

## Exodus 12-14

When you have a birthday, do you have a party? Do you have some special food to eat, like a birthday cake or some ice cream? This is a special day to be with your family and friends, isn't it?



Well, the children of Israel were to have a special day, just like a birthday. Their special celebration was called the "Passover." This was a special holiday to remember how an angel of God passed over their houses and kept the Israelites safe. God told the Israelites to remember this day every year with special food and prayers to God and singing and happiness. It would be fun to go to a Passover feast wouldn't it?

Right after the first Passover feast God told Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, for Pharaoh was finally letting the children of Israel leave. What a happy time that was! They would no longer be slaves and have to work long, hard days with little food and being whipped by their cruel masters.

## # 30

2.

A great crowd of people left Egypt. There were boys and girls, mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers. They also took their donkeys and camels and sheep and cows with them. Some of them would have wagons to carry their goods in and some of them carried their things in packs on their backs. But how did they know where to go? They didn't have a map and didn't know how to get to the promised land that God was going to give them.

God led the Israelites by a tall white pillar of cloud during the day. When the cloud moved in front of them, they knew it was time to go. When the cloud stopped, they knew it was time to stop and set up camp. They would set up tents or build shelters from the weeds and pieces of wood they would find on the ground. The women would start fires and bring out pots and pans to cook their supper, while the men would find safe pasture for the animals. This was like a big camp out, wasn't it?





Do you know what happened to the pillar of cloud at night? It turned into a pillar of fire! As the children of Israel got ready to go to sleep, there would be a soft glow of firelight, just like a night light you might have in your room. They knew that God was watching over them all night long.

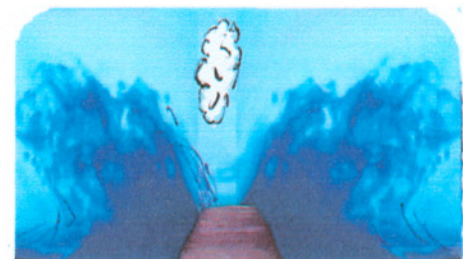
The children of Israel happily followed the pillar of cloud in the day and slept under the pillar of fire at night, until one day they came to a wide river that was right in their path. This was named the Red Sea (although the water was blue, not red). What would they do, they wondered? They didn't have any boats to cross the river and the Red Sea was much too wide and too deep to wade or swim across.

As it began to turn dark, suddenly they heard a terrible noise in the distance. It was the rumbling of chariot wheels and the sound of galloping horses. The wicked Pharaoh was coming after them and there was no place for them to hide ... how could they escape? The people became very angry at Moses, "Why did you bring us here to die?" they cried. Moses didn't know what to do either, so he knelt down and prayed that God would help them.



God heard their prayer and suddenly the pillar of cloud moved behind the Israelites. When the Egyptian army got close, all they could see was a huge, black cloud but on the side of the Israelites, God showed them the soft glow of the firelight. Then God told Moses to hold his staff toward the Red Sea. All that night a very strong wind blew over the Red Sea and the water began to part. God caused a path to form in between two walls of water and the children of Israel were told to cross over on the path.

It must have felt very scary to have tall, splashing, walls of water on each side of them as they hurried across on the dry bottom of the sea. As they dashed across, the dark pillar of cloud moved and Pharaoh and the Egyptians could see the Israelites getting away across the sea. "After them," Pharaoh shouted, "Don't let them get away, catch those Israelite slaves and kill them!"



What do you think happened?



As the last Israelite reached the land on the other side of the Red Sea, the Pharaoh's soldiers drove their chariots along the path between the walls of water. Then God told Moses, "Stretch out your staff over the water," and as Moses stretched out his hand the tall walls of water fell back into the sea and covered all the chariots and Pharaoh's army. They all drowned in the Red Sea and Moses and the children of Israel were safe and dry on the other side.

The people now knew they could trust God to keep them safe on their journey. Moses began singing a song of happiness and praise to God. Moses' sister, Miriam began dancing and singing and playing a tambourine. Soon all of the people were dancing and singing and everyone was praising God.



