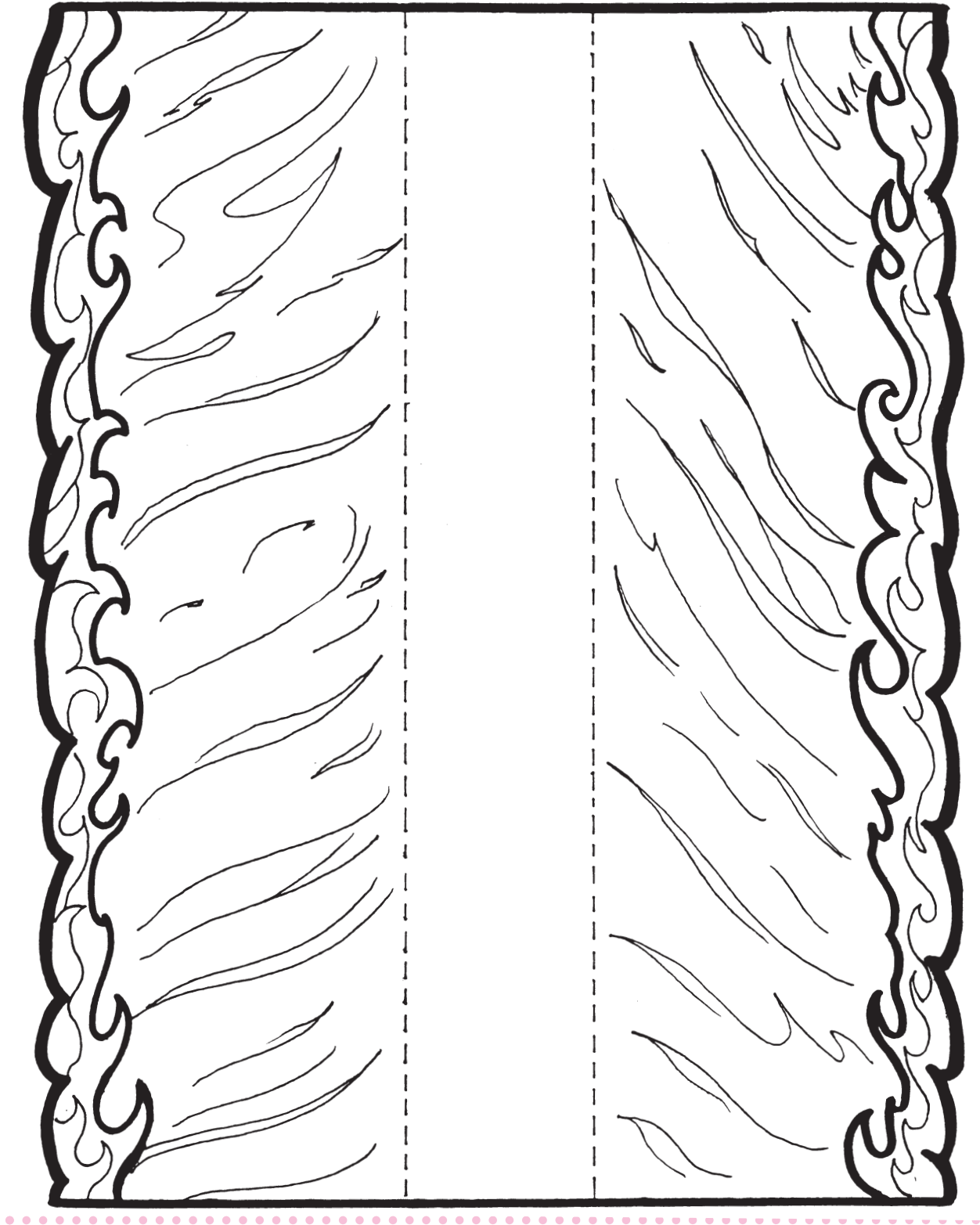
Cut out the pictures and re-tell the story of how the Israelites crossed the Red Sea with God's help.



Crossing the Red Sea

Activity 7:2

Fold the water picture on the dotted line so it becomes a "U" shape.
Now, help the Israelites walk on the dry ground.



Activity 7:3

Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire

Look at the pictures of the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.
How did God protect the people with them?

