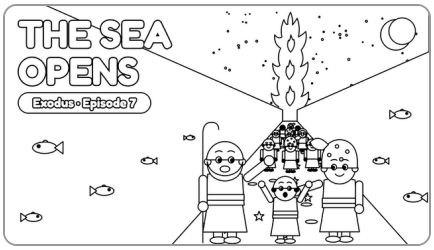
The Sea Opens

Exodus 13 to 15 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 5 min 45



The story in brief

The people have left Egypt, and the Lord goes ahead of them in a pillar of cloud and fire. But Pharaoh chases them with all his chariots. Moses stretches out his hand, a strong wind blows all night, and the sea opens: the people cross on dry ground, between two walls of water. On the other shore, Moses sings, and Miriam takes her tambourine.

> **Note for parents.** This episode also tells the end of Pharaoh's army. It is said in one sentence, as in the Bible ("The waters covered the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's army: not one of them was left"), and none of it is shown: the picture shows the sea from far away, the path closing, then calm water at daybreak. No one is shown drowning, and there is no body and no struggling horse. Nia asks, "Not one, Grandma?" and Grandma answers simply. God is never shown: only the pillar of cloud and fire, and a light. The story sets God against Pharaoh, not one people against another: the Egyptian soldiers themselves say, "The Lord is fighting for Israel." It is best to watch this episode with the youngest children and talk about it afterwards.

Let's talk about it

1. What goes ahead of the people by day? And by night?
2. Why are the people very afraid by the sea?
3. What does Moses say to the frightened people?
4. What happens when Moses stretches out his hand over the sea?
5. What does Miriam do on the other shore?
6. Kofi does not dare go forward. What about you: is there something that seems impossible, or that scares you? What helps you take the first step?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** By day, a pillar of cloud; by night, a pillar of fire: it is the Lord showing the way. The people are stuck: the sea is in front of them, and Pharaoh's army is coming behind. Moses says: "Do not be afraid! Stand firm, and you will see what the Lord will do for you today." A strong wind blows all night, the waters are divided, and the people cross on dry ground, between two walls of water. Miriam takes a tambourine, all the women follow her, dancing, and she sings: "Sing to the Lord!"

To remember

Do not be afraid, walk on, God opens up the sea. Sing to the Lord, come and dance with me.

The song: Do not be afraid, walk on

Do not be afraid, walk on, God opens up the sea!
Sing to the Lord, come and dance with me!

To do

Make a tambourine: two paper plates fastened together, with a few seeds or small pebbles inside. Then sing the episode's song and tap the rhythm. And this week, when something scares you, tell someone in your family, and take the first step together.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/the-sea-opens/

From the book of Exodus, chapters 13 to 15. Free for home, Sunday school and children's ministry.