BIRTH OF A NATION

5 lessons on the Exodus for Year 8 SRE

Lesson Plans
**Birth Of A Nation** is the first unit of the year for students in year 8.

Having studied SRE for a year already, students are expected:

- To understand that the Bible is the word of God
- To have basic skills in reading the Bible and finding Bible passages
- To have a basic understanding of the Christian world view including:
  - God as creator
  - Man as sinful
  - Christ as redeemer
- To have a basic knowledge of the person and work of Christ
This unit aims to:
1. Introduce students to the Israelites as the chosen people of God,
2. Challenge students to trust in the God of the Israelites for their salvation,
3. Help students see, know and worship Christ as he is revealed in the Old Testament.

Resources
Each lesson you will need:
- *The Prince Of Egypt* (2008 Dreamworks Animation) DVD and a way of showing it to the class
- A Bible for each student
- A *Birth Of A Nation* workbook for each student.

The *Birth Of A Nation* unit traces the story of the Exodus. It attempts to introduce students to the Israelites as the chosen people of God, and teach them the miraculous way in which God intervened in history to deliver them out of slavery in Egypt and bring them into the promised land as his obedient chosen people.

An integral part of each lesson is the *Preach Christ* section, in which the story of the Exodus is seen within its wider context of Biblical theology and understood in light of Christ. Jesus taught his disciples that all of Scripture testified to him (John 5:39), and so this unit tries to illuminate Christ in the story of the Exodus.

There are five lessons in the unit:

1. **A Saviour Is Born** - God’s people were enslaved to the Egyptians, so God raised up his servant Moses to be their deliverer.

2. **The Burning Bush** - God heard the cries of his people and sent Moses to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh.

3. **Let My People Go** - Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, so God sent plagues on the Egyptians in judgement yet spared his own people.

4. **The Passover** - God brought judgement on the people of Egypt, but passed over those who had sacrificed a lamb and smeared its blood across their door frames.

5. **Birth Of A Nation** - God delivered his people out of slavery in Egypt and brought them into a new land as his chosen people.

A key part of *Birth Of A Nation* is *The Prince Of Egypt* movie and Bible reading. Each lesson revolves around watching an excerpt from the *The Prince Of Egypt* movie and reading the corresponding passage from the book of Exodus. This has the benefit of reinforcement, keeping students engaged, and giving them an opportunity to read the Bible for themselves.
1. A SAVIOUR IS BORN

God’s people were enslaved to the Egyptians, so God raised up his servant Moses to be their deliverer.

Outcomes
By the end of this lesson students will:
- Be introduced to the story of the Exodus
- Investigate the intervention of God in world events
- Consider the necessity of God’s salvation
- Understand that Moses was a type of Christ

Introduce the Unit: Explain to the students that you are starting a new unit called *Birth Of A Nation* in which you will study the book of Exodus, and that each week they will be watching a clip from the *Prince Of Egypt* movie to help them in their study. Tell them that this unit will cover the birth of the Israelites as the people of God, the people that Jesus came from.

Launch Question: Did you ever have a favourite hiding place when playing hide and seek?

Share: Tell the students about your own favourite hiding place.

Link: Moses was in danger of being drowned in the Nile, so his mother was forced to hide him away. When that didn’t work, she was forced to send him down the river in a basket.

Video: Watch the *Prince Of Egypt* from 0:00 to 7:50 minutes. This covers the harsh working conditions of the Israelite slaves, the murder of the Israelite babies, the journey of Moses down the river Nile, and his adoption into the Egyptian royal family.

Use this time to hand out the Bibles and booklets.

Read: Get a volunteer to read Exodus 1:1-2:10. The *Prince Of Egypt* story is almost identical to the Biblical version, but it is worth briefly pointing out their differences when they arise.

Booklets: Invite the students to begin answering the questions in their booklets. Go round and help them as they do this.

Summarise: Make sure the students understand that God’s people the Israelites were enslaved to the Egyptians. Help them to see the miraculous events surrounding the birth of Moses as evidence that God was raising him up to deliver the Israelites out of slavery.

Preach Christ: Conclude the lesson by suggesting that about 1500 years after this event, God again intervened in history by raising up another young Hebrew boy named Jesus to deliver his people from their slavery to sin and death.

Chat: Invite any students who you can see the Spirit moving in to speak with you during or after class.
2. THE BURNING BUSH

**God heard the cries of his people and sent Moses to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh.**

**Outcomes**
By the end of this lesson students will:
- Discuss the concept of an impossible task
- Engage with the idea that God felt compassion for his people
- Recognise the necessity of God’s intervention
- Understand that Christ successfully delivered his people because he was God.

**Launch Question:** Have you ever been given a task too great for just you to accomplish?

**Share:** Tell the students about a task that was too great for you to accomplish alone.

**Link:** Moses was given a task far too great for him— to deliver the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh. Luckily for him however, God promised to go with him and bring him success.

**Fill In:** Let the students know that since last lesson, Moses has grown up, got married and is now living in the desert as a shepherd.

**Video:** Watch the *Prince Of Egypt* from 40:26 to 45:50 minutes. This covers Moses’ discovery of the burning bush, and his commissioning to deliver the Israelites from slavery.

Use this time to hand out the Bibles and booklets.

**Read:** Get a volunteer to read Exodus 3:1-15. The *Prince Of Egypt* story is almost identical to the Biblical version, but it is worth briefly pointing out their differences when they arise.

**Booklets:** Invite the students to begin answering the questions in their booklets. Go round and help them as they do this.

**Summarise:** Make sure the student understand that God appeared to Moses and commissioned him to deliver his people from slavery. Help them to see that Moses was an unworthy deliverer, but that he would be successful because God promised to go with him.

