



MODULE 1: WATER STORIES





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Illustrator & Editor: Adam Walker Cleaveland

Writing Team: Alissa Ellett, Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, Erika Marksbury

Design & Layout: Anne Reinisch

illustratedchildrensministry.com

Email: hello@illustratedchildrensministry.com

Born in Evanston, Illinois.

Powered by Starbucks and San Pellegrino Limonata Sparkling Lemon Beverages.



WELCOME TO AN ILLUSTRATED EARTH: CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION

Thank you for your purchase of *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. We are excited about this new curriculum, and the opportunities it will provide for churches to spend time reflecting on Bible stories that celebrate various aspects of God's creation.

This curriculum is incredibly flexible and has the capacity to be able to be used in a variety of different ways. Here at Illustrated Children's Ministry, we imagine the lessons and coloring pages could be used as a Sunday School curriculum, as a component in your summer Vacation Bible School program, as a mid-week intergenerational program or as a curriculum for a family ministry gathering at your church. In whatever way *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation* meets your ministry needs, we hope it's a blessing to all who encounter it, offering you and those you serve opportunities to connect with each other and with God and reflect on the wonderful diversity and beauty of God's creation.

STRUCTURE OF LESSONS

This is a curriculum that focuses primarily around a particular biblical story for the week, and all of the components of the lessons point back to that biblical story. Our goal is to offer you a low-prep to no-prep curriculum that can easily be led by anyone in your congregation. We don't have a supplies list (other than photocopies if you need to make them and crayons/markers/colored pencils for coloring). In hopes of minimizing your work load, we have intentionally designed *An Illustrated Earth* in such a way that it requires little background material and reading prior to presenting the lesson.

What emerges is a simple but meaningful lesson focused around hearing a biblical story, reflecting on it with open questions and discussion and a chance to create a piece of art based on the story.

Gathering: Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry. Though this doesn't need to be overly involved, it's a good opportunity for movement and for the children to introduce themselves if that is necessary in your context.

Story Time: This is the time set aside for becoming familiar with the biblical story for that week. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children. Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and act out the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers. Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have a very simple line drawing that depicts one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put their cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

Imagining Together: This is not so much a time to make sure they got the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson time, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move over to the poster.

Coloring: If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design.

Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story.

If you didn't purchase the large coloring posters, you can use this as time for individual coloring with the included coloring sheets. We have provided you with both the design of the poster, and a simplified coloring sheet for your younger children.

Closing Prayer: Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to "close" your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

Illustrated Earth Sign: Finally, we have included an Illustrated Earth Sign that you can print out (preferably on card stock or a thicker paper) and give to the children in your class on the first Sunday that you teach *An Illustrated Earth*. These signs are for the children and their families to take with them wherever they will be celebrating God's creation. The sign can be personalized, and we encourage children and their families to have fun with this. They can write their own names on the sign, or your church's name (if you want to begin a church-wide campaign). Your church and children will be joining a large online community of folks who have used our *An Illustrated Earth* curriculum: hundreds of families and churches across the world have used this curriculum. We encourage everyone to share their photos on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and be sure to use the hashtag #anillustratedearth. You can check the hashtag online, and see where the global body of Christ is celebrating God's beautiful creation.

An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation is a new resource, and the first curriculum that Illustrated Children's Ministry has published. As is the case with all of our products and resources, we would love to hear from you about what was helpful and meaningful and what suggestions or comments you have for us about the materials. We want to create quality resources for children in the church, so we appreciate your comments and feedback.

You can reach us at hello@illustratedchildrensministry.com or find us on the following social networks:

Facebook: facebook.com/IllustratedCM

Pinterest: pinterest.com/IllustratedCM

Twitter: twitter.com/IllustratedCM

Instagram: instagram.com/IllustratedCM

We also love to see photos and hear stories about how you are using our materials. When you are posting photos or comments online about *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*, please be sure to use the hashtag #anillustratedearth, so we can be part of the conversation and you can be part of our online community.

Blessings,

Illustrated Children's Ministry



PARTING OF THE SEA

Week 2: Exodus 14:15-31



GATHERING

Since much of the lesson is focused on listening, discussing and coloring, this gathering time gives you a chance to lead an activity that might be more active. We provide you with a sample gathering activity, but you are welcome to come up with your own that suits the children's needs and temperaments in your ministry.

