

Holiday Club material for 5-11s: Time Travellers

Are we nearly there yet?



Following God – Following with others

Meet a child who is in the crowd of Israelites as they escape Egypt and follow the pillar of cloud and fire.

Arrival

Build a time machine

You will need:

- A variety of items for junk modelling, including some large boxes.

What you do:

1. Each team builds their own time machine, which will need to include some kind of time capsule that items can be placed into.
2. Also create footprints ready for the later craft by dipping foot into paint and printing onto paper or by drawing around foot and cutting out.

Story: Exodus 13: 17-22

The king sent the people out of Egypt. God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country. That road is the shortest way. But God said, “They might think they will have to fight. Then they might change their minds and go back to Egypt.” So God led them through the desert toward the Red Sea. The Israelites were dressed for fighting when they left the land of Egypt.

Moses carried the bones of Joseph with him. Before Joseph died, he had made the sons of Israel promise to do this. He had said, “When God saves you, remember to carry my bones with you out of Egypt.”

The people of Israel left Succoth and camped at Etham. Etham was on the edge of the desert. The Lord showed them the way. During the day he went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud. And during the night the Lord was in a pillar of fire to give them light. They could travel during the day or night. The pillar of cloud was always with them during the day. And the pillar of fire was always with them at night.

Interview

Who are you?

Hi! My name is Sarah. I’m travelling with my family – away from Egypt. I’m trying my best to be really brave because I don’t want my little sister to be scared. We don’t know how long this is going to take or where exactly we’re going.

Where are we?

We are in the middle of nowhere! We're walking through a wild, empty desert, probably being chased by Pharaoh and his army. It's not just me and my family but all of our people – the Israelites. We've no idea where we are going because none of us has ever been allowed out of Egypt before so we're completely lost.

Story in the form of a poem

Cloud and fire!

Running cheerfully, out of Egypt.
No more bricks of straw and sweat,
We're much too young to be working yet.
We laugh and giggle as you hold my hand,
Finally, we can play in the sand.
Soon, we'll be free at last.

Marching proudly, out of Egypt.
Carrying bowls of unleavened bread,
Bags on our backs and some on our heads.
Ready to start our brand-new life,
Waving goodbye to our sadness and strife.
We want to be free at last.

Wandering aimlessly, out of Egypt.
God keeps our journey on the right track,
With a pillar of cloud so we won't turn back.
The cloud then becomes a fiery light,
Which smokes and crackles as we travel at night.
It'll help us be free at last.

Walking steadily, out of Egypt.
Next to the flames you give me a scare,
'Don't get too close – you'll singe your hair!'
I scoop you up and hold you tight,
And sing you a song in the flickering light;
About how we'll be free at last.

Stumbling wearily, out of Egypt.
To cheer us up – a wondering game.
If I touch the cloud, will I make it rain?
Will it be icy and cold on my face?
Will it be woolly or patterned like lace?
Are we free at last?

Staggering sleepily, are we there yet?
I whisper into your sleepy ears
All about our God – who hears.
Hungry and thirsty, we should feel alone,
But He is with us – He's promised a new home.
Then we'll be free, free at last!



Interview continued

What's happened?

For years and years we've been slaves in Egypt (making the pharaoh's fancy buildings and doing all the Egyptians' horrible jobs for them – without being paid). We felt fed up, frightened and forgotten but, thankfully, God hadn't forgotten about us. He sent Moses and his family to help us escape and find a place to call home. We might not know where we're heading but God does, so we need to trust Him. He's even sent us a gigantic pillar to guide us through the desert that is made of cooling cloud in the day and warming fire at night. Amazing! I wonder what God will do next?

What can we take back with us?

Take this compass to remind you to stay close to God and keep following Him. You might not always know which way to go but if you trust in God, He will guide you and travel with you.

Bible verse

John 14: 6 "Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Video

- 2 Fish Talks: Moses - pillar of fire and cloud: https://youtu.be/rHgGendl_Jc
- Moses And The Children Of Israel Follow The Cloud: <https://youtu.be/gYKD6QsLsVE>

Wondering together

- I wonder what a cloud feels like.
- I wonder whether the fiery pillar was hot or just bright.
- I wonder whether it felt scary or exciting to leave Egypt.
- I wonder where God took the Israelites next.
- I wonder how we can tell where God wants us to go.



Craft/creative responses

Compass making

You will need:

- A magnet
- Large sewing needle (ideally a darning needle) or a paper clip (less effective but safer!)
- A bottle lid or circle of card or a leaf
- A clear bowl
- Water
- A paper plate.

When we are following a map or a path a compass helps us to know the way. The people were following Moses who helped show them the way.

What you do:

1. Magnetize the needle: hold the needle and stroke down the length of your needle with your magnet 50 times. (If you are using a weaker magnet you may need to do this more than 50 times!)
2. Fill a shallow glass dish with water, placing a paper plate underneath it with North, South, East and West marked on it.



3. Fasten your needle onto the rim of a bottle top using some sticky tape, or fasten it onto a small circle of card or, if outside, a leaf. Slowly place the bottle top or circle of card with the needle into the water so that it floats on top.
4. Watch as the circle begins to spin around until the needle is pointing in the direction of north, just like a compass. Turn your paper plate so that north lines up with the way the needle is pointing. Now you will have a compass of your own.

