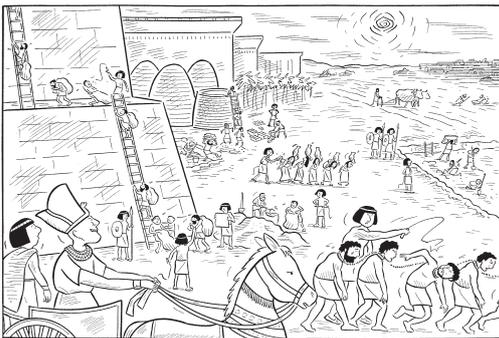




# Action Scene 1: Trapped!

## Exodus 1:1-14

This week's Action Scene pictures the Hebrews enslaved by the Egyptians and provides the main teaching focus for this first week of the Exodus series. The scene will help people to explore the contrasts of freedom and slavery, of poverty and wealth and the different attitudes of the people in the picture.



### Using this Action Scene with children

- Display** the Action Scene illustration to accompany the bible reading of Exodus 1:1-14.
- Discuss** the following questions to help children learn about the situation of Israel's slavery described in Exodus 1.
- Ask** *I wonder*  
... *what is happening in the picture?*  
... *what are these people doing?*  
... *which person do you like most/least?*  
... *what in this picture is not the way that God wants things to be?*  
... *what would make you happy or sad in this picture?*
- Invite** the children to think about how the different characters in the picture think and feel – about themselves and about other people.
- Encourage** children to write in or make some suggestions for the 'think bubbles' ('It's all for me'; 'I've got nothing'; 'I hate this world'; 'I'm hungry'; 'I'm better than them').
- Chat** with children about the question, 'Does having or not having money affect the way we see and feel about people?'  
(Can they see this in the people's attitudes to the wider world today or can they think of examples in the today's world?)  
Encourage the sharing of appropriate stories.
- Invite** children to identify those in the picture who are enjoying God's world and those who are not.
- Ask** *Are the rich people in the story really happy? If not, why not?*

### Activities

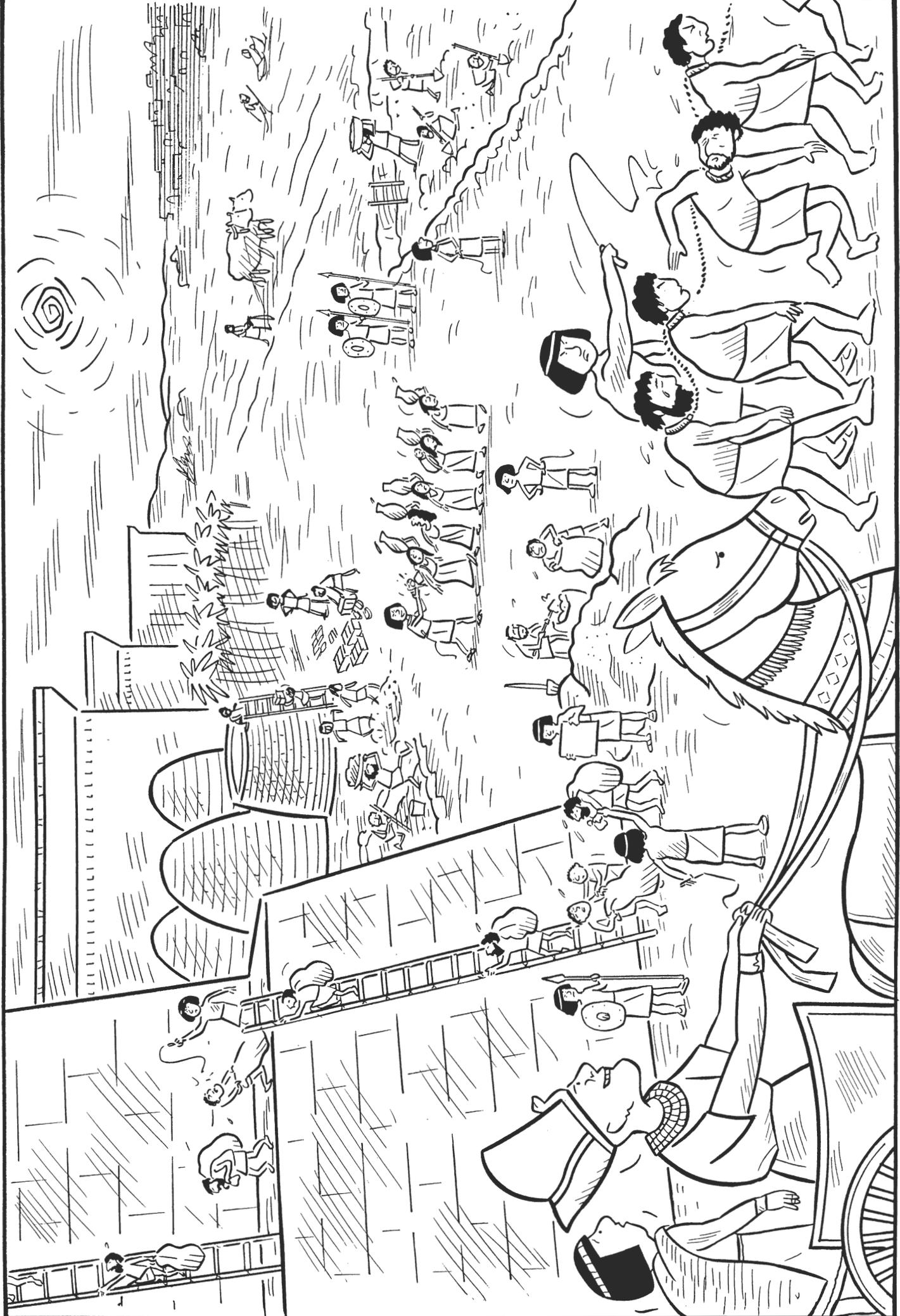
- ✿ Use pens of contrasting colours to identify the happy and unhappy people.
- ✿ Invite the children to colour the picture.