Monster in the Middle

Pick one player to be the monster and stand in the middle of the playing area. All other players must stand on the sideline. On go, all players must cross the playing area, running for their lives, to the other side without getting tagged by the monster. If they are tagged by the monster, they become a monster for the next round as well. Each round the number of monsters in the middle will increase. Play until the monsters tag everyone.

After play concludes, tell the children that there's actually a story in the Bible about a group of people called the Israelites and the time they were running for their lives from people who were after them, similar to the game they just played.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been in awe of God, amazed at what God had done? Or in awe of God's creation? In reflecting on the story of the Israelites' escape from the Egyptians, this lesson focuses on our sense of awe when we're in the midst of the creation and also our amazement when God helps us when we feel afraid and hopeless.



STORY TIME

One of the goals of An Illustrated Earth is to help children become more familiar with some of these stories and to help increase biblical literacy. There are a variety of ways you can introduce the kids to the story. First, we have provided you with a paraphrase of the passage that has been written specifically for children.

Second, we provide you with that same paraphrase broken up into a script. If you have some older children in your group, this would be a great opportunity to allow them to stand up and narrate the story. Depending on the story, you may choose to have some of the younger children act out the story while it's narrated and directed by the older children or teachers.

Finally, we have created Illustrated Story Cards for each lesson. These story cards each have very simple line drawings that depict one part of the story. The goal is to offer children the opportunity to put the cards in the proper sequence, matching the illustrations with the story in scripture they've just heard.

EXODUS 14:15-31

After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they saw the Egyptians chasing them. They reached the Red Sea and were unable to cross. The Israelites cried out to the Lord in fear.

The Lord told Moses, "Tell the people to get going! And Moses, I want you to lift your shepherd's rod over the Red Sea. I am going to protect you and your people, and both you and the Egyptians will see my power."

When Moses stretched his rod over the sea, the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong wind. The waters split, forming two big walls, and the Israelites walked through on dry land. The Egyptians chased after the Israelites, but their chariot wheels jammed and they panicked. "The Lord is fighting for the Israelites," the Egyptians cried as they turned around.

The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch your hand back over the sea so the water returns and covers the Egyptians." When Moses did this, the walls of water came crashing down and covered the Egyptians.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Lord's amazing power and was in awe. Their trust in the Lord and in Moses grew.



IMAGINING TOGETHER

After you've spent some time with the story, we encourage you to reflect with the children about the story and see what stood out to them. This is not so much a time to make sure they received the information or facts of the story, but rather, an opportunity for the children to share what stood out to them and what they imagined when they listened to the story. Depending on the time you have set aside for this lesson, you may choose to do this portion while coloring the poster or sheets, or you may want to spend a little time imagining with the children first, and then move on to the coloring.

We would encourage you to think about what questions make the most sense for your context, and certainly you can add to the list below—but here are a few questions that you could reflect on with the children:

- What in this story is awe-some to you?
- From this story, how would you describe God in three words?
- What would it have been like to be an Israelite in this story?
- How can we ask God for help when we need it?
- Describe a time you needed God's help. How did it feel to ask God? What happened?



COLORING

If you purchased our Illustrated Earth Coloring Posters, you will have a poster that corresponds with each lesson. Each poster has a word, phrase or portion of the biblical passage incorporated into the design. Coloring is an opportunity to continue talking about the story, while asking questions and seeing where the conversation takes you. Because many of the story's elements are integrated into the coloring design, it may be fun to encourage the children to search out as many symbols as they can that communicate an aspect of the story. If you didn't purchase the posters, we have included 8.5x11 versions of those designs so each child can color their own individual coloring sheet.



CLOSING PRAYER

Whether you simply read the prayer, or have the children repeat after you - use this as a chance to “close” your time together as you wait for parents to come pick up their children. As you approach the end of your time together, this is a great short ritual to do with the children; it creates a sense of community and preparation as they enter back into the world.

Awesome God,
You’ve come through for us
and helped us
in amazing ways before.
You see paths we cannot see.
We feel hope knowing all things
are possible for you.
Amen.

SCRIPT: EXODUS 14:15-31

Reader 1: After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they saw the Egyptians chasing after them. They reached the Red Sea and were unable to cross. The Israelites cried out to the Lord in fear. The Lord told Moses,

Reader 2: "Tell the people to get going! And Moses, I want you to lift your shepherd's rod over the Red Sea. I am going to protect you and your people, and both you and the Egyptians will see my power."