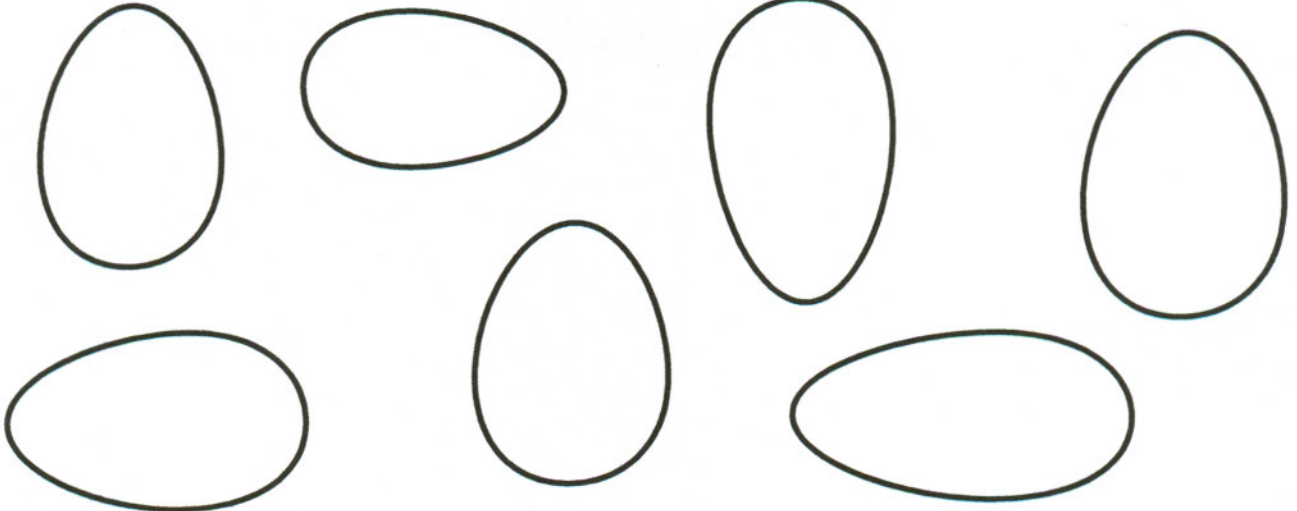
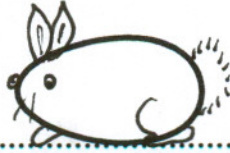
This was a very happy time, for God had been very good to the children of Israel.

### # 30 Question Page

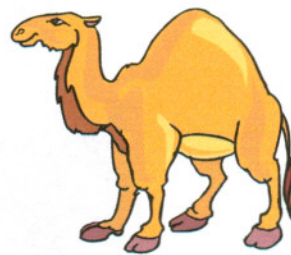
6.

1. What was the feast called when an angel passed over the Israelite's homes and saved them? (Birthday feast, Passover feast, Dance party)
2. Were the Israelites happy because they could leave Egypt and would no longer be slaves?
3. God led the Israelites by something in the sky, what was it?
4. What did the pillar of cloud turn into when it was night time?
6. Why were the children of Israel afraid when they reached the Red Sea? Why couldn't they cross the sea?
7. When Pharaoh's army came rushing up in their chariots, what moved between them and the Israelites?
8. What happened to the water when Moses stretched out his staff?
9. Who told Moses to do that?
10. Would you like to cross the Red Sea when there were walls of water on each side?
11. Who kept the children of Israel safe and dry when they crossed the Red Sea?
12. What happened to Pharaoh's chariots and army when they tried to cross the sea after the children of Israel?
13. What did Moses and Miriam and all the people do when they were safe on dry land?

The Red Sea had lots of drops of water in it. Below are some water drops and we've used the shape to draw some things. Can you draw some pictures out of the blank water drops?



The Israelites had several important things they would need to take on their trip to the promised land. Circle the things they would need on their trip and put an X on the things they wouldn't take.





# 30

Color the picture of Moses and Miriam as they sang and danced when God saved them



# 30

Can you draw and color the wall of water on each side of these Israelites? How many people are there? Can you count them and write the number in the line below? How many people are turning back to help the child? Put an X by the one who looks scared.

\_\_\_\_\_

