

OUT OF EGYPT

Bible Basis: Exodus 1:1–2:10; 3:9; 12:31; 13:21–22

Key Verse: Moses answered the people. He said, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the Lord will save you today.” —Exodus 14:13, NIV

Bible Point: God watched over Moses and his people. God watches over me, too.

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 4: “Out of Egypt”

STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

Stuff You Need: beanbag

Start by calling out, “Watch out!” and tossing a beanbag at one of the children. See how the group will go to alert mode at the sound of a warning and whether the child you aimed at catches the bag. Ask the child to toss the bag back to you. You could do this several times, tossing the bag in different directions. Then ask the following questions:

- What was your first thought when you heard me say, “Watch out”?
- What do you do when you “watch out”?

Say, **Watching out means being careful because danger might be near. Our story today tells us how God watched out for his people in dangerous times.**

STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

Stuff You Need: copies of *The Story for Children*, Bibles, *The Story Elementary Trading Card 4*

Tell the story from *The Story for Children*, Chapter 4. You can also have children find Exodus 2 and mark it in their Bibles. Either you or a child in your class can read the Scripture passages listed throughout the story.

Watch Out Hike

In today’s Bible story, children will pretend they’re on a hike and have to watch out for danger ahead. Warm up by having them use thumbs and forefingers to make rings around their eyes and look around the room. As you tell the story, they should quietly hike in place. Whenever they hear you say, “Uh-oh, watch out!” they should stop and look around the room through their finger glasses.

God’s people lived in Egypt—but it wasn’t always a great life. They were slaves and had to work hard to serve the Egyptians. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, thought there were too

many Israelites, so he gave an order to throw all the Israelite baby boys in the river. Uh-oh, watch out!

A baby boy was born to a family who trusted God. God was watching over this baby. His mother kept him safe for three months. *Read Exodus 2:3–4.* Here comes somebody! Uh-oh, watch out!

Read Exodus 2:5–9. God was really watching over him. The baby's name was Moses.

When Moses grew up, God spoke to him. "I have seen the way the Egyptians are beating down my people," God said. *Read Exodus 3:9–10.* Uh-oh, watch out!

Moses was nervous about this big job from God! Pharaoh was a powerful king, and God's people were a big group. How was Moses going to get everyone out of Egypt? What would happen when Pharaoh got angry? Uh-oh, watch out!

Moses talked to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh didn't want to let the Israelites go. Who would do all the work if the slaves left? But God had a plan. He made a lot of scary, nasty things happen in Egypt. The river turned to blood. Icky bugs and frogs popped up everywhere. The animals all got sick. Hail pounded the whole country. It was dark even in the daytime. Pharaoh was stubborn through everything and wouldn't let God's people go. Finally, God decided to take away the oldest son from every Egyptian family. He told the Israelites to paint a special stripe over their doors so this awful plague wouldn't happen to them. That did it for Pharaoh. He decided to let the Israelites go. Uh-oh, watch out!

Read Exodus 12:31–33. So that night, all God's people left Egypt. While they traveled, God was always with them. During the day, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. At night, he guided them with a pillar of fire. God never left his people.

After you have told the Bible story, give each child a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 4*. Ask children to look at the picture and tell you what happened both before and after the scene in the picture. As a class, read the key verse from the back of the card or from the Bible. Ask:

- What does it mean to "stand firm"?
- How did the people in the story "stand firm" in scary times?

Say, **God watched over Moses and his people, and he watches over you, too.** Collect the cards for now. You'll send them home at the end of the lesson.

STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose one or more of these activity options to help your class explore the lesson further.

OPTION 1: WATCH OVER BASKET

Stuff You Need: Watch Over Basket Activity Sheet, safety scissors, markers, glue

Optional: green and tan construction paper

Give an activity sheet to each child. Say, **Moses' mother put him in a basket made of grass, and God helped his sister watch over him. Let's make a basket to remind us that God watches over us, too.** Cut out the shapes on the activity sheet on the solid lines. To make the basket, fold up from the bottom corners toward the center on the dashed line. Glue the overlap in place, leaving a little space at the top without glue. Press the ends to make the basket open then fold the top flap down. Tuck the front corner into the main part of the basket. Cut the slits indicated on the add-on pieces to make them look grass-like. Tuck them into the basket. Color the outside to look like grass. Optional: cut construction paper into thin strips and glue on strips to cover the outside of the basket in a basket-weave pattern. As children work, talk about:

- How did God watch over Moses and his people in this story?
- Tell me some ways God watches over you.

Say, **God is always there to watch over us and guide us, just like he was with Moses and his people.**

OPTION 2: STAND FIRM GAME

Stuff You Need: variety of items that make loud noises, such as pots and spoons, wooden blocks, party noisemakers, bells; blindfolds

Say, **Our Bible verse today reminds us to stand firm in scary times, because God is there with us. Let's play a game to see how well we can stand firm.** Remind children of the verse you read from the card. Practice saying it together. Then have children take turns wearing a blindfold and turning their backs to the group. Someone else in the group can choose an item that makes a sudden noise, creep up on the blindfolded player, and make a loud noise. See if the blindfolded player can "stand firm" and not be startled by the noise. The others should watch for any movement. Play as many rounds as you have time for. Let the children be creative about using other items from around the classroom as long as no one will get hurt. After everyone has had a turn to be blindfolded, debrief.

- Tell me about something that might happen to you that would make it hard to "stand firm."
- Tell about a way that God saves you when you're scared.

Say, **Moses was nervous sometimes. We all get scared. But God is always there ready to help.**

OPTION 3: MOSES TALKS TO PHARAOH

Stuff You Need: Moses Talks to Pharaoh Activity Sheet, colored pencils

Give each child an activity sheet. Talk to the class about how they handle being nervous or scared about something. Talk about why they think Moses was nervous about meeting with the Pharaoh when he did know him. Have them color the picture and write a thank-you prayer to God for courage.

OPTION 4: MOSES PARTS THE RED SEA

Water/Oil Activity

Stuff you need: disposable bottle with cap (empty pop bottles or water bottles), water, vegetable oil, food coloring, funnel

1. Fill the water bottle about halfway full with water.
2. Add two drops of food coloring.
3. Put the cap on tight. Shake. The water will turn the color of the food coloring.
4. Unscrew the bottle and add enough oil to form a thick layer on top.
5. Screw the lid back on tightly.
6. Shake the bottle.
7. Let sit for a minute. The water and oil should separate, just like Moses separated the Red Sea.

STEP 4: GOING HOME

Divide your class into groups of two or three. Have them pray together about scary times they may face this week, asking God to remind them that he is with them all the time, even in scary situations. Make sure each child takes home a copy of *The Story Elementary Trading Card 4*, Activity Sheet(s)/ Crafts, and the Parents' Page.