Reader 1: When Moses stretched his rod over the sea, the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong wind. The waters split, forming two big walls, and the Israelites walked through on dry land. The Egyptians chased after the Israelites, but their chariot wheels jammed and they panicked.

Reader 2: "The Lord is fighting for the Israelites," the Egyptians cried as they turned around. The Lord said to Moses,

Reader 1: "Stretch your hand back over the sea so the water returns and covers the Egyptians."

Reader 2: When Moses did this, the walls of water came crashing down and covered the Egyptians. The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Lord's amazing power and was in awe. Their trust in the Lord and in Moses grew.

ILLUSTRATED STORY CARDS

On the following pages you will find the Illustrated Story Cards for Exodus 14:15-31.

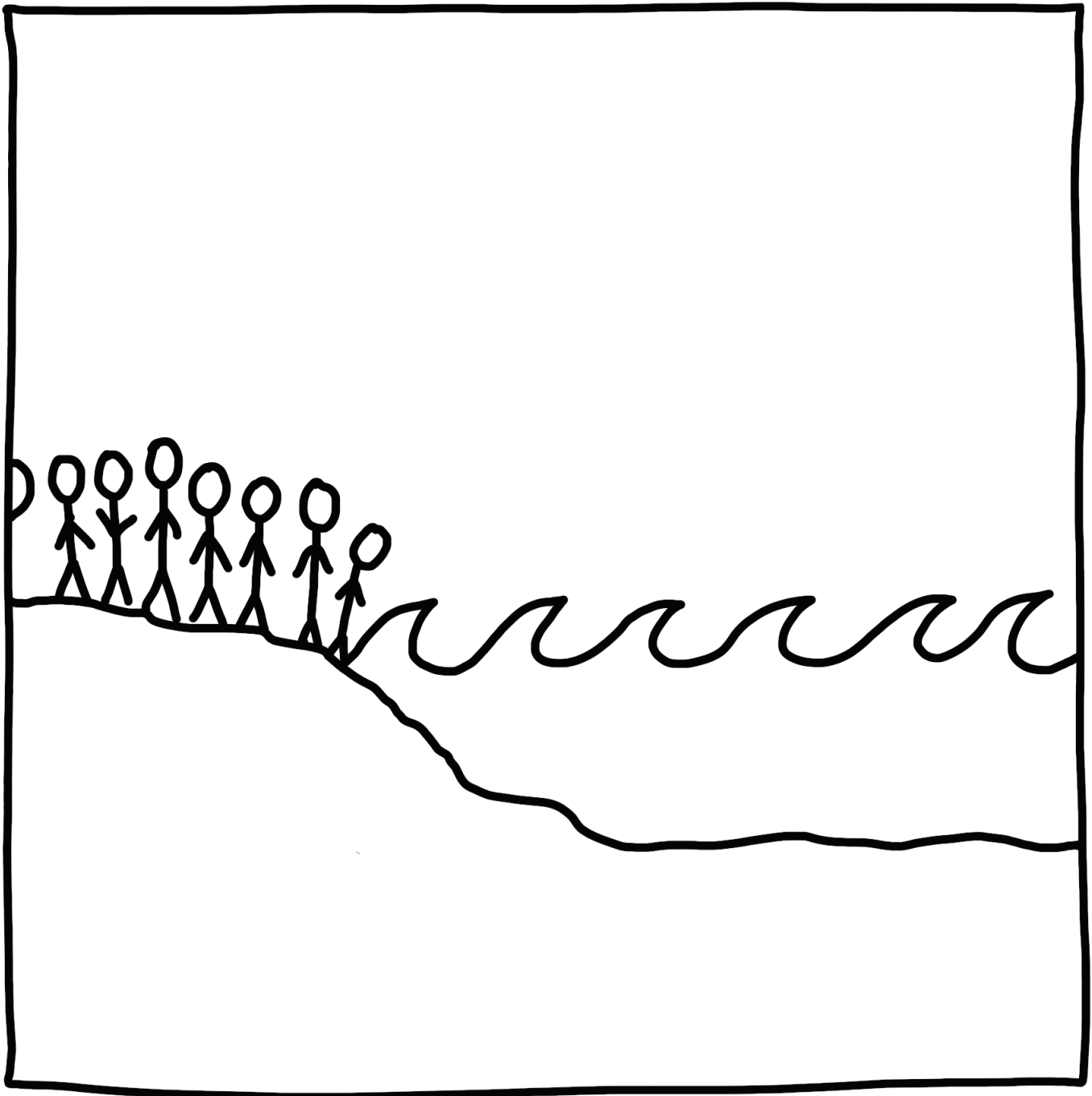
Print out the Illustrated Story Cards and have them ready for children to go through after you've read them the Bible story. You could print out a set for each child, or you could have the children get together in groups to put the story in the right order.

