



# God Saves the People

Goal: To give thanks to God for helping us.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In Exodus 12:31-42

When the people of Israel were set to leave their slavery in Egypt, they did not have much time. They took the dough before it had been baked into bread. They left with unleavened cakes they made from the unleavened dough, but they had no other provisions for themselves (v. 39).

God was at work to save the people. All had to cooperate together. They all had to get ready to leave, make cakes of the unleavened bread, and depart the slavery of Egypt.

God freed the Israelites, the truth in the story's assertion of God's faithful care and liberation of those who are oppressed. The people responded to God's action by working together so they could depart in gratitude for what God was doing for them.

The Exodus story has inspired many who have experienced some form of oppression and struggled to be free—the American civil rights and South African anti-apartheid movements, Latin American liberation efforts, and the struggles of indigenous peoples throughout the world. In our world today, who are like the oppressed slaves? Who is like Pharaoh? What does freedom mean to you? How does God speak to you in your quest for freedom? How have you walked with others who are in search of freedom and justice? Where have you experienced liberation from bondage?

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

Society teaches children to idolize athletes and entertainers. Children are encouraged to practice the disciplines of sports and entertainment and to emulate the best and the brightest in those fields. The church is potentially the one community that lifts up champions of justice. It is up to the church to train children to stand up against unfair practices, give to those in need, speak for the voiceless, and defend the innocent. If children know bullies, they know Pharaoh. How can you help the children stand up to the pharaohs of the world?

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

Having some unleavened bread for children to taste is a great way into the story of God's people who left their homes in Egypt in such a hurry that the bread didn't have time to rise. As you tell the story, help the children understand how the Israelites helped each other as they left on their journey. Invite them to think about and name people who have helped care for them. Then invite them to name those whom they have helped to care for, either in their family or neighborhood. Be aware of the voices of all children, encouraging and waiting for each voice to be heard.

*Gracious God, I am grateful for all those who work to help people be free. Amen.*



## Supplies

### Music & Melodies

[bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies](http://bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies)

### Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i-iv, 5, 20, 22

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

internet-connected  
device

blanket or mats

candle

snack (pita bread  
optional)

## Guided Play

choice 1: card-stock  
copies of **Grace Notes**  
(GN) 1, safety pins

choice 3: copies of **GN 2**

## Exploring

choice 1: paper plates,  
art supplies listed in the  
activity, copies of **GN 3**

choice 3: ingredients  
listed in the activity,  
cookie sheet, mixing  
bowl, measuring cups  
and spoons, rolling pin,  
oven; knife (optional)

choice 4: copies of **GN 4**

## GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

### Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Use **SCM i-ii**, “Your Visual Schedule,” to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii-iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

“Exploring God’s Grace” choices 1 and 3 require more prep.

### Welcoming and Guided Play



Greet children as they arrive and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time.

Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers. Explain to them that the children will hear a story about Moses leading the people out of Egypt.

Invite the children to choose a guided play activity to start:

1. **Making Buttons**—Provide several card-stock copies of **GN 1** and crayons. Read the words on the buttons and have a conversation with the children about ways God is with them. Invite them to decorate the buttons. Help the children cut out the circles and tape a safety pin to the back of each button.
2. **Preparing a Meal**—Invite the children to make a meal in the kitchen center. Engage children in a conversation about what they are making. Talk about their favorite foods and what they eat when they are in a hurry.
3. **Packing**—Have copies of **GN 2** and crayons available. Tell the children that they need to pack for a trip. Invite them to color the items that they would include in their suitcase. Engage in conversation about the items that they selected.

**T** Give the children a signal when it’s time for something new; sing a familiar song or repeat a phrase such as: “One, two, something new.” Expect this to be difficult for some, especially if they are new to your group. It may be helpful to give some children a specific task.



## Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, singing “Freedom Is Coming”—SCM 22. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

### Moses Lived in Egypt L

To remind the children about Moses, say the following poem as the children repeat each line after you:

Moses lived in Egypt, /  
Where he grew and grew, /  
He became a man, /  
And helped God’s people too. /

### We Remember L

Teach children this song, to the tune of “Frère Jacques”:

We remember, we remember  
God is good, God is good.  
And how much God loves us, and how much God loves us,  
All our lives, all our lives.  
Amen.



