



5. Crossing the Red Sea

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to FreeBibleImages for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.

This week, the focus is on the crossing of the Red Sea – and another miracle that God works to protect the people



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

We return to the theme of God keeping the people safe, this time across the Red Sea, and think about people who help to keep us safe. You may want to contextualise this within your own school community first.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **The introductory game is about different ways of crossing, to prepare the way for the challenges of crossing the Red Sea, and finishes with a group challenge on slide 9, which you could omit, or use instead of the picture game if you prefer.**
- **Part of the story for this collective worship is in the form of another song, ‘How did Moses cross the Red Sea?’ which you can access using the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHpZFt7eiB8&t=1s> or from the slide itself.**
- There are suggestions for following up the theme of the collective worship in your classroom, in your reflective area, so do use the ideas if you would find them helpful.

Gathering:

Slides 1&2 Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

Engaging:

- **Slide 3: How would you cross.....?** Today’s assembly will take us into the next part of Moses’ adventure and the first part of the journey of God’s people out of Egypt. We’re going to think about some different crossings [– including a very active one in a moment! If you use slide 9] I’ll show you some pictures – and you decide how someone would go across
- **So, how would you cross....**
- **Slide 4: ...a pedestrian (zebra) crossing?** [NB emphasise road safety]
- **Slide 5: ...mountains?**
- You would need special clothes to keep you warm and safe – and you might need to climb, scramble etc. or maybe use a cable car!
- **Slide 6:....the world, from here...to here?** Fly, boat etc.
- **Slide 7: ...this river**



- Use the bridge! Or maybe very carefully across the rocks if the river was very shallow.
- **Slide 8: So how about this river? How might you cross this? Do you think it's deep?**
- **Slide 9: The crossing challenge**
- Set a challenge now, if you want to, to see if 2 teams of 3 children (& 2 hoops per team) can get themselves across the front of the hall, only stepping into a PE hoop. They must not set foot on the ground outside of the hoop. Can they work together?
- **Slide 10:** When we left Moses last week..... all the children of Israel were getting ready to leave Egypt and had just eaten their first ever Passover meal (though they didn't know that yet!). After 430 years of being slaves they were free, just as God had promised!
- So, let's find out what happens after last week's cliffhanger moment....!!
- **Slide 11:** Moses took the children of Israel from Egypt into the desert. God went ahead of them, in a tall cloud, every day.
- **Slide 12:** Wherever the cloud stopped, the people stopped and set up their tents, until the cloud moved again.
- **Slide 13:** God was with them, every night, in a tall pillar of fire. God kept them safe.
- **Slide 14:** Sometimes the cloud would stop for a long time. Then the cloud would move. 'Follow the cloud,' someone would shout.
- **Slide 15:** But God's presence in the cloud only moved as fast as the old people and the little children could walk.
- **Slide 16:** Very soon, the people came to the Red Sea. The water was very deep and they could not get across. The soldiers were nearly catching up and the people didn't know what to do.
- **How would they get across the wide, Red Sea? [ask children to problem-solve for a short while]**
- If you want to, you could use another song in the middle of our story that explains what happened next. [Click on the Israelites in the slide and the song will pop up in YouTube!] You may wish to repeat this to allow children to join in – it's not hard.
- **Slide 17:** So, God sent a big, strong wind. It blew a path in the sea, so that everyone could walk safely across the dry path, to the other side.
- **Slide 18:** But Pharaoh's soldiers were not quite so fortunate. When they tried to follow across the path and capture the Israelites, the wind stopped blowing and the waves came crashing down. God helped Moses, just like He promised.
- **Slide 19:** Moses knew that God was always with them and would take them safely, to their new land. But although they had crossed the Red Sea, there was still a very long journey ahead of them – and the people were beginning to complain..... *[add your own cliffhanger sound effects here!!!]*

Slide 20: Responding (words for worship):

We are going to take some time now to think about the part of the story we've shared today.

You might want to close your eyes to help you to focus.....



...I wonder how the people are feeling about the long journey that lies ahead of them?.....

.... I wonder what they might be complaining about?....

.... I wonder how it felt to be walking through the Red Sea, knowing that God had kept you safe?....

Slide 21: Prayer

At the very beginning of our term, we thought about people who are important to us, who we wanted to be kept safe.

For our time together today, we are going to think about people whose work can sometimes be dangerous, people who work hard to keep **us** safe.

So, if you'd like to join me in praying like this, then use the words **...keep them safe.'** after I say the words 'Please God...'

God who protects, we are grateful for people who help to keep us safe.



Slide 22:

For police officers on our streets and in our neighbourhoods, please God....**keep them safe.**

Slide 23:

For construction workers who work on our buildings and make them safe for us to live and work in, please God....**keep them safe.**

Slide 24:

For fire fighters who rescue people from danger, please God....**keep them safe.**

Slide 25:

For all who work in labs to make medicines to treat us when we are ill, please God....**keep them safe.**

Slide 26:

For paramedics, who help when there are accidents, please God....**keep them safe.**
For all who work to keep us safe, please God....**keep them safe.**

Slide 27: Amen

Sending: Slide 28

Remind children of today's key message – to remember those who help to keep us safe



Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May today's words help us to become a stronger community!

To listen to / sing:

[Every step](#) (NBD)

Slide 29: Reflective / prayer idea, using bright paper or sticky notes



God kept the people safe

God kept the people safe. Use bright sticky notes / paper to be grateful to / pray for the people who keep us safe.



How did Moses cross the Red Sea? [lyrics]

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHpZFt7eiB8&t=1s>

How did Moses cross the Red Sea?
How did Moses cross the Red Sea?
How did Moses cross the Red Sea?
How did he get across?

Did he swim?-No, no!
Did he sail?-No, no!
Did he fly?-No, no, no, no!
Did he walk?-No, no!
Did he run?-No, no!
How did he get across?

Chorus

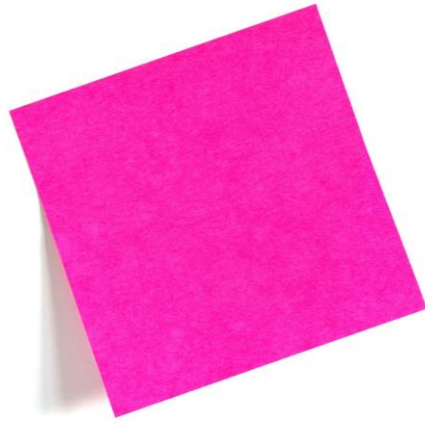
God blew with His wind, puff, puff, puff, puff.
He blew just enough, nuf, nuf, nuf, nuf.
And through the sea God made a path.
That's how he got across.

And through the sea God made a path.
That's how he got across.

[Repeat Chorus]

Lyrics by: Hugh Mitchell, J.C. Brumfield





“Keep them safe....”



Our theme this week reminds us that there are many people who work to help keep us safe.



**Who are these people?
What would you like to say to them if you could?**



Use a bright piece of paper or sticky note to write a message of thanks, or a prayer to God, for people who help to keep us safe.