COLORING SHEETS

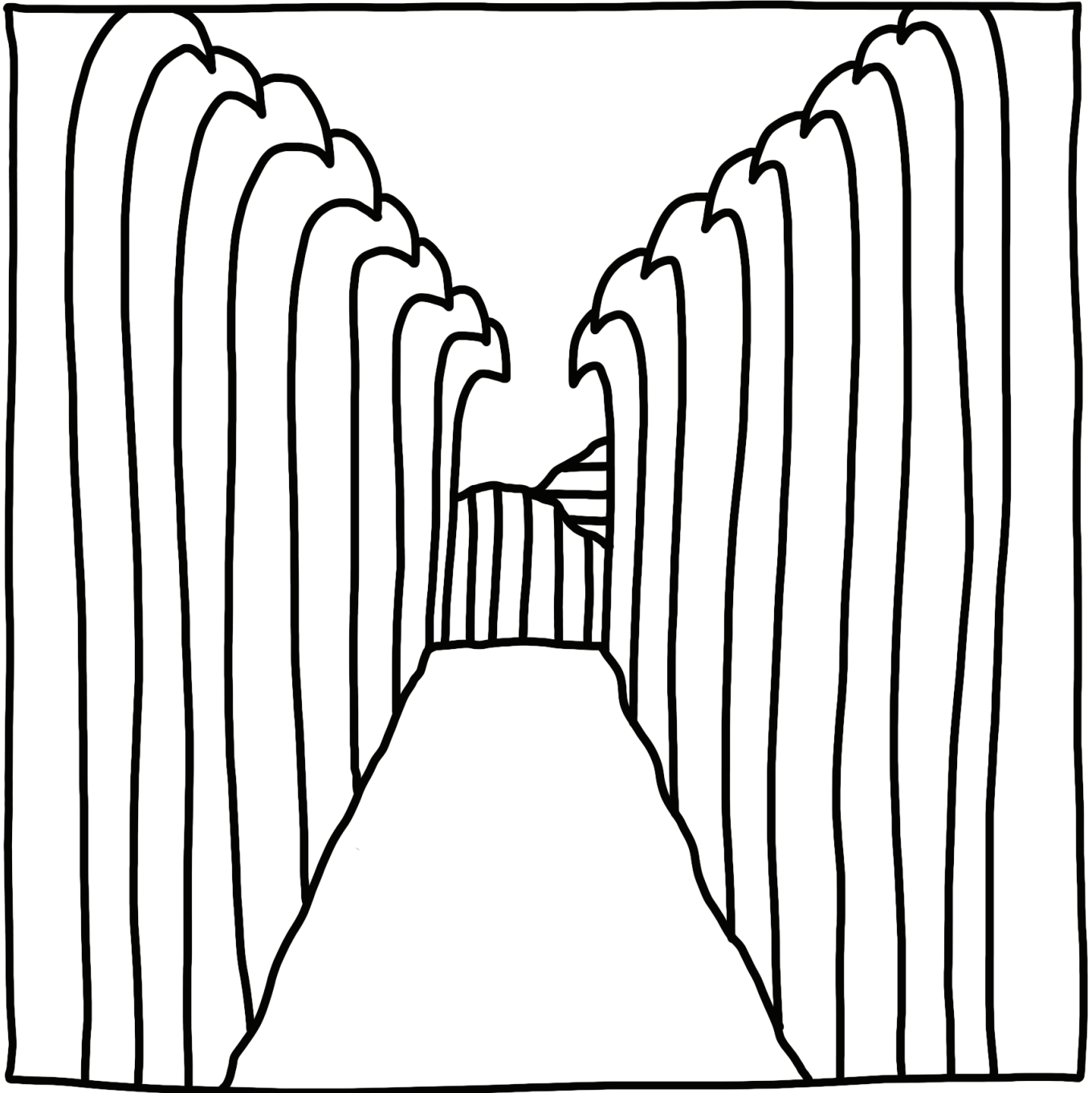
If you didn't purchase our large coloring posters, you can print out these coloring sheets to give to the children in your class. If you did purchase the coloring posters, you could still send kids home with this coloring sheet so they could color one of their own during the week after they've participated in this lesson of An Illustrated Earth. Or you may have parents asking if they could have a copy as well, so it wouldn't hurt to print out a few extras.

