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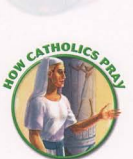
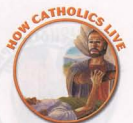
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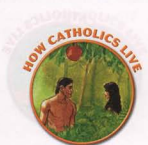
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## OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Organized according to the 4 pillars of the Catechism

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# God Saves and Delivers Us

UNIT

2

God saved the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. Through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are freed from the slavery of sin to live as the new people of God.

*Sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.*

Exodus 15:21



Hebrew slaves may have helped build this statue of the pharaoh Ramses II. The map shows the Hebrew people's journey out of Egypt to the promised land.

Journey  
to the  
Promised  
Land



## Wade in the Water

African-American spiritual  
Arranged by Diana Kodner

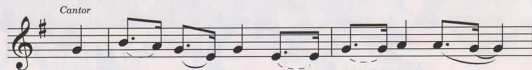
## REFRAIN

*All*

## VERSE

*Cantor*

1. See \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ host all dressed \_\_\_\_\_ in white, \_\_\_\_\_
2. See \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ band all dressed \_\_\_\_\_ in red, \_\_\_\_\_
3. Look \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver yon - der, what do I see? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you don't be-lieve I've been \_\_\_\_\_ re - deemed, \_\_\_\_\_



The lead - er \_\_\_\_\_ looks like the Is - ra - el - ite, \_\_\_\_\_  
Looks like \_\_\_\_\_ the band that \_\_\_\_\_ Mo - ses led, \_\_\_\_\_  
The Ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ Ghost a \_\_\_\_\_ com - in' on me, \_\_\_\_\_  
Just fol - low me \_\_\_\_\_ down to \_\_\_\_\_ Jor - dan's stream, \_\_\_\_\_





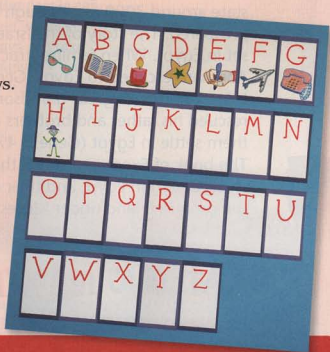


## Slavery and Deliverance

The story of Moses and the Exodus is a key part of the salvation story of God's people. God spoke to Moses in a burning bush and asked Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery to their own land. Through escaping slavery in Egypt, the Israelites learned new lessons about themselves as God's special people. We can learn from their story and from our own family journeys.

### ACTIVITY

**Family Hieroglyphics** The ancient Egyptian alphabet, called hieroglyphics, consisted of symbols that represented letters. Create an alphabet of symbols that mean something to your family. For instance, a stick figure of a girl could represent the letter *H* if there is a girl in the family named Hannah.



## WEEKLY PLANNER

### On Sunday

Listen to the second reading at Mass for themes of slavery and freedom.

### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

### Saint of the Week



**Saint Martin de Porres**  
(1579–1639)

Martin de Porres, a Dominican friar, lived near Lima, Peru, during the time of the slave trade. His days were filled with nursing the sick and caring for slaves and the poor of the city. His love for all people, regardless of their color, race, or status, set an example for others of his time.

**Patron Saint of:** racial harmony

**Feast Day:** November 3



**A Prayer for the Week**

Thank you, God, for our freedom to be your followers. Give us the courage to stand firm in our beliefs. Amen.

# Getting ready for Chapter 5

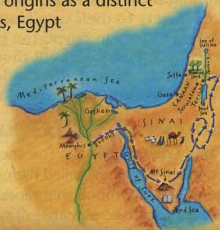
## Take Home



### Scripture Background

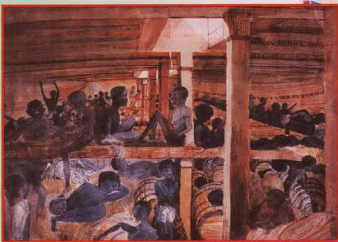
#### Before the Time of Jesus

**Egypt and the Israelites** The Egyptian civilization developed in the fertile land along the Nile River. From its origins as a distinct state around 3000 B.C. through Roman times, Egypt prospered. The story of the Israelites is often set in Egypt. When famine struck Canaan, Abraham escaped to Egypt (Genesis 12:10). Later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph rescued his father and brothers and helped them settle in Egypt (Genesis 47:1–12). The book of Exodus recounts the Israelites' enslavement in Egypt and their escape to the promised land under Moses' leadership.



## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in History

**Saint Peter Claver** Saint Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit missionary, was sent to Cartagena (part of modern Colombia) in 1610. Cartagena was a port of entry for slave trading ships. Peter soon found himself busy with all the sick and demoralized slaves who had survived the inhumane treatment on the ships. He went into the holds of the ships and gave the slaves food and water. He told them about Jesus and that they were precious in God's eyes. Slave owners believed that slaves only had worth as property, so



Saint Peter Claver's message was a subversive one. He called himself "a slave to the Negroes forever." His feast day is September 9.



## 5 Slavery and Deliverance



Sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

Exodus 15:21

### Share

When you hear the word *slave*, you probably think of a person who is completely under the control of another person. But people can also become enslaved by poverty, prejudice, addiction, violence, materialism, and other wrongs in society. Many things can take away a person's freedom to live peacefully and lovingly.

### Activity

Complete the sentences under each photograph.



The people in this picture have become  
slaves of \_\_\_\_\_.

They do not have the freedom to \_\_\_\_\_.

The people in this picture have become  
slaves of \_\_\_\_\_.

They do not have the freedom to \_\_\_\_\_.

Pick one photograph and write how the people shown might  
be delivered, or freed, from slavery. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does  
**Yahweh**  
mean?





## Hear & Believe

### Scripture **The Exodus**

*God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give them land that would be home to their descendants, and he fulfilled his promise.*

For many years after Joseph's death, the descendants of Joseph's family prospered in Egypt. They were known as the Hebrews or Israelites.

But then a new Pharaoh told the Egyptians, "The Israelites keep growing! Let us stop them before they become powerful." He made the Hebrews slaves, forcing them to build cities and work in fields.

The Hebrew families kept growing. Pharaoh ordered, "Throw every Hebrew baby boy into the river!" Jochebed, a Hebrew woman, gave birth to a son. To keep him from being killed, she hid him. Later, she put him in a basket and placed it in the reeds on the riverbank. Pharaoh's daughter spotted the baby. She adopted him and named him Moses.

A long time passed. The Israelites cried out to God about their slavery. One day, after Moses grew up, he was leading a flock of sheep across the desert. He saw fire coming out of a bush but not burning it.

Moses heard the LORD say, "Come no closer! This is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. I have seen my people suffer in Egypt. I will rescue them. I will lead them out of Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey. Go to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

"But," Moses said, "if I tell the Israelites, 'The God of your fathers sent me to you,' and they ask, 'What is his name?' what should I say?"

God said, "I am who I am. Tell the Israelites: Yahweh sent me to you."

Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has said, 'Let my people go.'"

But Pharaoh would not obey. Because of this plagues came upon the land. The Nile River turned into blood. Frogs, gnats, flies, animal disease, boils, hail, locusts, and three days of darkness came. Pharaoh still did not give in. Then the LORD commanded the Hebrew families to prepare a special meal and mark their doorways with lamb's blood so that the next plague would "pass over" their homes. It would be a plague of death! That night, all the firstborns in Egypt died, even Pharaoh's son. Pharaoh sent for Moses. "Leave now, you and the Israelites with you!" he cried.

The Israelites marched out of Egypt. But suddenly Pharaoh wished he had not let the Israelites go. He sent out more than 600 chariots with warriors to catch them.

