Remembering Harriet Tubman

By Beth Beall

March 10th is a day to remember a woman named Harriet Tubman. Learn about this amazing woman who served God by freeing others.

For
Just for Kids

Season
Spring

Needed
Story and word search puzzle, below.

Activity Plan

1. God is with us in everything we do, and prayer helps us to remember that. Begin this activity by praying this prayer:

   "God, you want everything and every person in your creation to be free. Thank you for those people who work to make the world a freer place. Amen."

2. Read the following story of Harriet Tubman.

They Called Me "Moses"

Have you ever met a woman named Moses? That's not the name I was born with. My parents named me Araminta Harriet Ross, but most people called me Minty. I was born on March 10, 1820, in the state of Maryland. In the eyes of this world, I was born a slave, the child of parents who were slaves.

When I was 24 years old, I married a man named John Tubman. At that same time, I asked people to start calling me Harriet instead of Minty, and my name became Harriet Tubman. Harriet was my mother's name, and I felt that it honored her to be called by her name. A few years after I was married, my owner died, and I became very afraid. You see, I suffered from a number of illnesses, especially bad headaches. Now that my owner had died, I was afraid of what would happen to me. Who would want to buy a sick slave? That's when I decided to run away. I decided to run from Maryland all the way to a state called Pennsylvania, because I knew that if I reached Pennsylvania I would be free. Pennsylvania was 90 miles away from Maryland. I traveled to Pennsylvania using the Underground Railroad. Do you know what that means? The Underground Railroad was a network of secret paths that led slaves to freedom. Good people of all races called "conductors" led me from one "station" to another. A "station" might be

someone's home one night, or a barn another night, or even a church. The people who owned the "stations" were called "stationmasters."

The journey was terrifying. I knew that if I was caught, I would be severely punished, perhaps even killed. When I finally reached Pennsylvania, I felt as if I had reached heaven. People encouraged me to relax and enjoy my freedom. But I couldn't, because my family back in Maryland wasn't free. And so I returned to Maryland to rescue my family. For the next twenty years, I made almost twenty trips back to the south to lead people out of slavery and into freedom. I worked tirelessly as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

People began to call me Moses. My parents had told my sisters and brothers and me the story of Moses when we were young children. Do you know that story? It's a story in the Bible about the time when God's people were slaves in the land of Egypt, and about how God sent a man named Moses to free them. Every time people called me Moses, I felt my heart stir, and I remembered that God's dream for all people everywhere is freedom.

Over 3000 slaves were freed through the Underground Railroad. I wish we could have freed even more. I hope that you will do your part to make this world a freer place for all people. Thank you for listening to my story.

3. Complete this word search. All of the words in the puzzle are related to Harriet Tubman's life. Answers can go up, down, back, forth, or diagonal.

Harriet Tubman: Railroad Conductor

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H Z F D Y N R Q C D M P F S C
A N L N M L I O A O E I T M S
R O P A M D I O T N U A N E P
R R T L S U R M N C T R V T X
I T E Y M L H S A I U A A F Y
E H A R I X Y I O F L D H G N
T O I A P L U N H S N W N J E
W I R M V D R V V V A H F O J
G B W A F R E E D O M W S Q C
F R N E S C A P E W B O R M Z
Q I I S Y D A M G P U W I Y Z
A G U Z D T B F K T T B T M V
K R O W T E N M H W J X J A K
F C C D N U O R G R E D N U S
A Z X J C R E S S E S O M Y V
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CONDUCTOR
COURAGE
ESCAPE
FAMILY
FREEDOM
HARRIET
MARYLAND
MINTY
MOSES
NETWORK
NORTH
PENNSYLVANIA
RAILROAD
SLAVES
SOUTH
STATION
TUBMAN
UNDERGROUND