

Songs of Joy

Bible Story

Exodus 15:1-21

Anchor Point

We remember God's powerful acts.


Your Lesson

- Assemble the Crew
- Miriam Leads the Dancers
- Miriam's Song
- Make Tambourines
- Make Miriam Finger Puppets
- Parting the Sea Snacks
- Songs of Joy
- Blessings
- Praise God
- Mission Moment
- Psalm of Thanks
- Worship

 Everyone

 Readers

 Nonreaders

 Requires preparation.

Bible Verse

"I'll set you free with great power." (Exodus 6:6)

Did You Know?

God acted in powerful ways to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story began with the saving of the baby who would be named Moses. When Moses was an adult, God called to him from a burning bush and sent him back to Egypt. In Egypt, God's powerful acts eventually persuaded Pharaoh to set the Israelite slaves free. When Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after the Israelites, God intervened again and provided a way for the Israelites to cross the sea on dry land. God had freed the Israelites from slavery. Then it was time to praise God!

Today's Scripture contains two poems or songs remembering God's mighty acts and praising God. The first poem is presented as a song of Moses. It is recognized as one of the oldest and most important poems in the Old Testament. The theme of the two poems is the power of God that resulted in victory over the oppressors and delivered the people of Israel to safety.

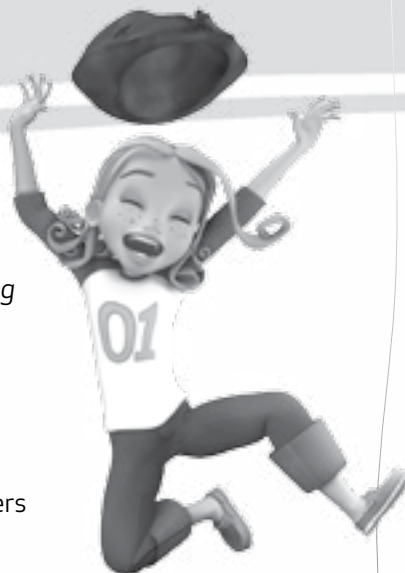
The first part of Moses' song focuses on the defeat of Pharaoh's army. We may not want to celebrate God as a militant commander who destroys those in God's path. As always when reading the Bible, it is important to remember the context of the story. The Israelites had been enslaved for over four hundred years. They were recounting the acts of a powerful God who had freed them from oppression.

The second poem in this Scripture is described as a song of Miriam, Moses' sister. This poem is a short three-line stanza. It directs the people to praise God. Miriam's song is considered to be even older than the song of Moses and may have been composed soon after these remembered events occurred.

The songs of Moses and Miriam celebrated God's powerful acts, and they were reminders for the Israelites of God's power. Today they are reminders for us.

Jump In!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or with the entire group.




ASSEMBLE THE CREW

Supplies: Attendance Chart, offering basket, marker, stickers

- Display the Attendance Chart.
- Greet the children as they arrive.
- Allow each child to add a sticker or mark his or her name on the attendance chart.
- Show the children where to place any offerings.
- Play music as the children arrive.

MIRIAM LEADS THE DANCERS

Supplies: Reproducible A, crayons

 Photocopy "Miriam Leads the Dancers" (Reproducible A) for each younger child.

- Give each younger child a copy of "Miriam Leads the Dancers!"

SAY: Miriam was the sister of Moses and Aaron. When the Israelites praised God, Miriam grabbed a tambourine and began singing and dancing. The other women picked up tambourines and began following Miriam.

ASK: What is missing in this picture? (the tambourines)

- Encourage each child to draw a tambourine for each dancer and color the picture.

MIRIAM'S SONG

Supplies: Bibles, Reproducible B, pencils

 Photocopy "Miriam's Song" (Reproducible B) for each older child.

- Give each older child a copy of "Miriam's Song" and a pencil.
- Encourage each child to solve the puzzle.

SAY: For many years, Bible stories were passed down by word of mouth before they were written down. The words of Miriam's song are believed to be some of the first words of the Bible that were written down.