### Additional resources

If time permits or more activities are required, the following activities will complement this Action Scene. They are drawn from Week 1 of *Cry Freedom*, the Exodus all-age resource material that can be found as a download under the Exodus tab in the Preaching section of Designing the Programme.

- ✿ As an opening activity, use *Chained Down and Chained Up*.
- ✿ As closing activities, use the children's Peer Group Time activity *Create a Journal*.





## Action Scene 2: Walking Free

### Exodus 6:2-8, 12:31-39

This week's Action Scene pictures the story of the people of Israel being set free and leaving Egypt with the gifts they have been given. We know from our own experiences of moving house, changing schools or a new job that moving on can be both exciting and scary. The Action Scene explores what the Israelites gained when God set them free and also their ambivalent feelings about what they left behind. Learning to live in freedom is not always easy.

For this session each group or individual will need **two** copies of the Action Scene. A small group could work together on one enlarged copy of the picture. Alternatively, have separate copies for individuals to work on before comparing answers. You may show the cartoon on a data projector or print it to an OHP acetate to show during the reading of the text.

#### Using this Action Scene with children

- Display** the Action Scene illustration to accompany the reading or retelling of Exodus 12:31-39.
- Sum up** the powerful signs or plagues that God had sent and Pharaoh's refusal to let the people go. There are good retellings in *The Lion Bible for Children* (use the sections 'The Passover' and 'Freedom') and *The Lion First Bible* (pages 109-115).

#### Israel's experience

- Invite** the group to respond to the following questions to recap the story and complete the picture.
- Ask** I wonder how might you have felt if you were one of the people leaving Egypt?
- Encourage** a variety of answers from the group, then ask the children to **draw expressions** on the blank faces to represent these feelings. It may help to **ask children** how they have felt at times of big change: moving house, changing school, etc.
- Ask** *I wonder what the Israelites took with them as they left Egypt?*
- Ask the children to fill in the picture with drawings or captions – for example, gold, silver, clothes, family, friends, flocks, half-made bread. You might also mention and draw the pillar of cloud and fire symbolising the help and presence of God.
- Ask** *I wonder what the Israelites left behind as they set off into the desert?*
- Ask the children to draw or write answers on the space in the land of Egypt – for example, homes, water supply, food supply, cruelty, suffering, slavery.





### Our experience

The leader should now offer a **very brief summary**.

