

12.08b Red Sea Song of Deliverance (Exodus 15:1–21)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (none this week)

Scripture: (NASB)

Exodus 15:1 Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said,
“I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted;
The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.
2 “The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;
This is my God, and I will praise Him;
My father’s God, and I will extol Him.
3 “The LORD is a warrior;
The LORD is His name.
4 “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;
And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.
5 “The deeps cover them;
They went down into the depths like a stone.
6 “Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power,
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
7 “And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You;
You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.
8 “At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up,
The flowing waters stood up like a heap;
The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.
9 “The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;
My desire shall be gratified against them;
I will draw out my sword, my hand will destroy them.’
10 “You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
11 “Who is like You among the gods, O LORD?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
Awesome in praises, working wonders?
12 “You stretched out Your right hand,
The earth swallowed them.
13 “In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed;
In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.
14 “The peoples have heard, they tremble;
Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia.
15 “Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;

The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them;
All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.
16 “Terror and dread fall upon them;
By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone;
Until Your people pass over, O LORD,
Until the people pass over whom You have purchased.
17 “You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance,
The place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling,
The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.
18 “The LORD shall reign forever and ever.”

19 For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing. 21 Miriam answered them,
“Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted;
The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea.”

Introduction/Review:

Not counting creation, the crossing of the Red Sea on dry ground is one of the four most magnificent of God’s massive miracles. The flood, destroying all humans and animals except Noah’s family, and the scattering of the people by languages at Babel are two other universal miraculous judgments. The work of Jesus Christ in His coming to earth and dying for His people is the greatest of all the works of God. But the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt and their crossing the Red Sea was such a marvelous miracle that it is mentioned no less than eighty times in the Bible.

Can you imagine the sense of awe and the fear of God the children of Israel experienced as they considered what God had just done for them within a short period of time? What had He done? [Brought ten plagues upon the enemies ending in the death of the firstborn of Egypt; caused Israel to journey efficiently through mountainous wilderness; led His people with a pillar of cloud and fire; kept the Egyptians from overtaking them; made a dry path across an eight- or eleven-mile expanse of water by holding back the water in walls; drowned the enemy.] “When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses” (Exodus 14:31).

Story:

How would you have responded after being through all of this? Would you have jumped up and down, clapping and shouting praise to the LORD? Would you have fallen to your knees, bowing before the LORD with tears of relief? Would you have been so stunned and frightened after such experiences that you were totally serious? No matter what your outward action, your heart would have worshiped the God who can do anything.

Israel worshiped by composing and singing a song. Eight times in their song they stated, in a variety of ways, the destruction of their enemies:

1. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.
2. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea.
3. And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.
4. The deeps cover them.
5. They went down into the depths like a stone.
6. You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them.
7. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
8. The earth swallowed them.

The singers told how God made a dry path for His people:

1. At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up.
2. The flowing waters stood up like a heap.
3. The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.
4. You blew with Your wind.
5. You stretched out Your right hand.

They told of the future fear the peoples of the area would have when they heard of these events:

1. Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
2. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You.
3. You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.
4. The peoples have heard, they tremble.
5. Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia.
6. Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed.
7. The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them.
8. All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.
9. Terror and dread fall upon them.
10. By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone.

They told what God did and would do with His people:

1. In Your loving kindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed.
2. In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.
3. [T]he people pass over whom You have purchased.
4. You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

At least seventeen lines of their song extolled the LORD. Listen to their praise:

1. He is highly exalted.
2. The LORD is my strength and song.
3. And He has become my salvation.
4. This is my God, and I will praise Him.
5. My father's God, and I will extol Him.
6. The LORD is a warrior.
7. The LORD is His name.
8. Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power.
9. Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
10. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You.
11. You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.
12. Who is like You among the gods, O LORD?
13. Who is like You, majestic in holiness.
14. Awesome in praises, working wonders?
15. In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed.
16. In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.
17. The LORD shall reign forever and ever.
18. Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted.

Moses and the sons of Israel are the ones who sang this song, but this scripture also speaks of Miriam and the women. Who was Miriam? [The sister of Aaron and Moses. She was the one who guarded baby Moses in the basket on the Nile and brought her mother to the princess.] This is the first time her name is mentioned in Scripture.

Here was a woman of influence. She is called a *prophetess*, which means she had “a gift of teaching and instructing, and even of foretelling things to come; for the Lord spoke by her as well as by Moses and Aaron, and she, with them, were the leaders of the people of Israel, sent to them of the Lord” (<https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=gill&b=2&c=15>). Micah 6:4 indicates this was truly the case: “Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron *and* Miriam (emphasis added). Miriam’s name is seen twelve times in the Bible; we will hear of her again.

What did Miriam do on that day of rejoicing? She and the women struck timbrels, which were like tambourines, to accompany their happy dancing and singing. They, too, proclaimed in answer to the men, “Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; the horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea!” What a time of rejoicing! What a great God!

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

The children of Israel praised God by saying, “The LORD . . . has become my salvation.” Jesus Christ is our salvation (Exodus 15:2).