You will also notice that there are two versions of the coloring sheet. There is a detailed version which is the exact same design as the coloring posters, and then there is a simplified coloring sheet that includes the same general pieces of the illustration, but with less detail to color in. The simplified version of the coloring sheets would be great for the younger children you may be working with.

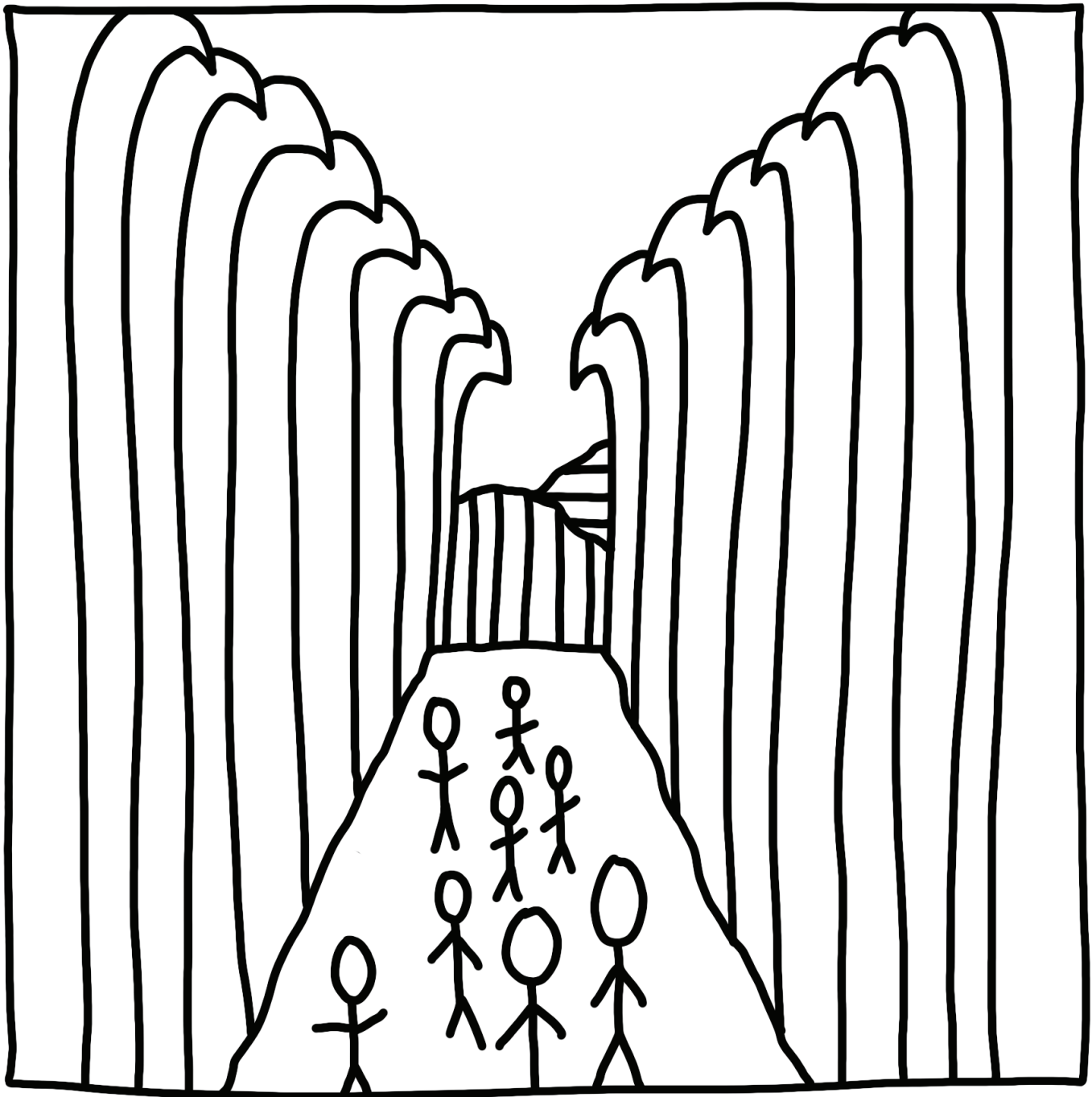
Happy coloring!