MAKE TAMBOURINES

Supplies: Reproducible C, card stock, markers, scissors, paper hole punches, chenille stems, jingle bells

 Photocopy "Tambourine" (Reproducible C) onto card stock for each child.



- Give each child a copy of "Tambourine."
- Invite each child to use markers to decorate the tambourine.
- Have each child cut out the tambourine.
- Encourage each child to fold the tambourine in half along the fold line with the designs on the outside.
- Let each child use a paper hole punch to punch 8 holes in the folded tambourine where indicated.
- Have each child cut a chenille stem into four pieces.
- Let each child place a jingle bell on each chenille stem piece.
- Encourage each child to place the ends of each chenille stem piece through two adjacent holes on the tambourine, twisting the ends together on the other side to secure.
- Invite the children to shake their tambourines.
- Save the tambourines to be used during the telling of the Bible story.

MAKE MIRIAM FINGER PUPPETS

Supplies: Reproducible D, card stock, crayons, scissors

- ✂ Photocopy "Dancing Miriam Puppet" (Reproducible D) onto card stock for each child.
- Give each child a copy of "Dancing Miriam Puppet" and have him or her color the puppet.
- Encourage each child to cut out the puppet. Assist younger children with cutting out the finger holes as needed.
- Show each child how to put her or his fingers through the holes in the puppet to be the puppet's legs.
- Have each child make the puppet dance.

SAY: We will use these puppets as we hear our Bible story today.

PARTING THE SEA SNACKS

Supplies: graham crackers, blue frosting, gummy fish, pretzel sticks, teddy grahams, paper plates, plastic knives, paper towels


- Have the children wash their hands.
- Hand out the paper plates and graham crackers.
- Allow the children to spread blue frosting on two graham crackers and place a little mound of frosting between the two crackers at one end.
- Hand out the gummy fish, and allow children to place their fish in the blue icing on the graham crackers.
- Give each child a teddy graham and a pretzel stick.
- Allow the children to place the teddy graham standing up in the mound of frosting.

- Then place the pretzel stick beside the teddy graham. This will be Moses with his rod.
- Allow the children to eat their snack.

Dive Deeper

SONGS OF JOY

Supplies: Reproducible E, tambourines and finger puppets made earlier

 Photocopy "Songs of Joy" (Reproducible E) for each child to take home.

SAY: We've been hearing stories about God's powerful acts as God brought the Israelites out of Egypt where they had been slaves. Today we are going to hear about the Israelites praising God.

ASK: What does it mean to praise God? (to give thanks to God, to tell how great God is) Why do you think the Israelites would be praising God? (God rescued them from slavery.)

- Give the children the tambourines and finger puppets they made earlier.


SAY: Today's Bible story involves singing and dancing. At certain times I will announce a "Song and Dance Break." At that time I encourage you to shake your tambourines and make your puppets dance for a few seconds.

- Read the Bible story from "Songs of Joy" announcing the Song and Dance Breaks where indicated and encouraging the children to respond.

SAY: The Israelites praised God for God's powerful acts. It is good to remember how God has acted in our lives and to give thanks to God.

BLESSINGS

Supplies: Reproducible G, pencils, crayons, markers

 Photocopy "Blessings" (Reproducible G) for each child.

SAY: God blessed the Israelites by using powerful acts to free them from slavery in Egypt. Then they sang praises to God and told God how great God was to them.

ASK: For what blessings in your life would you like to praise God? (Allow the children to give a few answers.)

- Hand out "Blessings" (Reproducible G).

SAY: In the space provided write a few short words or draw simple pictures of the blessings in your lives.

PRAISE GOD

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: It is always good to praise God like the Israelites did. Let's spend some time praising God right now. Think about the blessings you want to praise God for today.

- Give the children a few moments to think about the blessings they wrote or drew on Reproducible 9f.

SAY: We are going to praise God while we play a rhythm game. The rhythm we will do is patting our knees with our hands two times, clapping two times and then snapping two times, once with each hand. Let's try it.


- Lead the children in doing the rhythm a couple of times.