*God had set the Israelites free from slavery. As they set off; he ensured they had many good things.*

*Best of all, God was going with them.*

*The people of Israel were released from captivity and set out on a journey to a new and Promised Land and God himself went with them on this journey.*

*The New Testament uses the image of freedom from slavery to sin to describe what Jesus has done for us. The Israelites set out on a journey when they were set free, so our new life in Jesus, both personally and together as a church, is also a journey.*

### Activities

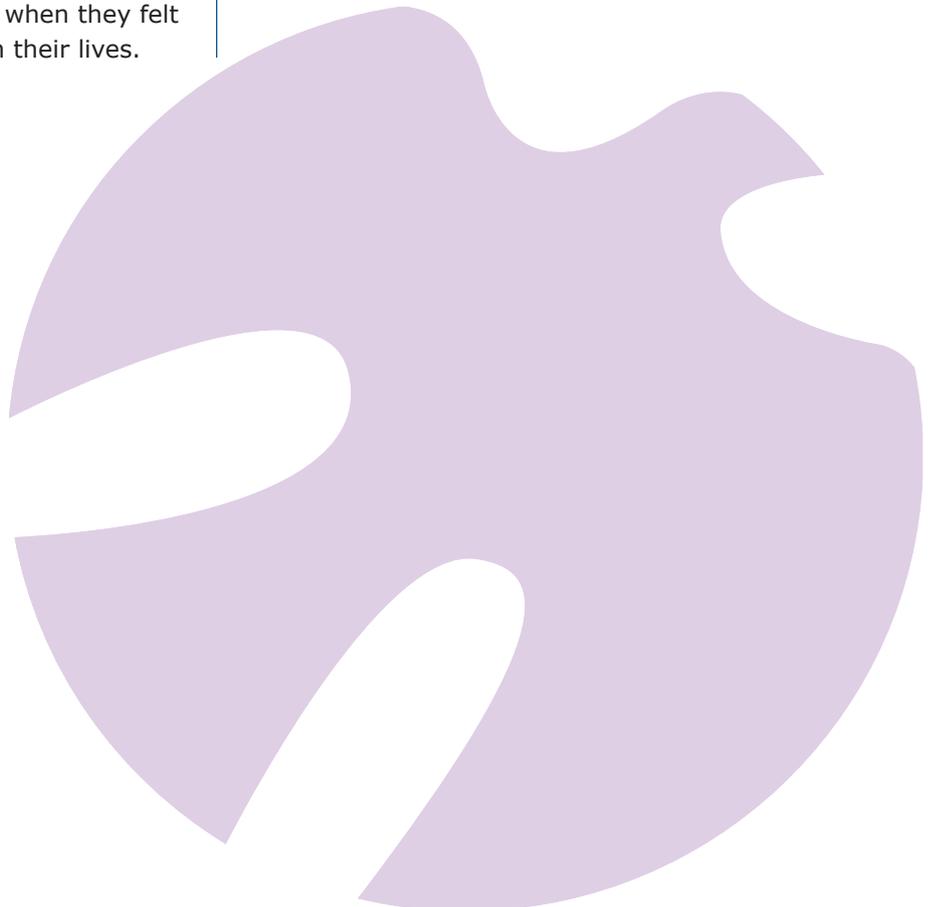
Give each group or individual a new copy of the picture to complete the following activities:

- 🌀 **Ask** *I wonder how you feel about being set free by God?  
...what is exciting and new?  
...what makes you anxious of the future?  
...how you feel about belonging to the church?*
- 🌀 **Invite** children to fill in the faces to show those feelings.
- 🌀 Then invite leaders or children to **share** their early experiences of faith or a time when they felt God was doing something special in their lives.

### Additional resources

If time permits or more activities are required, the following activities will complement this Action Scene. They are drawn from Week 2 of *Cry Freedom*, the Exodus all-age resource material that can be found as a download under the Exodus tab in the Preaching section of Designing the Programme.

- 🌀 As an opening activity, use either the *Freedom Walk* or *The Narnia link*.
- 🌀 As a closing activity, use the Peer Group Time exercise for children *The Freedom Cake*, or continue with the *Journal*.