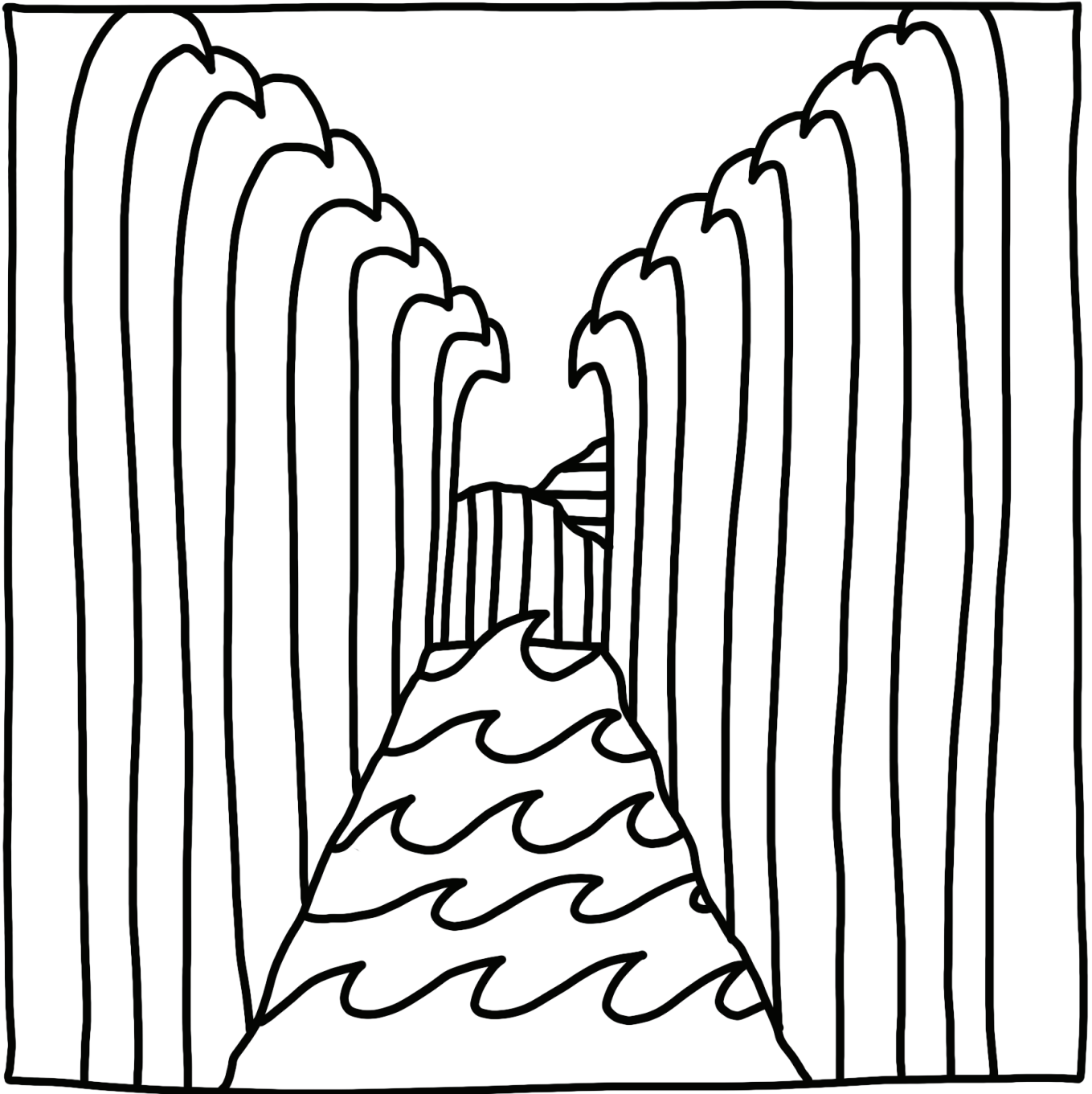
THE ISRAELITES REACHED THE RED SEA AND WERE AFRAID.