**Preach Christ:** Conclude the lesson by suggesting that Jesus too had a task too great for any man. Contrary to Moses however he was successful in delivering God’s people from their slavery to sin not because God went with him, but because he actually was God.

**Chat:** Invite any students who you can see the Spirit moving in to speak with you during or after class.
3. LET MY PEOPLE GO

Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, so God sent plagues on the Egyptians in judgement yet spared his own people.

Outcomes
By the end of this lesson students will:
✦ Investigate one of the plagues
✦ Be challenged by the power of God
✦ Consider the connection between judgement, salvation and your relationship with God
✦ Understand that those who have a relationship with Christ will be saved

Launch Question: What is your least favourite insect and why?

Share: Tell the students about your least favourite insect and why.

Link: Pharaoh was stubborn and refused to let the Israelites go. This provoked God to send a myriad of plagues against Egypt including the plague of blood, frogs, gnats, flies, sickness to the livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and finally the death of the first born son.

Video: Watch the Prince Of Egypt from 59:10 to 104:58 minutes. This covers Moses asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites go followed by a montage of the first nine plagues.

Use this time to hand out the Bibles and booklets.

Read: Split the class into different groups, and allocate each group a different plague. Depending on the number of students in your class, you may cover all 9 plagues or you may only cover 3 or 4. Ask students to read the biblical account of their plague.

1. Blood- Exodus 7:14-24
2. Frogs- Exodus 8:1-15*
3. Gnats- Exodus 8:16-19
4. Flies- Exodus 8:20-30*
5. Livestock- Exodus 9:1-7
8. Locusts- Exodus 10:1-20*

*These plagues will allow the students to answer all the questions in the booklet.

Booklets: Invite the students to begin answering the questions in their booklets for the plague that they read. Go round and help them as they do this.

Summarise: Make sure the students understand that God sent the plagues on Egypt in judgement of their blatant refusal to obey him. Help them to see that God made a distinction in his judgment between the Egyptians and his own people.

Preach Christ: Conclude the lesson by suggesting that the Bible consistently urges us to live lives of obedience or we will be in danger of God’s judgement. Encourage the students with the news that they can be part of God’s people (the new Israel) through faith in Christ, and that by doing so they will be saved from the judgement of God.

Chat: Invite any students who you can see the Spirit moving in to speak with you during or after class.

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God brought judgement on the people of Egypt, but passed over those who had sacrificed a lamb and smeared its blood across their door frames.

Outcomes

By the end of this lesson students will:

✦ Be challenged by the idea of God’s judgement
✦ Investigate the passover sacrifice
✦ Understand that the passover was a type of Christ

Launch Question: Have you ever narrowly escaped death?

Share: Tell the students about a time when you narrowly escaped death.

Link: The final plague that God sent on the Egyptians was the death of the firstborn son. The only houses that escaped death were those that slaughtered a lamb and put its blood on the door posts.

Video: Watch the *Prince Of Egypt* from 107:40 to 112:42 minutes. This covers the conversation that Moses has with Pharaoh before the final plague, the passover and the angel of death.

Use this time to hand out the Bibles and booklets.

Read: Get a volunteer to read Exodus 12:21-30. The *Prince Of Egypt* story is almost identical to the Biblical version, but it is worth briefly pointing out their differences when they arise.

Booklets: Invite the students to begin answering the questions in their booklets. Go round and help them as they do this.

Summarise: Make sure the students understand that God brought severe judgement on the stubborn Egyptians through the death of their firstborn sons. Help them to see that God lovingly spared those of his people who who took shelter under the blood of the lamb.

Preach Christ: Conclude the lesson by suggesting that God has promised to bring judgement on all people, but that just like the Exodus he has lovingly provided a way of salvation. God’s people who take shelter under the blood of the true lamb Jesus Christ will be saved.

Chat: Invite any students who you can see the Spirit moving in to speak with you during or after class.
God delivered his people out of slavery in Egypt and brought them into a new land as his chosen people.

Outcomes
By the end of this lesson students will:
- Be challenged by God’s powerful deliverance of his people from Egypt
- Consider the unmerited election of God
- Reflect on the order or redemption and rule
- Understand that Christ delivered his people from their slavery to sin and death

Launch Question: Does your family have a defining moment that is unique to them, or that constantly comes up at the dinner table?

Share: Tell the students about a defining moment in your family.

Link: God finally delivered his people from the hand of the Egyptians by miraculously bringing them through the Red Sea and into the promised land. After delivering them, he gives them the Ten Commandments and tells them to be his obedient chosen people.

Video: Watch the *Prince Of Egypt* from 119:00 to 127:43 minutes. This covers the pursuit of the Egyptians, the parting of the Red Sea, the deliverance of the Israelites and the 10 Commandments.

Use this time to hand out the Bibles and booklets.

Read: Get a volunteer to read Exodus 14:10-31 The *Prince Of Egypt* story is almost identical to the Biblical version, but it is worth briefly pointing out their differences when they arise.

Booklets: Invite the students to begin answering the questions in their booklets. Go round and help them as they do this.

Summarise: Make sure the students understand that God delivered his people out of the hand of the Egyptians and brought them into a new land to worship him as his obedient chosen people. Help them to see that God delivered his people out of slavery first, and then gave them the Ten Commandments. Redemption always comes before the rules.

Preach Christ: Conclude the lesson by suggesting that God has powerfully acted to deliver his people from their slavery to sin and death by sending his Son Jesus Christ to die and rise again. Help them to see that God delivers his people out of slavery first, and then asks them to be his obedient chosen people. Redemption always comes before the rules.

Chat: Invite any students who you can see the Spirit moving in to speak with you during or after class.