One day, as He did with the Egyptians, Jesus will send forth His burning anger, and it will consume His enemies as chaff (Exodus 15:6; Revelation 6:16).

The words, “The LORD shall reign forever and ever,” refer to Jesus (Exodus 15:18; Revelation 11:15).

- Give thanks to the Lord for His mighty works (Psalm 9:1; many other psalms).

Activities:

- Play dough: horse; chariot; timbrel
- Snack:

Go to this site for a buggy (chariot) snack: <http://ajoyfulchaos.blogspot.com/2012/12/marshmallow-buggy.html>

Or make cut-out sugar cookies of horses and/or men.

- Sing “Who Is Like You?” found below with an audio recording and enlarged words for student viewing. (The song sheet, visual, and audio for this song are also found on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibletochildren.org.) Sing this song with tambourines or other rhythm band instruments. Use this song to learn the memory verse.
- Similar to the men and women of Exodus 15, read Psalm 136:1, 10–15 antiphonally—one group (perhaps boys) reads the first half of each verse, and the other group (perhaps girls) reads, “For his steadfast love endures forever.” (See the printout found below.)
- Present the 2-page puppet skit found below of “Sam, the Thorny Seahorse.” The habitat of this seahorse is the Red Sea. (This puppet skit is also found on the “Extras” page at teachingthebibletochildren.org.)
- Since this lesson is shorter than others, it might a good opportunity to review previous stories with “Who Am I?” cards. (See “Extras” page at teachingthebibletochildren.org for these cards.)
- Review questions: (Game: Let each student who answers a question correctly celebrate by tapping or shaking a tambourine. The teacher might want to display the posters found below that show the points given in the story about the song of deliverance.)
 1. How did the men of Israel show their thanks to God for delivering them through the Red Sea? [They composed and sang a song.]
 2. Tell two things they mentioned in their song. [Choose from the following: how God destroyed their

enemies; how God made a dry path for them; how the peoples would fear God; what God did and will do for His people; expressions of praise for God Himself.]

3. Which of the women who responded to the song is named? [Miriam.]
4. Who is Miriam? [Aaron's and Moses' sister.]
5. How is Miriam described? What was she? [A prophetess.]
6. Give two descriptions of God found in the song of deliverance. [Choose from the following: He is highly exalted; He is my strength and song; He has become my salvation; He is my God; He is a warrior; The LORD is His name; His right hand is majestic in power; His right hand shatters the enemy; In the greatness of His excellence He overthrows those who rise up against Him; He sends forth His burning anger, and it consumes His enemies as chaff; He is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders; He has loving kindness; He guides His people to His holy habitation; He shall reign forever and ever.]

Memory Verse[s]: (KJV)

- Exodus 15:11—Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Handwork:

- Make timbrels with paper plates. Punch four or five holes around the edge of the paper plate. With plastic twist ties, attach jingle bells to the plate.



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Destruction of Enemies:

1. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.
2. Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea.
3. And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.
4. The deeps cover them.
5. They went down into the depths like a stone.
6. You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them.
7. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
8. The earth swallowed them.

Dry Path for the People:

1. At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up.
2. The flowing waters stood up like a heap.
3. The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.
4. You blew with Your wind.
5. You stretched out Your right hand.

Other Nations' Fear:

1. Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
2. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You.
3. You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.
4. The peoples have heard, they tremble.
5. Anguish has gripped the inhabitants of Philistia.
6. Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed.
7. The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them.
8. All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.
9. Terror and dread fall upon them.
10. By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone.

What God Does for His People:

1. In Your loving kindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed.
2. In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.
3. [T]he people pass over whom You have purchased.
4. You will bring them and plant them in the . . . place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

Extolling the Lord:

1. He is highly exalted.
2. The LORD is my strength and song.
3. And He has become my salvation.
4. This is my God, and I will praise Him.
5. My father's God, and I will extol Him.
6. The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.
7. Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power.
8. Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.
9. And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You.
10. You send forth Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them as chaff.
11. Who is like You among the gods, O LORD?
12. Who is like You, majestic in holiness.
13. Awesome in praises, working wonders?
14. In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed.
15. In Your strength You have guided *them* to Your holy habitation.
16. The LORD shall reign forever and ever.
17. Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted.



"The Songs of Joy"
by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (1836-1902)

12.08a

Who Is Like You?

Exodus 15:11

Marilyn Alexander

Who is like You, O Lord, a - mong the gods? Who is like You,
4
Glor - ious in ho - li-ness, Fear - ful in prais - es, Do - ing won - ders
8
(Ex - o - dus fif - teen e - lev - en).

The musical score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the first two measures, the second staff contains measures 3 through 6, and the third staff contains measures 7 through 8. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the eighth measure.

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12.08a Who Is Like You.wma

**Who is like you,
O LORD, among
the gods?**

**Who is like You—
Glorious in
holiness,
Fearful in praises,
Doing wonders.**

Exodus 15:11

Psalm 136

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

11 and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

SAM, THE THORNY SEAHORSE

by Marilyn Alexander

(Note: seahorse voice should be spoken with little jaw movement and with pursed lips since the seahorse has no jaw but only a snout. Already-made seahorse puppets with mouths that do not move are available online.)

