

LESSON AIM: Nothing that happens is ever out of God's control.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Exodus 13:17-15:21

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson…”)

- 1) Who was the man from last week’s lesson that was tested to trust and obey God?
- 2) What did God ask him to do? What happened?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

Do you ever wonder why certain things happen to you—especially hard things? One minute everything seems to be going fine, then suddenly everything seems to be out of control! The Hebrews were finally leaving Egypt and everything seemed fine—for a while!

II. BACKGROUND INFO

Do any of you remember the story of Joseph? [Last years students may be able to fill in the gaps, otherwise you as the teacher can briefly explain how God’s people are now in Egypt] Joseph’s family stayed in Egypt after Joseph brought them there, and as time went on their family became very, very large! They had now been living in Egypt for 400 years and their family had become a large nation. The current Pharaoh (the King of Egypt) realized that the children of Israel were more numerous than the people of Egypt so he made the Israelites slaves and treated them very cruelly. He even ordered that newborn baby boys be killed. But one of the baby boys, whose name was Moses, was divinely protected, and grew up to become the one who God would use to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.

When Moses went before Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go, Pharaoh refused. God then sent nine different “plagues”, or troubles, against the people of Egypt (blood, frogs, lice, flies, diseased animals, boils, hail, locusts and darkness). Still Pharaoh would not allow the children of Israel to leave. Finally, the tenth plague was announced (Exodus 11:5): all the first born in the land of Egypt would die. There was only one way that a family could escape this plague. Who remembers what this was? [Again, briefly explain Passover to the kids who are not familiar with this story from last year.]

III. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. God led the Hebrews out of Egypt toward the Red Sea (13:17-18).

[God led Israel south rather than north so they would avoid facing other nations in wars for which they were not prepared.]

B. The people were led by a pillar of fire by day and of fire by night (13:21, 22).

[The pillar provided divine guidance, the security of God's presence, and, eventually, protection from Pharaoh's pursuing armies.]

C. God revealed to Moses how Pharaoh would respond (14:1-4).

[Ask the students who Pharaoh was] God knew that Pharaoh's heart was hard toward Him because of sin and that he was still not willing to admit his wrong. Our hearts are also hard toward God from the time we are born because of sin. The Bible says the heart is "desperately wicked" (Read Jeremiah 17:9). Pharaoh refused to obey God. His heart was hardened, and God knew what his sinful heart would cause him to do about the Hebrews leaving Egypt.

D. Pharaoh and his army chased Israel as God had said they would (14:5-9).

Pharaoh finally let the people go. They were rejoicing and so happy to leave! They were on their way to the Promised Land! But what they didn’t know is that Pharaoh was about to change his mind…

E. As they saw the approaching armies of Egypt, the Israelites panicked and rebelled against God and Moses (14:10-12).

Once Pharaoh changed his mind, he sent his army after the people to bring them back to Egypt. The people saw the army coming and they panicked instead of trusting God.

The Israelites cried to Moses. They were trapped! This seemed like a hopeless situation with no way for them to escape. Why were they in this scary place? Didn't God know what was happening? Had He brought them out here just to be killed by their enemy? In their complaining, they were forgetting something very important about God. Maybe you also forget this important truth about God when things get hard. If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, nothing that happens is ever out of God's control. Sometimes it seems as if things are out of control. Natural disasters like earthquakes or hurricanes destroy whole cities. People you love may be injured in an accident or die of a terrible disease. Perhaps your family is having a hard time because one or both of your parents have lost their jobs. These difficult situations are hard to understand, but the Bible teaches that God is sovereign. He is the ruler over all things, and He works things out according to His own plan. Nothing happens unless God, in His wisdom, allows it. (Read Ephesians 1:11b) We can't always understand why things happen, but we do know God is in control. The situation the Israelites were in certainly seemed hopeless; and instead of trusting God, they complained bitterly to Moses.

F. Moses encouraged the people to trust God's plan for them (14:13-14).

G. God told Moses how to open the way of escape for Israel and he provided a barrier to obstruct the Egyptians (14:15-20).

H. Moses stretched out his hand, as God had instructed; and the sea divided, making a path of escape (14:21, 22).

When things were at their very worst, God showed the people in a most amazing way that He is Ruler over all. Even the waves of the sea are under His command. If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, remember, nothing that happens is ever out of God's control. He controls all of nature and everything that touches your life and He will allow only what is best for you. You may not understand why some things happen or how they will work out, but you can trust that God is working out His plan. The Bible says, (Read Proverbs 3:5-6). When things seem out of control and you are tempted to panic, don't. Instead, thank God that He is in control and ask Him to help you trust and wait patiently for Him to work things out in His own way. Even if God never shows you why some things happen as they do, you can still trust in His wise control. As the Israelites faced the scariest time of their lives, they saw in an amazing way that God is Ruler over all.

I. The Egyptian army chased Israel into the divided sea, but God caused them to have problems that slowed them down (14:23-25).

[Explain the problems with the chariots and the wheels falling off]

J. At God's command, Moses stretched out his hand again, causing the waters to return and destroy the Egyptian army (14:26-28).

III. CLIMAX

Safely on the other side of the sea, Israel could see that God had been in complete control, working out His plan for them all along! (14:29, 30).

IV. ENDING

A. Conclusion

1. The Israelites feared God and believed Him and Moses (14:31).

2. Moses, Miriam, and the people celebrated with praise to God (15:1-21).

B. Challenge

If you already know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, will you remember this week that nothing that happens is every out of God's control? No matter how impossible the situation may be, God knows and He will allow only what is within His plan for you. Remember what Proverbs 3:5-6 says, and ask God to help you to trust and wait patiently for Him to work things out in His own way.

"Thank you, God, that You are in control of all things. Thank You that You are working all things together for my good. Help me to trust You and to wait for You to work out (_____) according to Your plan. Amen".

Explain to the class that you have a card that they can take home with them. On it is a little prayer you can say to God when things seem to be out of control. Where the blank line is on the card you can tell God about the situation that you are facing.

MEMORY VERSE:

And we know that in all things
God works for the good
to those who love Him,
who have been call according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28