SAY: Now we will add words. As we pat we will say, "We praise". As we clap we will say, "God for..." And as we snap one person will say one of the things he or she is thankful for. The next time we do the rhythm, the person to the left of that person will share, and we will continue around the circle. Let's see if we can make it all the way around the circle while keeping our rhythm going.

Grow Stronger

MISSION MOMENT

Supplies: Reproducibles F

 Photocopy "Mission Letter" (Reproducible F) for each child.

SAY: This month you'll have the opportunity to participate in a mission project. Today you'll take a letter home about the mission to share with your family. We'll be collecting donations throughout the month.

This quarter we will be raising money for the Children's Defense Fund and their program *Freedom Schools*. You can learn more about this program at this website: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/freedomschools/>.

This program seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation, and the world.

The model curriculum supports children and families around five essential components: 1. high-quality academic enrichment, 2. parent and family involvement, 3. social action and civic engagement, 4. intergenerational servant leadership development, and 5. nutrition, health, and mental health.

PSALM OF THANKS

SAY: We are going to say parts of Psalm 136 as a litany. I will say a line, then you will respond back, "God's faithful love lasts forever."

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Give thanks to the Lord because he is good.

God's faithful love lasts forever!

Give thanks to the one who struck down the Egyptians' oldest offspring—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

Give thanks to the one who brought Israel out of there—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

With a strong hand and outstretched arm—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

Give thanks to the one who split the Reed Sea in two—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

Give thanks to the one who brought Israel through—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

And tossed Pharaoh and his army into the Reed Sea—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

God remembered us when we were humiliated—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

God rescued us from our enemies—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

God is the one who provides food for all living things—

God's faithful love lasts forever.


Give thanks to the God of heaven—

God's faithful love lasts forever.

Worship

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Supplies: Exodus 6:6 Bible Verse Poster, Exodus 6:6 Sign Language Poster, Reproducible H, mission project offering basket

 Review the signs from the Sign Language Poster so you can teach them to the children.

Display the Exodus 6:6 Bible Verse Poster and Sign Language Poster in your worship area.

SAY: Today we heard about the Israelites celebrating God's powerful acts with song. Let's celebrate with our song about being free.

- Play familiar worship music and encourage children to sing and move along with the music.
- Show the children the Bible Verse Poster. Encourage readers to read the verse with you.

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- Teach children the sign language for the Bible verse. Encourage all children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: We have been collecting money this month for the Children’s Defense Fund. This is an opportunity for us to do God’s work and help children around the world.

- Hold up the mission offering while you pray.
- Invite the children to hold their hands out toward the offering while you pray.

PRAY: God, we ask you to bless the money we have given this month and bless the children who will benefit from these offerings. We pray that those who receive help through these offerings may feel your powerful presence with them. Amen.

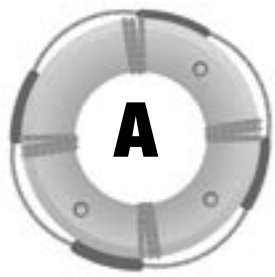
- Give each child a copy of the “Talk About” page to take home.

SAY: Share the “Talk About” page with your parents when you go home. It has some information about today’s lesson that you and your parents can share and discuss.

Answers

REPRODUCIBLE B MIRIAM’S SONG

<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>E</u>
<u>O</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>
<u>W</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>				
<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>			



A

Miriam Leads the Dancers

What instrument did Miriam play to praise the Lord?



For Nonreaders

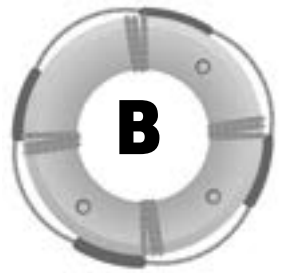
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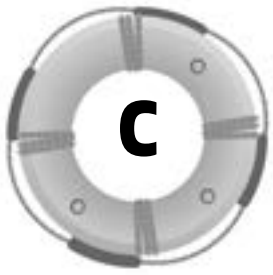
Miriam's Song

Miriam sang a song of praise to celebrate God freeing the Israelites from slavery. Decode the message below to learn a fun fact about the words of Miriam's song.



