October 18, 2015

Bible Passage: Exodus 3—4:17; 14:19—15:21
(The Exodus)

God Is Bigger (Part II)

REMEMBER VERSE
The Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.
Luke 1:49

LESSON OVERVIEW
Welcome
Explore
Discover
Connect
Enjoy
Bless

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Inspire

By the age of 50, my father-in-law had several major heart attacks and open-heart surgeries, leaving his heart so weak it could barely pump blood through his body. For years this condition held him hostage. He couldn’t pick up his grandkids without experiencing pain and winced just lifting his arms up to comb his hair. He was told he needed a new heart, and his name went to the top of the transplant list.

We all prayed for healing, but it was a waiting game. There was always the looming possibility that he might not make it through each day. When he got the call that a heart was available, our family was nervous and unsure of what would happen after the surgery. We had to depend on God as never before.

Within weeks after his surgery, my father-in-law felt better than he had in years. Today he’ll tell you he never imagined he could feel this good. The burden of pain has been lifted. The years he spent with a bad heart gave him an appreciation for his renewed health. God used the years of pain to bring him to a place of healing far better than anyone could have anticipated. While his circumstances were overwhelming, God was bigger.

Alyson Crocket
ROCKHARBOR Church

Equip

God is bigger. When Princeton astronomer Henry Norris Russell concluded a lecture on the Milky Way, a woman came to him and asked, “If our world is so little, and the universe is so great, can we believe that God pays any attention to us?” Dr. Russell replied, “That depends, madam, entirely on how big a God you believe in.”

The Lord saved His people from famine by leading them into Egypt. God placed them in Egypt knowing that after the death of Joseph, his descendants would be enslaved under new Egyptian leadership (see Exodus 1:8–14). God knew the Hebrew nation would be brutally mistreated and would even face genocide (see Exodus 1:16, 22). The circumstances did not make sense. However, God is bigger than human circumstance.

Years passed and through a series of events God placed another Hebrew in the court of the pharaoh. Moses was raised and educated in the house of the Egyptian king. God is so much bigger than the events and circumstances in an individual person’s life. His plan is bigger than the growth of the Hebrew nation inside of Egypt’s borders. His plan is bigger than the exodus from Egypt or even the fulfillment of His promise to give Abraham’s descendants their own land (see Genesis 15, 17). “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). Because of who God is, His people have, throughout time, needed to seek Him for strength, wisdom, and guidance. Moses’ leadership is an example of complete dependence upon the Lord God for all things. God is bigger than all things and in Him, all things hold together.

Support

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Life’s circumstances can cause us to forget just how big our God is. We can lose sight of God’s plan for us and instead focus on the desperate nature of whatever situation we’re currently facing. This narrow view can lead us to question God’s goodness. The truth is, God’s providence can sometimes bring us into circumstances we don’t understand, but ultimately He is in charge.
Are there areas of your life where you need reassurance that God is “bigger”? Consider spending some time this week journaling your experiences. Ponder some of the more difficult times in your life. How has He used those experiences to grow and stretch your faith?

Are there areas of your life where you need His deliverance from the bondage of sin? Know that He is bigger. Make this the week you confess and repent, trusting in His “bigness” to walk with you.

Finally, take some time this week to pray for the children and families you’ll be serving this week:

Lord, I know you’re bigger than any situation or circumstance I’ll experience in this life. I pray this week for the children and families You’re entrusting to my care. Help them see You above their circumstances. May we live this week with the assurance that Your plan for us is far greater than any plan we have for ourselves. Amen.

Further Resources

Remember Verse Motions
Inspired by American Sign Language; demonstrated at [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com) and [www.commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm](http://www.commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm)
## Lesson Overview

**Follow the red times for 9:00 Service**  
**Follow the blue times for 11:30 Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Supplies/Prepare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Explore::**  | 9:00   | Exploration stations create space for children to engage in hands-on activities as they begin their time of worship. | Coloring maze  
Transition Song: “The Cleanup Song” |
| (Homeroom)     | 11:30  |                                                                                             |                                                 |
| **ROTATIONS::**| 9:10 – | Kids will rotate through stations as follows:                                                 |                                                 |
|                | 9:53   | 9:10 – 9:23  
9:25 – 9:38  
9:40 – 9:53 |  
Butterflies  
Enjoy (110)  
Discover (105)  
Connect (104) |
|                |        | Caterpillars  
Discover (105)  
Connect (104)  
Enjoy (110)  
Fireflies  
Connect (104)  
Enjoy (110)  
Discover (105) |
| **Discover::** | 11:45  | Facilitate interactive games, songs, and storytelling, allowing children to participate in discovering God’s Word and to create space for children to celebrate God together in worship through music. | Welcome Bible  
“TruBlessings Theme Song”  
The Big God Story  
• Storytelling Jacket  
• Story Pockets: Song of Celebration |
| (Room 105)     |        |                                                                                             |                                                 |
| **Enjoy::**    | 12:05  | Enjoy building relationships with the kids during this time intended for a snack break, restrooms and free play or video clip. | • snack |
| (Room 110)     |        |                                                                                             |                                                 |
| **Connect::**  | 12:15  | Games, songs, manipulatives, sensory and art activities are used to help children reinforce what they experienced in Discover. | • connect blanket (every week for giving instructions and connecting before beginning the activity)  
So Big! Game |
| (Room 104)     |        |                                                                                             |                                                 |
| **Bless::**    | 9:55   | Read a blessing over the children that they may experience God fully.                       | Bible (for the blessing)                       |
| (Homeroom)     | 12:25  |                                                                                             |                                                 |
| **Dismiss:**   | 10:00  | Be ready for parents to pick up kids.                                                       |                                                 |
|                | 12:30  |                                                                                             |                                                 |
Explore