# Action Scene 3: All we need

## Exodus 16:9-2

**Action Scene 3 illustrates the story of the manna in Exodus 16:1-33, a slightly longer passage than the reading for the day, which the adults may be thinking about.**

**NB The Action Scene illustration comes in two versions: one with words in the speech bubbles and one with blank speech bubbles.**



### Using this Action Scene with children

**Display**

the Action Scene illustration during the reading or retelling of the story.

**Cover up**

the four sections of the scene and **reveal** each one in turn at the relevant point in the story.

*NB* For a shorter retelling, use a children's text such as *The Lion Bible for Children* by Murray Watts.

**Look at the story again**

using the second version of Action Scene 3 supplied with blank speech bubbles.

Taking each of the four parts of the scene in turn, **ask** the children to say what is happening in the story and invite suggestions for words to put in the empty bubbles. For each of the four parts of the scene:

**Ask**

*I wonder what you would be thinking?  
...what you would say?*

**Scene 1: The hungry Israelites (16:1-3)**

*What might a hungry people be feeling? Disappointment, disillusionment, anger, grumbling, moaning, sorrow, miserable, loss of faith?*

Write some words in the speech bubbles.

**Scene 2: The presence of God (16:6-8)**

*How might the people feel about claiming that God is present when they are hungry?*

Write some answers in the speech bubbles

**Scene 3: The provision of God (16:13-18)**

*How might the people feel, faced with this completely new and strange food?*

Write some answers in the speech bubbles.

**Scene 4: the manna jar (16:31-33)**

*What might the people be thinking and feeling as they come to terms with this strange provision that is only enough for what they need?*

Write some answers in the speech bubbles.



## Action Scene 2: All we need

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As you review the story in this way, you could also fill in the parts missed by the illustrations:

God's appearance in the shining cloud (between parts 2 and 3); the rotting of what was kept overnight; and God's gift of the Sabbath – a day when they would eat without having to gather food (between parts 3 and 4).

