

# UNIT TWO: FROM EGYPT TO SINAI

## CHAPTER 13: Consecration of the firstborn

### **Servant's Preparation:**

Read Exodus Chapter 13.

Read the interpretation of the chapter in Interpretation of the Book of Exodus by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty:

<http://www.orthodoxebooks.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Exodus%20-%20Father%20Tadros%20Yacoub%20Malaty.pdf>

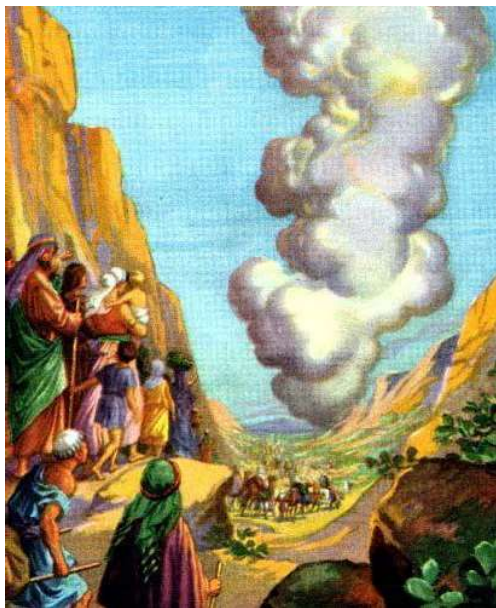
### **Brief introduction:**

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions:

- ✓ *What is the meaning of Exodus?* Departure, going out. It refers to the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt.
- ✓ *Who wrote the Book of Exodus?* Moses the Prophet
- ✓ *What is the structure of the Book of Exodus?* It tells the story of bondage of the Israelites in Egypt, their exodus from Egypt to Sinai and the story of their journey in Sinai.

### **Main Points in the Chapter:**

1. Sanctification of the firstborn (and Feast of Unleavened Bread) (1 – 16)
2. Wandering of the people (17 – 18)
3. The bones of Joseph (19)
4. Camping in Etham (20 – 22)





# EXODUS 13



"Sanctify to Me every firstborn"

Males

Clean = sacrifice  
Unclean = destroy or redeem

\* men are redeemed

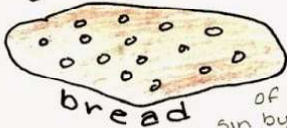


remember this day...  
for by a

**Powerful Hand**  
the LORD brought you out of this place

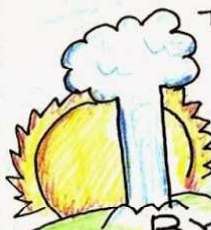
7  
Days

unleavened



bread

- Leaven is used as a symbol of sin in the Bible -  
So after eating all the Passover lamb (no picking and choosing) you have 7 days of no leaven... Like being cleansed of sin by the blood of Christ... and then first fruits. Lots of symbolism



The LORD was going before them in

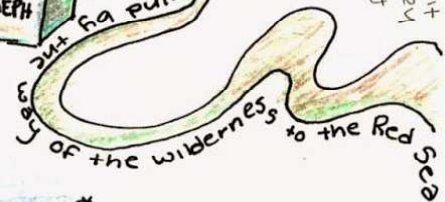
A PILLAR OF CLOUD

BY DAY and in a

PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT



God led the



- God did not take them by the most direct route. This he did for their protection. Its hard for us to follow God when we think we can see an easier way... but God sees the whole picture.

Notes on Joseph's bones: In Gen 50:24-25 Joseph is dying + holds to the promise of God to Abraham about the promised land + had the sons of Israel swear to take his bones with them - His faith in God extended even beyond the grave. One note says 300 years had passed... but God makes sure everything is done when the time is right.

\* wow! can you imagine seeing God day in + day out? You would think that would make it easier to be obedient. But because we are fallen, even this is not enough to keep us from sin

## Lesson:

Explain the main events of the chapters with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

- The Lord tells Moses to consecrate every firstborn male to Him, whether man or animal.
- Moses teaches the people to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days in remembrance of what happened in Egypt.
- The Lord leads the Israelites by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea instead of by the way of the Land of the Philistines so that they don't go into war with the Philistines and decide to return to Egypt.
- Moses carries Joseph's bones with him as Joseph put the Israelites under oath to do so.
- God leads the people in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

## Lesson Aim

God is with us, He takes care of us and He guides us.

## Activities

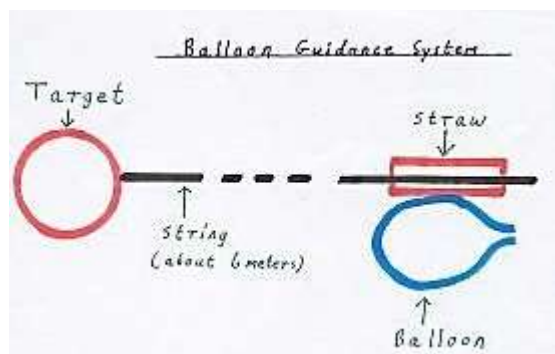
### **God's Guidance**

#### **Balloon Experiment:**

We are all on a journey through life, and God has given us two things to help us – His Word, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. If, however, we try and travel through life on our own – without calling on God to Guide us – we will make mistakes, and go off in directions that are not part of God's plan for us.

Produce an ordinary (round) balloon. Blow it up, but do not tie it. Choose a volunteer to be your target. Have him/her stand about 6 meters away. This balloon represents a person trying to go through life on their own. Most people do want to go the right way. Their intentions are good. Therefore I am starting off by pointing the balloon at the target, but let's see what will happen when I let go! It will almost certainly miss the target. Repeat a few times. You may be able to obtain Rocket balloons. These are long, and buzz as they travel through the air. Children love them, but they will still miss their targets!

What this balloon needs is a Guidance system – something to help it hit its target. I have one right here. Produce a 6 or 7 meter piece of string, and thread one end through a drinking straw. Have a second volunteer stand just behind the target, holding the other end. Blow up your balloon and tape it under the straw – see Attachment. Let the balloon go, and watch it hit its target. That balloon kept right on target, because it had something to guide it. In the same way, we will stay on target in our journey through life – If we let the Bible and the Holy Spirit guide us.



### **Cornflakes and Magnet Experiment:**

How can you compare God's guidance with a cornflake?

To find out, conduct this science experiment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1zfwXbrdcY>

*Theme:*

God's guidance, hearing His voice, knowing His will, choosing your own path

*Needed:*

- a magnet
- cornflakes
- a bowl of water

Put a cornflake on top of the water. Place the magnet on top of it and move the magnet around. The cornflake will follow the magnet!

Just as the cornflake is pulled along by the magnet held above it, so we may know that God wants to guide us. He wants to lead us. In Psalm 23 David writes: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23: 1 -3)

But does this work? Is it as easy as the pulling or pushing of a cornflake with a magnet?

In the Bible we read about lots of people who hear his voice, know his will, are guided by angels. How does this work in our lives today?

Some questions to reflect on with the children:

How do you think God's guidance works? Does He force us to follow Him/to do His will? No

How does God guide us? Through the Bible, the Holy Spirit in the sacraments, our parents, our spiritual leaders (priests, Sunday School teachers)

How many people in the Bible do we know that were guided by God? Noah, Moses, Tobias, St. Paul, and many more.



This is a great [object lesson](#) to reflect with the children on the theme of God's guidance in our lives.

It is fun and easy to do with the children. If possible, they can take turns to try and move a cornflake over the water.

***Memory Verse:***

***21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.***

## CHAPTER 14: Crossing of the Red Sea

**Servant's Preparation:**

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