Miriam's Song

A	B	D	E	F	H	I	L
M	N	O	R	S	T	W	Y



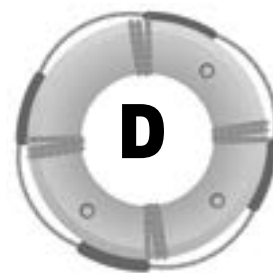
Tambourine

Make your own tambourine to use to praise the Lord.



Dancing Miriam Puppet

Miriam's puppet can help you praise the Lord.



For Everyone

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Songs of Joy

God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Then God parted the waters of the Reed Sea so the Israelites could walk on dry land to safety. The Israelites celebrated and praised God by singing and dancing.

Moses led the Israelites in singing praise to God.

Song and Dance Break!

I will sing to the Lord for victory.
God defeated Pharaoh's army!
The Lord is my strength and my power.
This is my God, whom I will praise,
the God of my ancestors.

Song and Dance Break!

Who is like you, God?
Who else does awesome deeds?
Who else is holy and worthy of praise?
There is no one like you, God!

Song and Dance Break!

The Lord will rule forever and always!

Song and Dance Break!

Then the prophet Miriam, Moses' and Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang praises to God.

Song and Dance Break!

Sing to the Lord,
for an overflowing victory!
God threw Pharaoh's army into the sea!

Song and Dance Break!

(Based on Exodus 15:1-21)



For Everyone

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Mission Letter

Dear Guardians,

This quarter we will be financially supporting The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and their program *Freedom Schools*.

The CDF Freedom Schools® program seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation, and world today. By providing summer and afterschool reading enrichment for children who might otherwise not have access to books, the CDF Freedom Schools program plays a much needed role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps—and is a key part of CDF's work to ensure a level playing field for all children. In partnership with local congregations, schools, colleges and universities, community organizations, and secure juvenile justice facilities, the CDF Freedom Schools program boosts student motivation to read, generates more positive attitudes toward learning, increases self-esteem, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources of their communities. Since 1995, more than 135,000 preK–12 children have had a CDF Freedom Schools experience and more than 18,000 college students and recent graduates have been trained by CDF to deliver this empowering model.

The CDF Freedom Schools model incorporates the totality of the Children's Defense Fund's mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference. Site coordinators and project directors are also trained by CDF to provide supervision and administrative oversight.