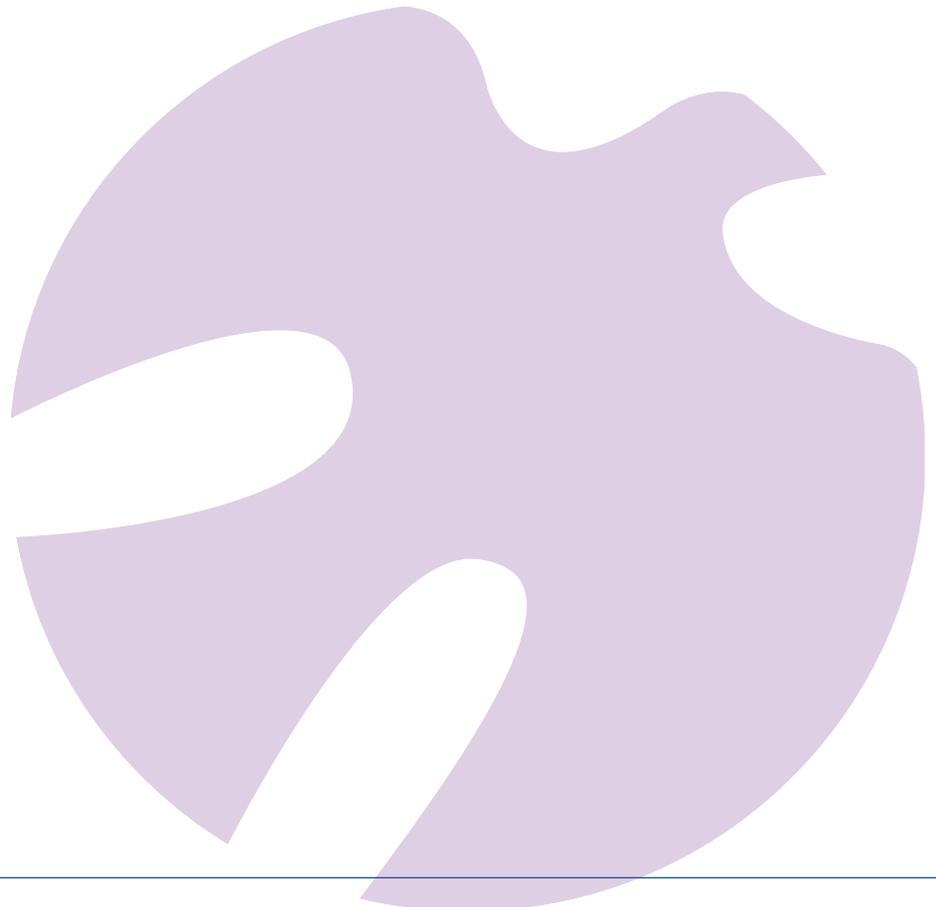
### Activities

- ✿ Children could draw these extra scenes and then colour and cut up the Action Scene to make a frieze of the whole manna story. Or...
- ✿ Act it out! Ask the group to imagine that they are the Israelites in the desert. For each of the four scenes in turn, spend time thinking how *they* would have felt, what *they* would have said, thought or done in that situation. Then try acting out those ideas in an improvised scene. One person, perhaps a leader, can act as Moses. With a larger group, you could split into four, each working on a different scene – reading the relevant bible verses above as background. Show each other what you have done.
- ✿ If there is time, chat about how they felt the scene went, before trying it out again.

### Additional resources

If time permits or more activities are required, the following activities will complement this Action Scene. They are drawn from Week 3 of *Cry Freedom*, the Exodus all-age resource material that can be found as a download under the Exodus tab in the Preaching section of Designing the Programme.

- ✿ As an opening activity use *Holding on* or *Letting go*.
- ✿ As closing activities, use the Peer Group Time exercise for children *What is it?* or continue with the *Journal*.



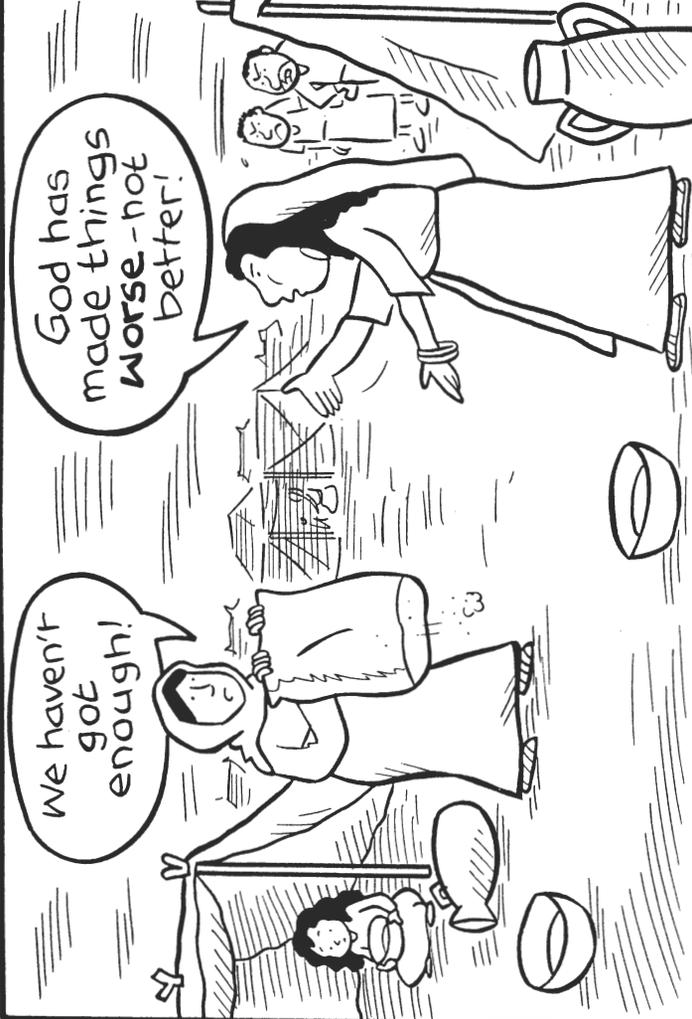


God set us free. He is with us!



We mustn't forget what God has done.

MMM-delicious!



God has made things worse - not better!

We haven't got enough!



God has given us just what we need!

What's this?

What is it?



God set us free. He is with us!



We mustn't forget what God has done.

MMM-delicious!



We haven't got enough!

God has made things worse - not better!



What's this?

What is it?

God has given us just what we need!