Pharaoh's armies caught up with the Israelites at the Red Sea. The Israelites called out to the LORD in great fright. The LORD told Moses,





“Stretch your hand out over the sea.” When Moses did this, the LORD swept the sea with a strong wind, turning the sea into dry land. The Israelites marched in, with a wall of water on their right and left. When the Egyptians chased after them, the water flowed back, drowning Pharaoh’s whole army.

The Israelites sang songs thanking the LORD for leading them safely toward the promised land. Moses’ sister, Miriam, led the women in dancing and praising the LORD.

*Based on Genesis 50:24 and Exodus 1–15:21*

## God’s Love Delivers Us

The story about God’s freeing the Israelites from slavery and leading them out of Egypt is called the **Exodus**. Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament. The Israelites in Egypt believed in God’s promises to their ancestors, so they cried out to God for help. God chose Moses to teach the Israelites his word and to lead them to freedom.

At the burning bush, God revealed an important mystery he had not revealed to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. God told Moses his sacred name, **Yahweh**, which means “I am who I am.” This means God is the only God, who exists forever. No one created God; he created everything and everyone and only he has this power to create. God creates our souls with the plan to reward us with everlasting life with him. All creation is destined for God’s glory. God delivered the Israelites from their suffering in Egypt and led them to the **promised land**. In the same way, he delivers us from sin and leads us to everlasting life. This is the greatest deliverance of all.

## Our Church Teaches

The Book of Exodus describes one of the most important saving acts of God. The Old Testament is filled with signs of God’s love and faithfulness. But the New Testament tells of God’s greatest act of love: sending his Son, Jesus, into the world to save all people. Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Because of Jesus, the Church can forgive any sin, no matter how great. Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

With him we can share in the promised land of heaven. Because of Jesus’ death and Resurrection, people do not have to be afraid of death. If we love God and others as Jesus taught, death leads to everlasting happiness with God.

### We Believe

Jesus Christ conquered death for us. At our baptisms he gives new life to our souls. He will also give new life to our bodies in the kingdom of heaven.

### Faith Words

#### Exodus

The Exodus is the Old Testament story of how God freed the Hebrews in Egypt. Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament.

#### Yahweh

Yahweh is the most sacred name of God, spoken to Moses. It means “I am who I am.”

#### promised land

The promised land is Canaan, the sacred place God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Israelites in Egypt.

How do God’s people express their need to be free?

## Respond

### Bound by Faith

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, African people were forced to come to America as slaves. African slaves were robbed of their freedom and self-esteem. They suffered in many of the same ways as the Hebrews did in Egypt.

To help them survive, African slaves sang songs called *spirituals*, which expressed their faith in God. The slaves sang about a journey to spiritual as well as physical freedom and asked Jesus to set them free "on the inside." They called on the heroes of the Old Testament as friends who could help them in their struggles. One person began the spiritual by singing about his or her sadness or joy. A group would sing a response. The following spiritual is called "Go Down, Moses."

**Solo:** When Israel was in Egypt's land

**Group:** Let my people go!

**Solo:** Oppressed so hard they could  
not stand

**All (refrain):**

Let my people go!  
Go down, Moses,  
'way down in Egypt's land.  
Tell ol' Pharaoh to  
let my people go!

**Solo:** The Lord told Moses what to do

**Group:** Let my people go!

**Solo:** To lead the children of  
Israel through

**Refrain**

**Solo:** As Israel stood by the water side

**Group:** Let my people go!

**Solo:** At God's command it did divide  
**Refrain**

**Solo:** When they had reached the  
other shore

**Group:** Let my people go!

**Solo:** They sang a song of  
triumph o'er

**Refrain**

**Solo:** Oh, let us all from bondage flee

**Group:** Let my people go!

**Solo:** And let us all in  
Christ be free

**Refrain**



























### Did You Know...

...African slaves used their songs as secret codes? The song "Steal Away to Jesus" was used to call secret meetings. Frederick Douglass, a slave liberator, used the line "I am bound for Canaan" to signal that he was going North.