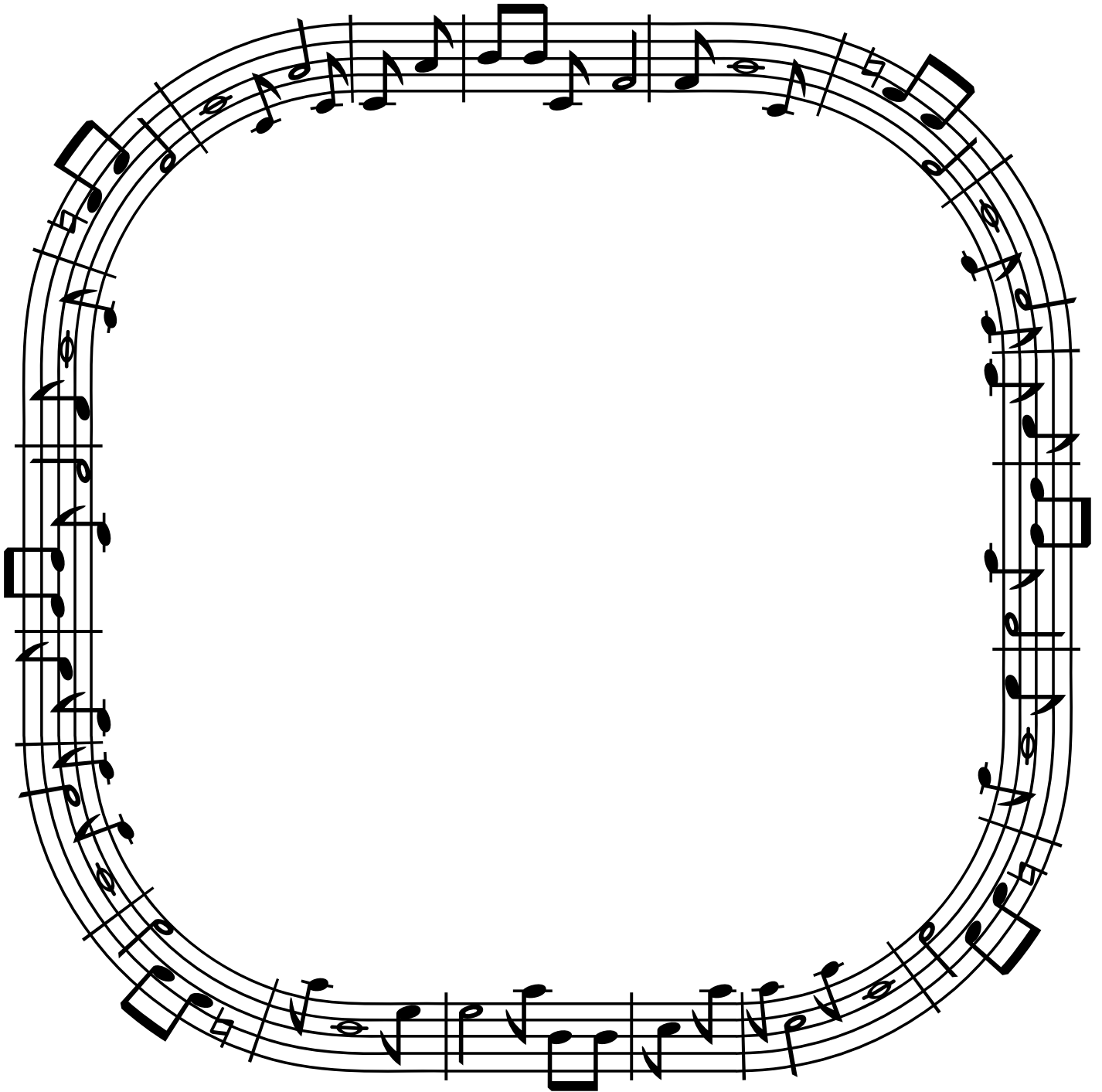
The program provides an exciting Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) including carefully chosen developmentally appropriate and culturally relevant books. The model curriculum supports children and families around five essential components—high-quality academic enrichment; parent and family involvement; social action and civic engagement; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health, and mental health. Learn more at www.childrensdefense.org/programs/freedomschools/

Your child's class will collect an offering for this service organization. You may send the offering with your child to class, or donate online at childrensdefense.org by clicking the "Donate" link on the left-hand side of the webpage.



Blessings

God's people saw how God had saved them. They saw how wonderful God was, and they trusted God. They celebrated by singing a special song to God. Miriam sang, "Sing to God. Tell how great God is." What events in your life can you sing about and praise God for? Write about or draw pictures showing these events.



For Everyone

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Talk About Songs of Joy

Say the Bible verse together:

"I'll set you free with great power." (Exodus 6:6)

Talk about today's Bible story at home:

The Israelites sang songs of joy to remember how God had been at work in their lives. Think about the things that have happened in your life.

When has God been at work in your life?

When have you felt God's presence with you?

What blessings do you have in your life?

Pray:

Thank you, God, for the many blessings you have given us and for your wonderful presence in our lives. Amen.

Bible Story

Exodus 15:1-21

Anchor Point

We remember God's powerful acts.



The Deep Blue Crew are waiting to hang out with you!

Scan this QR code to download the **Deep Blue Kids App**.
Or visit www.DeepBlueKids.com.





Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools®

The Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation, and world today.