*Exploration stations create space for children to engage in hands-on activities as they begin their time of worship.*

This time is designed for all the children to explore activities set up around a table. There should be enough activities set up to involve all the children. If various options are listed you may want to have children rotate or float between options.

Prepare children to move into a time of rotations where they can participate in discovering God’s Word through storytelling, worship, and interactive experiences, as well as connect activities and a snack break.

**Focus Station**

**Moses On the Mountain**

Our God is bigger than anyone or anything. Today kids will have the opportunity to explore the concept of “bigger than” as they compare items and categorize them according to the size of each item.

**SUPPLIES** (per small group)
- Moses On the Mountain coloring page
- Crayons

Transition Song: “The Cleanup Song”
Discover

Children participate in discovering God’s Word through storytelling, worship, and interactive experiences and respond to God in worship through music.

Upon entering the room, have each child choose a story spot and place it where they want to sit and then sit down. At the close of your time together in The Big God Story, encourage children to return their Story Spots to their original location.

WELCOME
Hi, kids! Welcome! I am so excited to be here with you today. Let’s all celebrate God by singing and dancing together! (Play the “TruBlessings Theme Song” and lead kids in dance and celebration.)

Wow! That was great! Now everyone, take a seat—it’s time to hear part of The Big God Story! Let me put on my storytelling jacket and see if we can find a clue to our Big God Story in one of my pockets. Start checking pockets and pull out this week’s clue.

Ponder Point: God Is Bigger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Story Jacket</th>
<th>Story Pocket: Basket (see optional image to show or print in the Resources) After the pharaoh ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the river, Moses’ mother made a plan to save her young son. She waterproofed a basket and placed Moses inside.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

DISCOVER QUESTIONS
What did you find in the Story pocket today? Children will answer. How do we use baskets? How do you think a basket fits into today’s part of The Big God Story? Interact with kids and their responses. Let’s find out! Do you know what time it is?
Let's all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.

**Bible Song** (sung to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

*Now it's time to hear God's Word*
*Hear God's Word*
*Hear God's Word*
*Now it's time to hear God's Word*
*So let's look in the Bible*

As the song ends, have the children return to their Story Spots.

# The Big God Story

**Exodus 3—4:17; 14:19—15:21**

**Storytelling Technique: Puppet Faces**

**SUPPLIES**
Sad Face and Happy Face/God Is Bigger signs (see Resources)
Craft sticks (2)

**RELATE**
I'm really excited to see everyone! A couple of weeks ago, we saw how much bigger God is than anyone or anything. We saw that even though many bad things happened in Joseph’s life, God was bigger than those bad things! God used all the bad things that happened in Joseph's life for good. Joseph was able to bring his whole family to Egypt, where they were saved from the famine. This week, we're going to hear what happened next in The Big God Story. Before we go any further, let's stop and pray together. Lead the children in a Prayer of Release.

In The Big God Story, God’s people were still in Egypt. It had been 400 years since all of God’s people moved to Egypt. Joseph and his brothers were no longer alive, but their family had grown into a huge nation. Even though they were still living in Egypt, they weren't part of the Egyptian people. A new pharaoh was in charge, and he didn’t know anything about Joseph or the special things that had been given to him. The only thing this pharaoh knew was that there were a lot of Hebrew people—God's people. The pharaoh was scared that the Hebrew people—God's people—might try to take his job and rule over his country. How do you think he treated God's people? Allow children to answer. He chose to be very mean. He made them his slaves. The Hebrew people were sad. Hold up Sad Face. *Can you show me your saddest face?* Wow, those are very sad faces. Guess what happened? Hold up Happy Face/God Is Bigger. Read sign to kids and encourage response by saying “God is bigger!” That's right! God was bigger and He had big plans for His people.