**Exodus 32:1-20**

**Action Scene 4 illustrates Exodus 32:1-20. Moses has received the law from God, but at the same time the people have made and are worshipping a golden calf. The illustration can be used in a variety of ways depending on the situation and age range of the children.**



*Action Scene 4:  
What comes first?*

Using this Action Scene with children

Using this Action Scene with children

**Display the picture** during a reading of Exodus 32:1-20 (or a retelling from a children's story bible). Introduce the reading by explaining that the Israelites are now at Mount Sinai. Moses is on the mountain receiving God's instructions on how they are to live as his people .He has been gone a long time.

**Colour or decorate** a copy of the illustration. Stick small pieces of gold card or foil on the calf outline. On the stone tablets, write the first and last Commandments from the bible version you are using (Exodus 20:2-3,17).

**Comment** on the contrast between them: God wanted his people to put him first. We cannot be in a right relationship with God if we make material things (made-up idols or possessions) our primary focus. The Israelites had lost confidence in God and were abusing his gifts to make a material object the focus of their lives.

**Point out** three figures/groups in the picture: Aaron, Moses and the dancing Israelites.

**Ask** *I wonder how these different people in the picture might be feeling?*

If you can, give each one a score (out of 10) for how well they behaved in this story. (This could be done by a group vote.)

**Ask** *I wonder why you gave those scores?*

Use this to explore the motivations and actions of those characters. Move on to share your own related experiences:

**Ask** *I wonder*

**THE PEOPLE**

*... what they were feeling when Moses was away a long time?*

*... why they worshipped the calf when they had experienced God's provision?*

**Talk about** times when you feel unsure about whether God is with you and caring for you.

*... why is it sometimes easier to focus our lives on things we can see than on God?*





## AARON

... why Aaron did it?

... what his feelings were when he was suddenly pushed into the leadership role?

**Talk about** times when you feel pressured by others into using possessions or money in a way that God might not like.

## MOSES

... what Moses' reaction is?

**Talk about** times when you get angry because you see other people (including companies or governments) using wealth and possessions wrongly.

## Activities

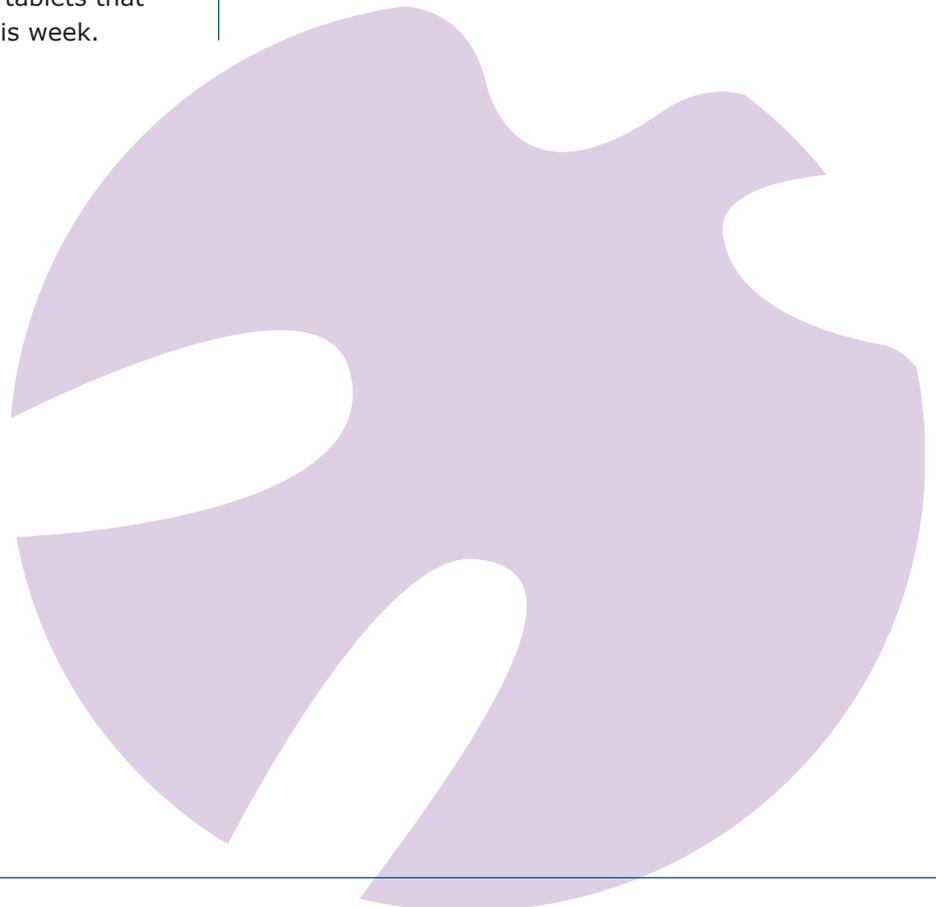
- Invite children to fill in the two blank areas of the scene, relating the story to their own situation:
  - On the golden calf: 'Things' – everything we have comes from God. But sometimes we can put more value on the gifts ('things') than on the Giver.
  - Write or draw some of the things you sometimes love more than God.
  - On the stone tablets, look at (or listen to) the first and last of God's Ten Commandments.
  - Draw or write something on the tablets that will help you remember them this week.

