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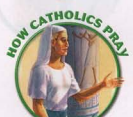
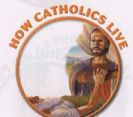
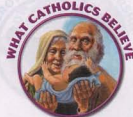
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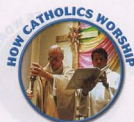


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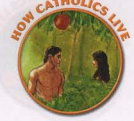


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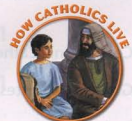


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God Saves and Delivers Us

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



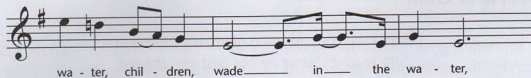
UNIT 2 Song

Wade in the Water

African-American spiritual
Arranged by Diana Kodner

REFRAIN

All



VERSE

Cantor



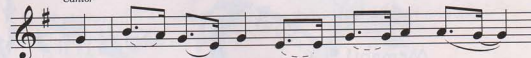
2. See that band all dressed in red,

3. Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?

4. If you don't be-lieve, I've been re - deemed,



Cantor



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,



Take Home

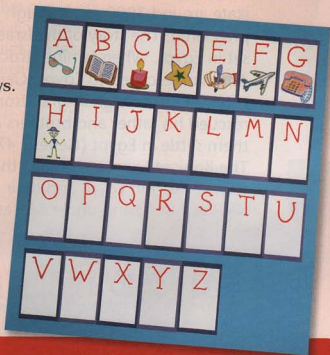


Slavery and Deliverance

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

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

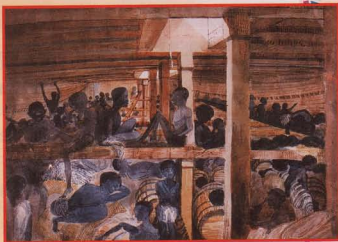
Before the Time of Jesus

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**. The Book of 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 us 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.

Activity

Moses delivered God's people from slavery under the Egyptians. In the space below, describe one form of slavery from which Jesus frees you.

Faith Words

Exodus

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

What did Jesus say about everlasting life?

Hear & Believe



A Question About Everlasting Life

One day, there were some people in a crowd Jesus was teaching who did not believe what Jesus said about life after death. These people did not believe there was any kind of everlasting happiness after death. People at that time believed that when a man who had no children died, the man's brother had a duty to marry the widow and have children. In this way, the brother could pass down the family heritage and property. The people in the crowd decided to ask Jesus a trick question about everlasting life.

"Teacher," they said, "Moses said, 'If someone's brother dies and leaves a wife but no child, he must take up the wife and raise up descendants for his brother.' Say there were seven brothers. The first married a woman but died childless. Then the second and the third married her, and so on, but all seven died childless. Now, if all seven had been married to her, when they rose again, which one would be the woman's husband?"

"People today marry and remarry," Jesus answered, "but only the children of God can enter the kingdom of heaven. The people to whom God gives the reward of everlasting happiness are like angels. They will not need to marry in the kingdom. They will no longer die but will rise again."

Jesus explained, "Moses even let you know that the dead will rise again. When the voice in the burning bush told him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,' Moses said it was the Lord. Yes, the Lord is not the God of the dead but of the living. To him all are alive."

Some of Jesus' listeners said to him in reply, "Teacher, you have answered well." And Jesus' opponents no longer dared to ask him any questions.

Based on Luke 20:27-40



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: God the Father 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 Baptism he gives new life to our souls. He will also give new life to our bodies in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Activities

1. Jesus said that the Lord is not the God of the dead but of the living. To God, all are alive. The Church has a tradition of praying for both the living and the dead. In the space below, name one person, living or dead, for whom you wish to pray, and write a short prayer for that person.

Name: _____

Prayer: _____

2. What questions do you have about life after death?

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.










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





         
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 God. 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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