

HOOK

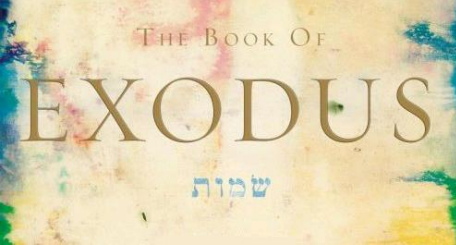
Game

Tell kids when you lift up your hands, they have to clap. The higher you lift, the louder they clap. The lower you go, the softer they clap.

Try it at different speeds.

For variation, you can do:

- Right hand up: only right side of class clap
- Left hand up: only left side of class clap
- Both hands up: all clap
- Both hands down: nobody claps



STORY: EXODUS: The Lord our Banner (Exodus 17:8-15)

We continue our story on Moses and the Israelites journeying in the desert after leaving Egypt.

They are facing a monumental problem! What was the problem? They had faced the Egyptians, the Red Sea, the lack of food and the lack of water. Then things were going well for a while, but ... *"Now Amalek came and fought with Israel."* (vs 8)

Who were the Amalekites?

The Amalekites were the descendants of Amalek — a grandson of Esau, the brother of Jacob.

If you remember, Esau and Jacob were twin boys born to Isaac and Rebekah. They had fought over the birth right and blessing of the firstborn, and Jacob cheated his brother by deceiving his father. And though the brothers eventually made up, here we see that Esau's descendants continued to fight with Jacob's descendants.

So the Amalekites decided to attack the Israelites — a young nation — in the middle of the wilderness. The Israelites had just left Egypt. They were slaves. They were not soldiers. They had no battle experience. They didn't have to fight the Egyptians — God destroyed the Egyptians for them. But now they had to fight the fierce and vicious Amalekites!

Moses instructs his commander and leader in training Joshua, to select men to face the enemy. So Joshua went with the Israelites and fought with Amalek.

Moses, his brother Aaron, and another guy, Hur, went up to the top of the hill where they could see the battle. Moses takes his staff with him to the hilltop. As Moses raises his arms high with his rod or staff in his hands, Joshua and his men start winning. When Moses' arms grew weary, becoming tired and heavy, he lowered them and the Amalekites started winning over against Joshua and his troops.

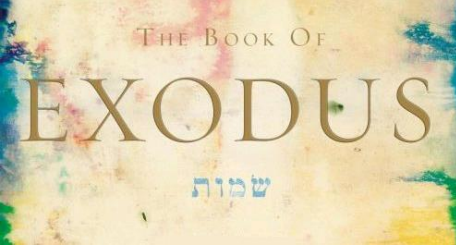
<can insert the hand clapping game to illustrate; clap = Israelites winning>

When Aaron and Hur saw how tired Moses was becoming, they quickly came to help and support their leader. The first thing they did, was roll a nearby stone under Moses, so that he could sit down. We must remember that Moses was 80 years old when he first stood before Pharaoh and demanded that he let his people go.

Then together, they supported Moses' arms, holding them high and steady until the setting of the sun. Because of this, Joshua was able to fight and defeat the Amalekites!

At the end of the day, everyone knew that the victory was secured because Moses was able to hold his rod or staff high overhead!

God told Moses to record this incident in a book so everyone can remember it. And Moses built an altar and called it "Jehovah Nissi" or "The Lord is my Banner."



LESSON

The Lord is our Banner

The banner is a symbol of victory. In a war, when one side captures the others' flag/banner, they can claim victory.

When Moses stood on that hill and raised his staff, the staff was like the flag/banner for the Israelites. As long as it was raised high, the Israelites fought more boldly and confidently. But when it started dropping, their spirits fell too.

So Aaron and Hur held up Moses' arms, one on each side.

(That's the importance of good friends. When we see someone is tired or discouraged — whether your teacher, parents, siblings or friends — we can come and support and encourage them. We can say, "Come, let me help you. You don't have to do it alone.")

This banner in the hand of Moses was a visible image of God's presence and power. He was the one who would provide the victory over the Amalalekites. By themselves, the Israelites were sure to be defeated and destroyed. But with God, they could be victorious!

Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is our Banner!

Jesus has won the victory for us

What shape do you see when Moses stands up there with his hands stretched out, holding his staff?
<demonstrate>

Yes, it's the Cross.

Today, the Cross is our banner, our flag, our victory.

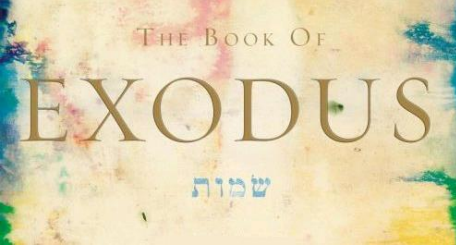
When we see the Cross, we remember Jesus' death and finished work on the Cross.

Jesus won the victory over sin and death for us! And unlike Moses' tired arms, Jesus does not get tired or weary. His work on the Cross stands forever — His victory is forever.

Even Jesus tells us that we will face problems in life. But He also tells us we can have peace and be assured because Jesus has won the victory already! *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* **John 16:33**

So no matter what problems and challenges we face, whether it's not enough food or an enemy's army, we can look at the Cross and know He has given us the victory!

Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is our Banner!



ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Testimony time

What sort of problems do you face? Do you know Jesus has won the victory and is helping you overcome your problems? Share and pray together.

Memory Verse Challenge

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Craft

Make a flag/banner, design it and include the words: Jehovah Nissi — The Lord our Banner

Song

Sing these songs and wave your flag/banner up high to praise our victorious Lord!

Joy is the Flag / There's a Flag flying High

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkZ11WgLEZg>

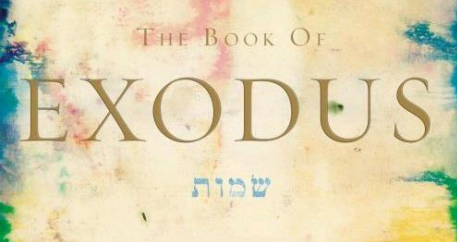
His Banner over me is Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxgw6pbW59E>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeGMkitu_QE

Jesus, we celebrate your victory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_SFFloE4Jo



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE LORD OUR BANNER

<http://www.gospelweb.net/ronnamesofgod/JehovahNissi.htm>