Today’s story can be found in *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com).

### Hearing the Story L C

Turn on the candle, saying, “God, your Word is our light.” Repeat the phrase, prompting the children to say “light” with you.

Ask the children if they have heard about Moses. Allow a short time for responses. Recall that Moses was part of Joseph’s people. He grew up and became a leader of his people. Tell the children that this story is about how Moses leads God’s people out of Egypt.

Open the Bible to Exodus 12 to remind the children that the story comes from the Bible.

Read **SCM 5**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Read the story again, pausing at the questions. Instead of asking the questions, ask the children if there was anything that they just heard, that the people in the story might give thanks for.



Invite the children to help you say a thank-you prayer. You can start the prayer by saying:

Thank you, God, for taking care of Moses and his people.

Thank you, God, for taking care of me.

Thank you, God, for caring for *(Ask children to say their names when you point to them; say children's names if they are shy.)*

Amen.

Turn off the candle.

## EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE



### 1. Making a Remembering Plate

*Before the session, cut apart the prayers of GN 3. Cut out child-appropriate pictures of food and beverages from magazines.*

Remind the children that Moses and the people shared a special meal before they left Egypt. They gave thanks to God for God's care for them. Tell the children that they will make a special plate with a prayer that they can place on their table at home. They can give thanks to God for God's care for them too!

Give each child a paper plate. Print their names on the back of plate. Give the children a copy of the prayer and tell them to glue it in the center of their plate. Then invite them to decorate their plate as they wish. Suggest that they may:

- ▼ Glue pieces of construction paper, yarn, felt, fabric, lace, or trim on their plates to pretend to be different food items, or use the magazine pictures of food.
- ▼ Draw pictures with crayons.
- ▼ Use stickers of food, hearts, crosses, or other symbols of Jesus.

When the children have finished their plates, sing the song to the tune of "Frère Jacques" that is also the prayer on their plates.

Encourage the children to take their plates home and place them on their dining tables to remember God's care and grace for them every day.

### 2. Packing Relay



*Before the session, find items from around your space that can be used for a relay. They can be books, stuffed toys, blocks, and so forth. Make sure to have the same number of items for each team.*

Remind the children that one way God helped the people was to send Moses to help prepare them for their trip.

Help the children to form two teams. Tell the children that they are going to pack the items in their piles for a trip. Place a chair at one end of the room for each team. Begin the game with the children and the items at the other end of the room.



The first person on each team picks up one item, walks fast to the other side of the room, puts the item on the chair, and returns. Continue until each child has had a turn to help pack. If a child does not wish to participate, encourage him or her to be a cheerleader for both teams.

Encourage the children to share their ideas about how Moses and the people might have felt when they left their homes. Remind them that God is with us everywhere we go. Whatever we do, God will take care of us.



Remind the children to wash their hands before making the bread.

### 3. Making Unleavened Bread

TD FA

Recall that God told the people to make a special kind of bread to remind them that they had to prepare to leave Egypt quickly. It was unleavened bread, the kind that doesn't have to rise, so it can be prepared quickly. Help the children remember God's grace by making unleavened bread. You will need:

- ▼ 3 cups flour
- ▼ 6 tablespoons soft butter (not margarine)
- ▼ 1 cup milk
- ▼ 1 egg, beaten
- ▼ ½ teaspoon salt

Mix all ingredients to form a ball and knead it on a floured surface. If the dough is too moist, add flour. Give each child a piece and, using a floured rolling pin, roll it out like a thick pie crust. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes. The dough also can be rolled out in one piece and cut into bread sticks. If time is limited, make a batch ahead of time so the children will be able to eat some of the bread.

**FA** *Many children have food and other allergies. A wheat allergy can be commonly confused with celiac disease, but they are very different. Parents and caregivers should notify you of both conditions. Provide alternate activities or use options to keep children safe.*

Use "wonder" questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wonder questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.