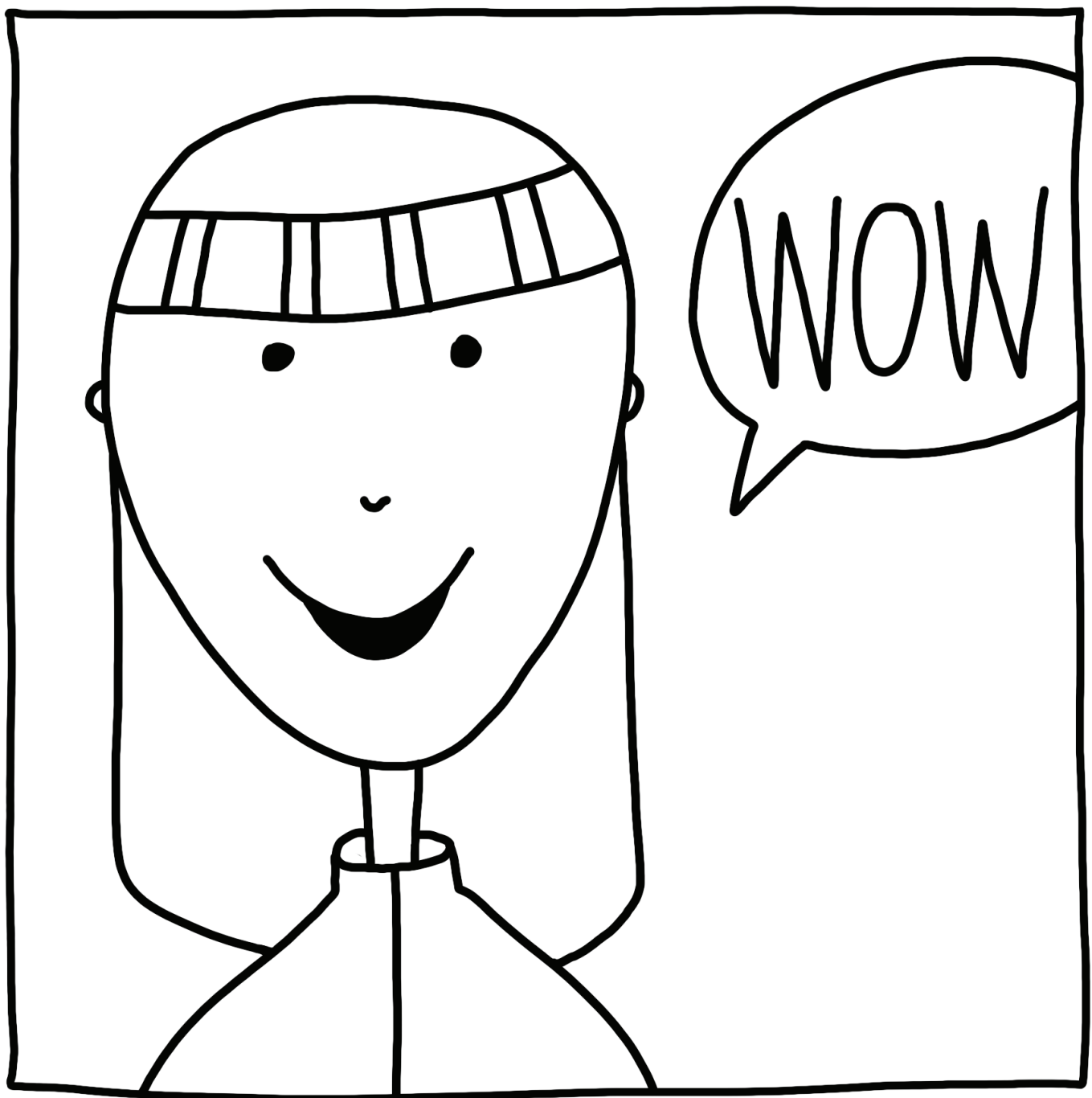
THE LORD PARTED THE RED SEA INTO TWO WALLS OF WATER.



THE ISRAELITES WALKED THROUGH ON DRY GROUND.



THE LORD BROUGHT THE WATER BACK DOWN SO THE EGYPTIANS
COULD NOT REACH THEM.



THE ISRAELITES WERE AMAZED AT THE LORD AND HOW THE LORD
HELPED THEM.