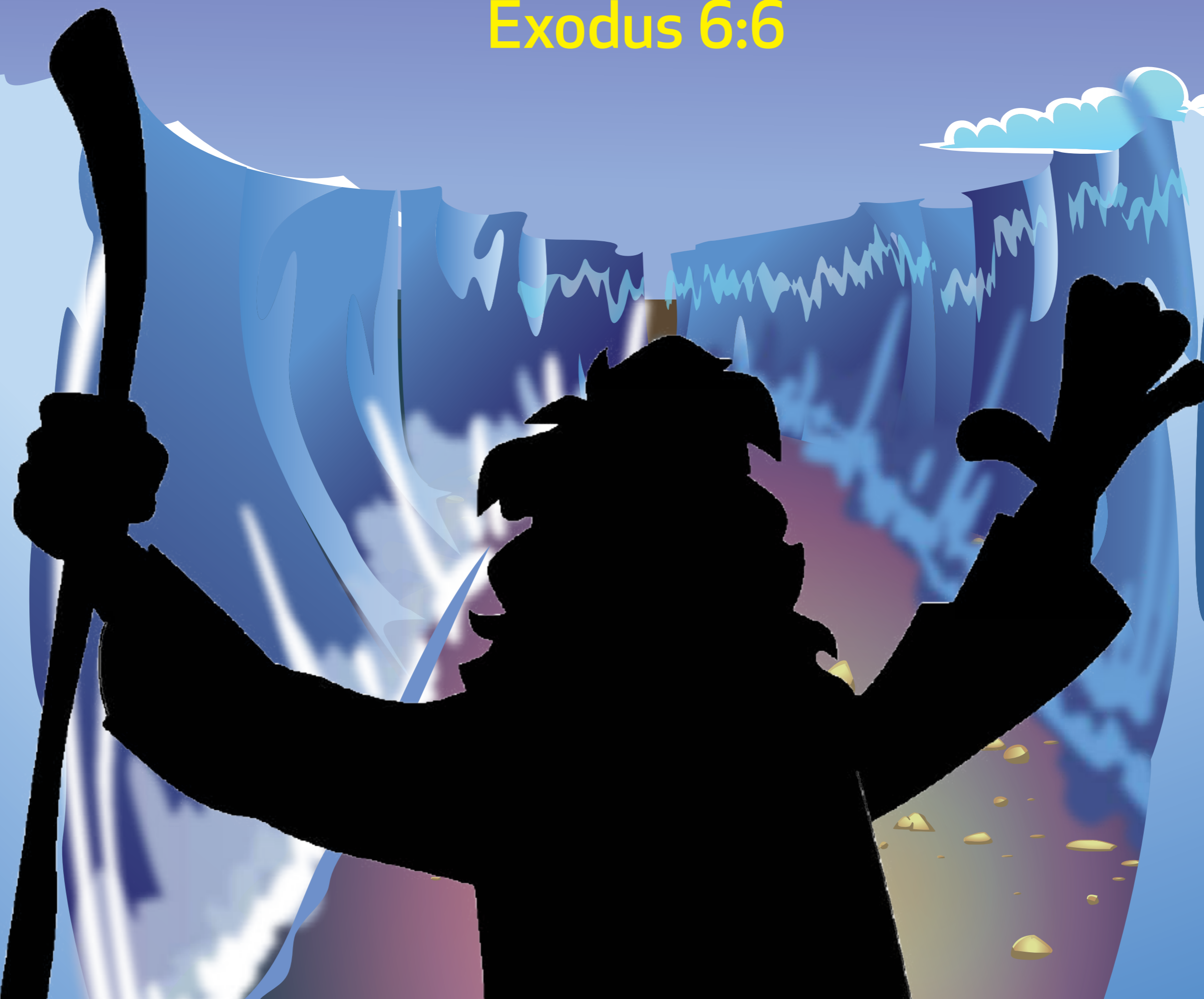
Bring your offering to Sunday school this month to support the Children's Defense Fund and their program, Freedom Schools®.



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"I'll set you free with great power."

Exodus 6:6



"I'll set you free with great power."

Exodus 6:6



God



free



you



with



great



power