Week 5: Exodus 14:21-22 (NKJV) "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left."

Our ornament today is a picture of a man walking on a path of dry land through the middle of waves of water on both sides. The man's name is Moses, and in our story he leads twelve tribes of God's people through the Red Sea out of slavery from Egypt.

Now, a lot has happened to God's people since Jacob returned to his father Isaac's house in last week's story. God has given Jacob a new name- Israel. Jacob (Israel) has twelve sons and one daughter. Jacob's favorite son is his eleventh son, Joseph. When there is a famine in their land, and they are starving, Joseph helps the whole family move to Egypt, where there is food to eat.

The children and grandchildren and many-greats-grandchildren of Jacob and Joseph grow up in Egypt. At first, this family of Israel, we'll call them the Israelites, are welcome neighbors. But as time goes on, the Israelites become the slaves of the Egyptians.

These are God's special people, and now they are slaves in Egypt! So God chooses one special Israelite to lead his people out of slavery and back to their home lands.

God chooses Moses. It isn't easy for God or for Moses. The Egyptians don't want to lose their slaves. A lot of bad things happen in Egypt, like fires, and wild frogs, and bad sicknesses, and hordes of grasshoppers, until the Egyptians give up and agree to let the Israelite slaves march out of Egypt.

Moses gathers the people and they camp near the Red Sea, as God tells them to. But as they are waiting for a way to cross the water, they see that the Egyptians have changed their minds. They are coming after them! God tells Moses to raise his stick in the air and lead the Israelites into the water.

So Moses leads the former slaves to the water and God makes them a dry pathway right through the sea. As long as the Israelites are walking through, the water stays piled up on both sides of their path, and they are crossing on dry land. As soon as the Israelites are on the other side, the water rushes back so that the Egyptians cannot chase them any longer.

God's people are free again!