- Ask children what they would like to say to each of three people in the picture (one of the dancers, Aaron [the figure bottom right] and Moses). Encourage a variety of suggestions.
- Do they want to say anything to God?
- Have a time for children to express these responses silently or aloud.

## Additional resources

If time permits or more activities are required, the following activities will complement this Action Scene. They are drawn from the Week 4 resources in *Cry Freedom*, the Exodus all-age resource material that can be found as a download under the Exodus tab in the Preaching section of Designing the Programme.

- As an opening activity, use *Our Survey said*.
- As a closing activity, use the Peer Group Time exercise for children *I want some now!* or continue with the *Journal*.

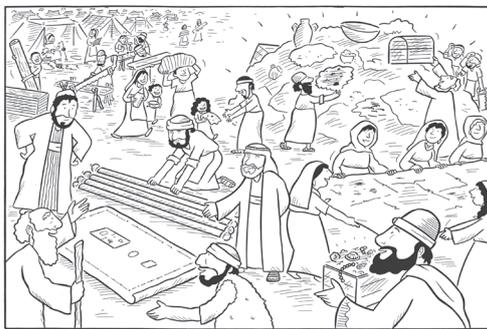




## Action Scene 5: Presence and gifts

### Exodus 35:1-10,20; 40:34-38

**Action Scene 5 shows the Israelites bringing materials and starting work on the tabernacle as described at length in Exodus 35:4 – 36:7ff.**



### Using this Action Scene with children

**Display** the picture during the reading or retelling of the verses. The picture uses a wider selection of readings than the set Exodus reading for the day: use Exodus 35:1-20,20-29 and 35:30 – 36:7.

NB *The Lion Bible for Children* has a good retelling of the story.

### Activities

Invite children to take turns at identifying aspects of the Action Scene that they have just heard about in the reading.

Cover a large, accessible wall with paper. Use OHP or data projector to display the Action Scene on it. In advance, prepare a copy of the picture by drawing over the projected image.

- Encourage children to draw themselves in the picture in a place of their choice (a face or stick figure will do).
- Where appropriate, encourage children to chat about their choice of location in the picture.
- Everyone could join in colouring or painting sections of the picture.

Either display, or give children copies of, the items in *Can you spot?* (below). Invite the children to get into small, mixed-age groups and work together to find all the items within the Action Scene.

*Can you spot?*

People working together; spices; gold; skilled work

Olive oil; precious gifts; a saw; a plan

Someone excited about giving more than is needed

Someone teaching a skill

Someone tired

A reminder that God is present?

Next, ask children to pick items from the list and say if and where they might be found in the life of your church.

**Ask** I wonder...

if this was a picture of us as a church, which person in it is most like you at the moment?

which would you most like to be?

what would make the difference?

**Chat** about your responses.





## Action Scene 5: Walking Free

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### Additional resources

If time permits or more activities are required, the following activities will complement this Action Scene. They are drawn from Week 5 of Cry Freedom, the Exodus all-age resource material that can be found as a download under the Exodus tab in the Preaching section of Designing the Programme.

- ✿ As an opening activity, use What size tent?
- ✿ As a closing activity, use the Peer Group Time exercise Jewellery making or continue with the Journal.