## Activity

The ancient Egyptian alphabet was made of pictures instead of letters. The pictures are called *hieroglyphics*. The key shows hieroglyphics for the letters in our alphabet. Use it to translate the song Miriam sang when the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea.

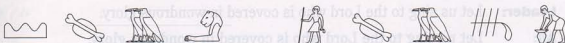
<b>A</b> 	<b>B</b> 	<b>C</b> 	<b>D</b> 	<b>E</b> 	<b>F</b> 
<b>G</b> 	<b>H</b> 	<b>I</b> 	<b>J</b> 	<b>K</b> 	<b>L</b> 
<b>M</b> 	<b>N</b> 	<b>O</b> 	<b>P</b> 	<b>Q</b> 	<b>R</b> 
<b>S</b> 	<b>T</b> 	<b>U</b> 	<b>V</b> 	<b>X</b> 	<b>Z</b> 
				<b>W</b> 	<b>Y</b> 



**M i r i a m s a n g,**



" \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ ! \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ "

**How can we  
praise our  
God, the God  
of Moses?**



## Prayer Celebration

### A Prayer of Praise

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites understood more fully the power of Yahweh. Their praises went up to God in a song. God has freed us all from sin and death by his Son, Jesus Christ. Let us stand and praise him, using the words of the Israelites' song.

**Leader:** Let us sing to the Lord who is covered in wondrous glory.

**All:** Let us sing to the Lord who is covered in wondrous glory.

**Leader:** I will sing to the Lord, in glory triumphant;  
horse and rider are thrown to the sea.  
God of strength, of song, of salvation, God of mine,  
hear these praises.

**All:** Let us sing to the Lord who is covered in wondrous glory.

**Leader:** My God is a warrior whose name is "The Lord."  
Pharaoh's army is thrown to the sea.  
Your right hand is magnificent in pow'r,  
your right hand has crushed the enemy.

**All:** Let us sing to the Lord who is covered in wondrous glory.

**Leader:** In your mercy you led the people you redeemed.  
You brought them to your sacred home.  
There you will plant them on the mountain that is yours.  
The Lord shall reign forever!

**All:** Let us sing to the Lord who is covered in wondrous glory.

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## 5

## Chapter Review

**A Identify** who or what is described by each clue, using words from the box.

1. Called Canaan, this is the sacred place God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Israelites. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The story of how God freed the Hebrews in Egypt; the second book of the Old Testament. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He conquered death for us; at Baptism he gives new life to our souls and will give new life to our bodies in the kingdom of heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The most sacred name of God, spoken to Moses. It means "I am who I am." \_\_\_\_\_
5. This part of the Bible is filled with signs of God's love and faithfulness. \_\_\_\_\_
6. This part of the Bible tells of God's greatest act of love. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Just as God led his people to the promised land, he leads us to this. \_\_\_\_\_
8. When he and the Israelites reached the Red Sea, the Lord turned it into dry land. \_\_\_\_\_

spiritual

Moses

Exodus

Old Testament

everlasting life

promised land

Yahweh

New Testament

Jesus

**B Respond** to the following.

1. What is God's greatest act of love? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Jesus make it possible for us to share in the promised land of heaven? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Faith in Action

**Parish Support Groups** Most of us know someone who has had difficulties in life. It might be a friend whose parents are divorced. Maybe it's a neighbor who survived cancer. Or it could be a best friend's uncle fighting alcoholism. More and more, parishes are hosting or organizing groups for people who share similar problems to come together to encourage one another. These groups help many people overcome difficult situations and learn and grow from them.

## In Everyday Life



**Activity** In the space below, write three or more words or phrases that tell people why they can count on you for support.

"You can count on me because..."

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## In Your Parish



**Activity** Praying for one another is sometimes the best thing we can do to help in difficult times. Think about someone you know who needs your prayers right now. Without writing the person's name, write a prayer asking God to protect and help that person.

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