The pharaoh became meaner and meaner. He continued hurting God’s people. One day, he gave an order for all the Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile River. This made the people very sad. Hold up Sad Face; encourage kids to make sad face. But we know that (hold up Happy Face/God Is Bigger; kids verbally respond “God is bigger!”) God is bigger! He had a plan. A Hebrew mother hid her baby. When the baby was about three months old, she carefully placed him in a special basket and floated the basket with him in it among the plants at the banks of the river. *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* Friends, do you know what that sound means? Allow children to answer. You're right! We've found our What'sIt in The Big God Story! Let's see what happened
next. Pharaoh’s daughter, the princess, was washing in the same river. She found the baby still safe in the basket and named him Moses. Moses grew up in the palace under the care of the princess!

Moses grew up like an Egyptian prince. But he didn’t like how the pharaoh was treating God’s people. One day, Moses saw a slave master hurting a Hebrew slave. It made Moses so mad that he killed the slave master. Moses became scared. He knew what he did was wrong, so he ran away into the desert to hide. Moses made a very bad choice. He was very sad. Hold up Sad Face image. Even though Moses made such a bad choice (hold up Happy Face/God Is Bigger), God is bigger—He had very big plans for Moses.

Moses lived in the desert in a place called Midian for quite a while. He got married and started a family. And then one day, God did something amazing. Moses was taking care of sheep when he saw a bush unlike anything he had ever seen before. The bush was completely on fire—but it never burned up! Moses was very curious. What he saw didn’t make sense to him. God used the bush to get Moses’ attention. When Moses got closer, he heard God speak to him from the bush!

God told Moses that He knew the Hebrew people were sad. Hold up Sad Face. But God (hold up Happy Face/God Is Bigger) is bigger than their sadness. God also told Moses that He had big plans. He told Moses to go back to Egypt. He told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go free. It was God’s plan for Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt to freedom. Moses was a little frightened, but do you know what? He knew that God was bigger than Pharaoh. He knew that if God said the people would be free, the people would be free. And Moses was right! God did free His people. He used Moses to do it! Moses chose to trust God. God gave Moses everything he needed to be strong to follow Him and lead His people.

Friends, God is so good! He is bigger than anyone or anything we ever face. God will give us everything we need to follow Him with our entire lives. We can trust in God’s strength and His love because (hold up Happy Face/God Is Bigger) God is bigger! Friends, God is bigger than anyone or anything. He is always with us and will show us the very best way to go. I wonder, how will God show Himself to His people in the next part of The Big God Story? Come back next week and we will find out together.
Connect

Games, songs, manipulatives, sensory and art activities are used to help children reinforce what they experience in DISCOVER.

Use the connect blanket as a gathering place to give instructions and build relationships with the kids during times of question/answer discussion, sharing of experience, or prayer.

ENGAGE: So Big!

RELATE
Gather children in a circle. Sing and do the motions for “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” to help kids release the wiggles. Then, explain how So Big! is played. Today in The Big God Story, we heard how God is ... what? Pause and allow children to answer. God is bigger, that’s right! We’re going to play a game called So Big! The person who is “It” will suggest a person or animal that God is bigger than. For example, he'll ask us, “Is God bigger than ... a mouse?” Then we'll all pretend to be little mice. As we do, we'll answer in our best mice voices, “God is bigger!” The person who is “It” will then say, “How big?” And we’ll all jump in the air and shout, “So big!” Repeat this with different children getting to be “It.” With each round, call out a different person or animal.

Wonder Questions

Today we saw that God was bigger than all things in the life of Moses. God protected Moses as a Hebrew baby. Then God was with him when he grew up and returned to lead God's people out of slavery.

I wonder ... How did God help Moses lead His people?
I wonder ... How did God show Moses He is bigger?
I wonder ... When has God been bigger in my life?
Enjoy

Enjoy building relationships with the kids during this time intended for a snack break, restrooms and free play or video clip.

Ensure that each child:

- Receives a small snack/drink
- Uses the restroom
- Has a little time to play and build friendships with you and the other children

Bless

This time is set aside for leaders to spend a few moments blessing the children.

A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance. We can offer a blessing in order to ask God’s Spirit to overflow from the child’s life in such a way that blesses others, while we can also pray a blessing over a child for the purpose of declaring God’s protection, joy, or wisdom. Have the children place their hands out in front of themselves palms up. This is a posture that demonstrates an expectancy in receiving what God has for them. Close your time with a prayer of blessing over the children.

SET UP

Optional: Have each leader hold onto their small group’s CREATE poster so that they know who said which fear.

Children, God is bigger than any fear or problem you might face. Address each child individually by placing a hand on their shoulder and looking them in the eye. (Child’s name), may you always know that God is bigger than every fear you face. May you go out this week knowing that God is bigger than (insert child’s specific fear), and that He is always with you.

The Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.  
Luke 1:49

HomeFront Weekly: Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week’s lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God’s Word together before children arrive at church.