### 4. Coloring Page

FM

Hand out **GN 4** and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture. Engage the children in conversation using the following questions:

- ▼ I wonder, "What kinds of foods might they be eating?"
- ▼ I wonder, "What might the people be talking about?"
- ▼ I wonder, "If these people were told they had to pack and leave right then, what would they take?"

**T** *Provide nonverbal and verbal cues before transitions. Hold up the visual schedule with the arrow and say, "It's three minutes until 'Loving and Serving God.'"*



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads), where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

## LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Call the children to snack time, singing “God Takes Care of Me”—**SCM 20**. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate.

Have each child put away one toy or object. Invite everyone to sit around a table or on the floor.

Invite one of the children to pray, or do a prayer of your own. Enjoy the unleavened bread that the group made, or consider providing pita bread and remind the children that it is like the bread the people ate as they left Egypt.

Take a moment to tell each child something positive about your time, such as: “Thank you for the good job you did as you helped out” or “I’m glad that you and *(Name)* had fun today.”

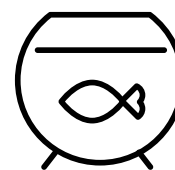
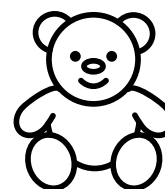
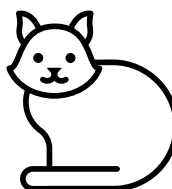
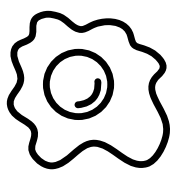
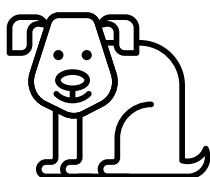
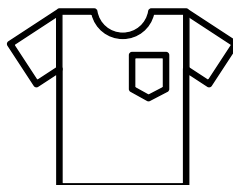
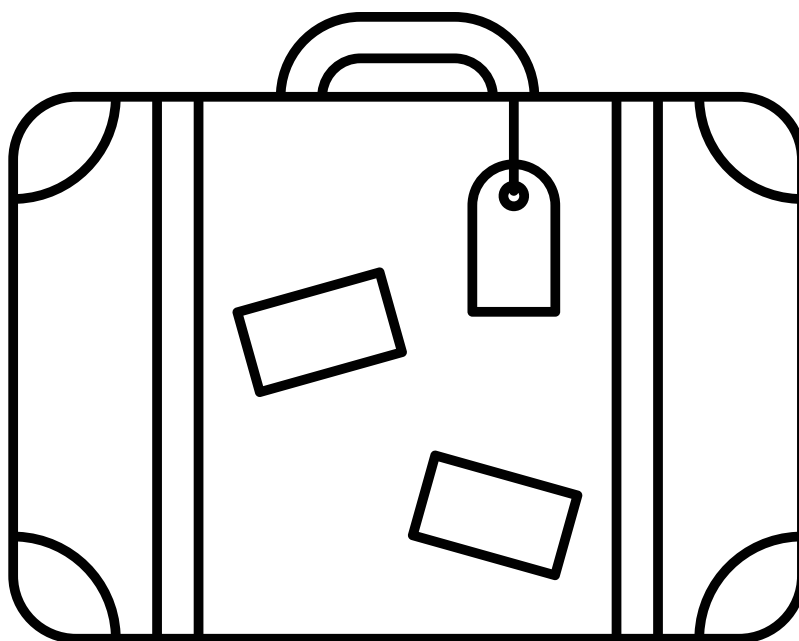
Invite the children to share the buttons that they created in “Welcoming and Guided Play” with someone this week to remind them that God loves them. As the children leave, bless them: “*(Name)*, God is with you, always.”

God is  
with me  
always!

God is  
with me  
always!









We remember, we remember  
God is good, God is good.  
And how much God loves us,  
and how much God loves us,  
All our lives, all our lives.

We remember, we remember  
God is good, God is good.  
And how much God loves us,  
and how much God loves us,  
All our lives, all our lives.

We remember, we remember  
God is good, God is good.  
And how much God loves us,  
and how much God loves us,  
All our lives, all our lives.

We remember, we remember  
God is good, God is good.  
And how much God loves us,  
and how much God loves us,  
All our lives, all our lives.



# God Saves the People



The people share one last meal before leaving Egypt.