Sam: Hi there, kids! I'm a thorny seahorse, and I live in the Red Sea.

Interviewer: Red Sea!? Why, we're learning about Moses and the Red Sea in Bible club today!

Sam: You are! Did you know that the Red Sea is one of the finest places in the world for deep sea diving?

Interviewer: No. Tell me more.

Sam: Well, there are over 1000 species of sea creatures in the Red Sea. [proudly] I'm one of them.

Interviewer: So you are! [pause] I know we just met you, and so it might not be polite to ask you such a personal question. But . . . well . . . um . . . why do you talk so funny? Can't you [with facial gestures] ENUNCIATE better?

Sam: That would be pretty tough to do.

Interviewer: Why?

Sam: Take a look at my mouth. Even though my head looks like I'm a horse, I don't have teeth or a large jaw like most fish, but I have a snout. We thorny seahorses have longer snouts than other seahorses. Also, we thornies have a pretty black ring around our snouts. See?

Interviewer: That is pretty, Sam. How can you eat without using a jaw?

Sam: I just [make slurping sound] slurp in my food. Wouldn't you like to do that, kids? [slurping sound] And my mom doesn't have to tell me to eat quietly or to chew because I just slurp in whole teeny-tiny shrimp, plankton, or fish larvae—up to 3,000 a day. That's 360 an hour. I usually get 'em as they swim past me.

Interviewer: Wow! That's a bunch. You must eat fast at mealtimes to eat that much.

Sam: Actually, mealtime is all day long. I eat 12 hours a day. How would you like to do that, kids? No time to play. But that's okay with me because that's how my Creator made me. Say, how do you like my coronet?

Interviewer: Your coronet? My husband plays the cornet [pretend to play with gestures "ta-ta-da-ta-ta-da-ta-tah"], but I don't see yours unless that's another name for your snout.

Sam: No, not cornet; coronet—my crown.

Interviewer: Oh, you mean your crown, your coronet.

Sam: Yes. Thorny seahorses have five points on theirs and a spine in front of it. Did you know that our coronets are kind of like human thumbprints? They identify us exactly.

Interviewer: Interesting! [slight pause] I may sound rude again, but your eyes are kind of bothering me. One is looking one way and the other is looking another way.

Sam: Isn't that a marvelous design? I can look two ways at one time. Indeed, I need to find lots of food, you know.

Interviewer: Yes.

Sam: And I need to watch out for my enemies. But if I see an enemy, I can just change colors to hide in my environment.

Interviewer: Like a chameleon?

Sam: Sure enough!

Interviewer: Another thing I've noticed is that you swim upright. How do you do that?

Sam: See these fins on my sides.

Interviewer: Yes, and I learned they are called pectoral fins.

Sam: That's right. They control my steering. My small back fin—

Interviewer: I learned what that's called, too. It's your dorsal fin.

Sam: You're so smart. These fins wave rapidly to move me through the water. My dorsal fin beats 20-30 times per second.

Interviewer: Do you mean that when I count "one," you have beat your dorsal fin back and forth 20 to 30 times?!

Sam: Absolutely! That fin beats so fast that you can't even see it! I look as if I'm gliding up and down in the water. But I still don't swim very fast with all this armor on; so water currents help me get places too.

Interviewer: What happens if a really strong water current comes along?

Sam: Oh, I just curl my tail around the sea grasses or coral branches at the bottom of the Red Sea and hold on for dear life! In fact, I usually just stay in one place all day. The Lord prepared me for every situation.

Interviewer: What else would you like to tell us, Sam?

Sam: I have a wife, only one wife. We stay together all our lives, just as God says humans are supposed to do.

Interviewer: Good for you, Sam!

Sam: Thank you. But one thing that is different about us seahorses is that *I*, the daddy, have the babies.

Interviewer: Huh? What did you say?

Sam: I said we *male* seahorses have the babies.

Interviewer: How does that happen?

Sam: Mrs. Seahorse deposits 200-600 eggs into this pouch on my tummy, where I keep them for 2-3 weeks. Then *I* give birth.

Interviewer: How interesting!

Sam: Yes, ma'am [or sir]. My babies are about one centimeter long when they are born, but they start taking care of themselves as soon as they are born.

Interviewer: Do they do a good job of it?

Sam: Well, they do their best, but without a hard armor like mine, they look pretty tempting for other sea creatures to eat.

Interviewer: So a lot of them get eaten up before they are adults?

Sam: Yes. Only about two out of a thousand of us become adults. If we do survive, we live about four years.

Interviewer: You are certainly an amazing fish, Sam Seahorse. Christ, the Creator, made you very unique.

Sam: Yes, He did. In fact, listen to this: [Interviewer counts on fingers as Sam mentions each thing.] I have the head of a horse, the snout of an aardvark, spines of a puffer fish, the pouch of a kangaroo, eyes of a lizard, the wrap-around tail of a monkey, the armor-plated body of Stegasaurus, and the chameleon's ability to change colors.

Interviewer: Wow! You are like eight big animals all in one little fish! What a creation!

Sam: What a Creator!