If you use a lidded pot rather than an open bowl, you can even take this compass out with you on your adventures! If you want to, you can validate the direction by comparing it to an actual compass.



Remember: don't ever place strong magnets near computers, phones, or electronics.

NOTE: Don't do this activity with any child that puts things in their mouth. Swallowing magnets is extremely dangerous. The needles are sharp. Ensure you have appropriate adult supervision and children have sufficient understanding to behave safely.

Pillar of cloud in a jar

You will need:

- Glass or plastic jar or bottle with a lid
- Liquid soap
- Vinegar
- Water.



What you do:

1. Fill a jar almost to the rim with cold water. You could also add some food colouring to the water if you wish.
2. Add a few squirts of clear liquid soap to the jar of water.
3. Put about a capful of vinegar in the jar as well. Put the lid back on the jar tightly.
4. Shake, then swirl the jar to form a pillar of cloud!

Footprints

You will need:

- Paper
- Paint or footprint shapes.



What you do:

1. Draw around the footprint shapes to create some footprints and decorate them as desired.
2. Or using paint on your foot, make your own footprint. Alternatively, make a fist and dip it into paint, and then create toes using some fingerprints.
3. Place one of your footprints into a time capsule as part of your time machine.



Small group prayer

In the story, we saw how God became cloud and fire to guide all of the Israelite families out of Egypt. He kept them safe and they followed him. The people did not know where they were going but they knew they had to keep following God. It must have been incredibly scary. It can sometimes be scary for us when things happen and we do not know why, and confusing when we cannot always see God. We will think about these scary and confusing times in our group prayers.

What you need:

- White A4 paper
- Sticky tape
- Electric tea lights
- Pens.

What you do:

1. On a piece of white A4 paper, help the children to draw clouds and write their prayers into the clouds.
2. Next, roll up the paper to a diameter of approximately 10cm and secure with tape.
3. Stand an electric tea light in the centre of the 'pillar' to light up the prayers. Try to have a time of quiet and encourage the children to say one of their prayers aloud.

Games

Follow my leader

One player is chosen as the leader and the others line up behind them. They then start to move around the room, with the leader choosing movements to do as they go and everyone else following their lead. Every so often, call out "reverse" and the line turns round so that the person at the back is now the leader, or call out "change" and the person at the front runs to join the back of the line and the second person becomes the new leader.

Simon Says

Choose one player to stand in front and give the instructions to the rest of the group. They call out "Simon says..." followed by an action, for example "Simon says jump up and down". However, if they just say "Jump up and down" without saying "Simon says" beforehand, anyone who follows that instruction is out. If you want to make it more challenging, you can decide that the last person following a "Simon says" instruction is also out. Remember to give several children the chance to be the leader.

Recipes

Our suggested recipes and food activities are themed to our days. If you are using them it would be helpful to consider also serving fruit and a healthy drink. Alternative suggestions to cope with allergies are in brackets.

Fire and cloud pillars

What you need:

- Either butter icing spread or similar
- Either bread sticks, twiglets (rice sticks/ gluten free breadsticks/ toasted gluten free bread cut into strips)

- Small marshmallows or large ones cut up (optional – coconut)
- Strawberry laces.

What you do:

1. The method to create both the cloud and fire pillars is the same, just with different toppings. Depending on time allowed, more than one fire pillar and cloud pillar could be made by each individual.
2. Start by taking a pillar (bread stick, twiglet) and dipping it into which ever topping you have decided on (butter icing spread, chocolate spread, melted chocolate, etc). It is best to ensure about half of the pillar is covered.
3. Roll the pillar into the marshmallows to create a pillar of cloud. Wrap a strawberry lace around the pillar to create fire!



Alternative recipe

Cloud bread (Not suitable for vegans)

What you need:

- Oil or butter for greasing (use oil if dairy allergy)
- Four eggs, separated
- 50g cream cheese (dairy free cream cheese)
- One quarter tsp cream of tartar.

What you do:

1. Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Cover two large baking sheets with greaseproof paper and grease well.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat the egg whites until they are stiff enough to keep their shape. In a separate bowl, beat together the egg yolks, cream cheese and cream of tartar until smooth, pale and frothy.
3. Carefully fold the egg whites into the egg yolk mixture so that you keep as much of the air/fluffiness in as possible. Season with a little salt and pepper.
4. Put dollops of the fluffy mixture onto the baking sheets (don't use the last of the mixture if it's runny) and bake for about 20 minutes. Allow to cool before lifting from the paper.



Large group prayer

One person to lead the prayer, one line at a time with the suggested actions. The rest of the group will then follow the leader and repeat the words of the prayer and the actions.

Jesus (*point to the centre of your open palm, then repeat on the other hand*)
 you are the way (*make a winding pathway with your two hands*).
 Help us (*with one arm draw a large circle outwards from the centre of your chest*)
 to follow you (*lean your hand on your brow and move your head from side to side*)
 when we are happy (*draw a smile onto your face*),
 when we are sad (*draw an upside down smile onto your face*),
 and when we are scared (*use both hands to cover your face*).
 Amen (*close both hands together*).