



River of Life News

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Scary Water!

Do you remember when you were learning how to swim and how scary it was to put your head under the water? Today we heard the story of how God's people walked right through the Red Sea! They didn't put their heads under water like we do - God divided the Red Sea so they could walk through it on dry ground! But I'll bet that was plenty scary for them. For would God really keep the water back? Would they make it? Well, God was faithful and the people did cross safely. Today we also learned how we pass safely through waters, too, and that God saves us through that water. Do you remember what water that is? Thanks be to God for using water to save us!

SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATE

Thank you for your nickels today! You all are doing great! Whether or not we get the vase completely filled, you are going to be able to provide a nice gift to provide books for children somewhere in the world.

Where? Maybe it will be Haiti, the country we talked about on Monday, where the people are very poor and many do not know about Jesus. Or maybe you will choose the Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia), where the church was outlawed and beaten down under the Soviet Union, and is still trying to rebuild. The children in *both* these countries are *very thirsty* for Jesus! Or maybe it will be another country. But whichever one you pick, the children will be richly blessed by you. **Thank you!**

Parents' Column

We've had so much fun talking about water and how often we find water in the Bible and how God uses water to do some amazing things! Jesus gives us living water so that we can live with Him forever. He uses water to wash us clean from our sin. He uses water to rescue us from our enemy. God loves water!

Next time your child bathes, or next time it rains, use that as a chance to talk to your child about water in the Bible and how God uses water to help us and save us!



Remember to bring dimes tomorrow!





The Red Sea

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

~ Exodus 14:21-22

God's people had been slaves in Egypt for a long time. God had finally rescued them. But they didn't get very far before they bumped into a very large body of water - the Red Sea! To make matters worse, the Egyptian army was right behind them. They were trapped! Surely they would either drown in the Red Sea, or die by the sword of Egypt's army.

But God had other plans. He, in fact, had led His people exactly to this predicament so He could show them His might and how He would rescue them. And what He did was amazing! He divided the Red Sea so that His people could walk through it on dry ground! The water was a wall on both sides of them. That must have been scary. But after they passed through and the Egyptians tried to pass through the same way, God had the water crash down on them and drown the Egyptian army!

What God did with this was not only rescue His people, but give us a picture of our baptism! When we pass through the water of baptism, we are saved and our enemy - sin - is drowned. What great things God is able to do through water!

Africa: The Sudan

Africa is a very large continent. Some places have lots of water. Victoria Falls in Kenya and Tanzania is much larger than Niagara Falls! But some places have no water at all - the Sahara Desert. Some Bible stories take place in Africa, such as the Exodus, where we read about the Nile River and the Red Sea.

The Sudan is a country with many great needs. Some people in The Sudan must walk 17 miles just to get water to drink and cook with! There has been civil war, and in this country, Christians have been strongly persecuted for a number of years. Churches are sometimes just straw huts or sheds with tin roofs. But even though they are very poor and often live in fear, the people rejoice to hear the Word of God and the love of God for them in Jesus! But the children need books and Sunday School materials to be able to learn more about Jesus. Perhaps you will pick The Sudan as the place you want to help the children with your offerings this week. They certainly need your help!

