



MOSES AND THE TEN PLAGUES

Exodus 5-12

Memory Verse

Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love. Psalm 44:26

Context/Background

The Israelites had lived in Egypt for four hundred years, since Joseph found favour with the Pharaoh and his family (and all the Israelites) moved to Egypt to escape a great famine. For a long time they prospered in Egypt and they became very numerous. By the time that Moses was born, there were many Israelites, and the Pharaoh became worried about them. He forced them into slavery to work on his great building projects amongst other things and ordered the extermination of Israelite babies.

God chose Moses to lead the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to the homeland promised to them through their forefather Abraham. But Pharaoh didn't want to give up this valuable work force.

Summary

God sent Moses to Pharaoh to command him to set God's people free. Pharaoh opposed God's request and so God sent 10 plagues of increasing severity to convince Pharaoh. The plagues were: water turning to blood, frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the killing of the firstborn sons of every household.

It is only after the last plague that Pharaoh agrees to set the Israelites free. During the final plague, God gave the Israelites very specific instructions about what they needed to do so that the angel of death would 'pass over' their houses and their babies wouldn't die. Ever since, the Jewish people have celebrated the Passover, when the blood of a lamb smeared on their doors saved them from death.

After this Pharaoh releases the Israelites and an estimated two million men, women and children cross the Red Sea into the Sinai Peninsula.

Relevance/Application

Themes:

NOTE: The plagues of the firstborn is a difficult one for young children to understand. The idea of all the baby boys being killed by an angel of God is even hard for adults to comprehend. You know your students. Give them as much as they can handle. When working with younger children, you may like to focus on some of the earlier plagues and that Pharaoh eventually let God's people go, just as God promised.

Younger students:

- God is powerful.
- God keeps his promises – he delivered the Israelites from slavery
- God saves His people and makes them free.

Older students:

- God heard his people's cries of pain and promised to rescue them from slavery. God listens when we cry out to him, and he delivers us from our sin and from evil.
- Pharaoh's heart was hard – he refused to listen to God's messages and warnings through Moses and Aaron. Even when he said the Israelites could go, and God showed mercy, Pharaoh changed his mind. Refusing to listen to God and rejection of his mercy has consequences.
- The Passover points us to Jesus - Jesus was called the Lamb of God. He died as a sacrifice so that we can be saved from sin. The Israelites sacrificed an unblemished lamb; Jesus was without sin. Everyone who believes in Jesus will not be punished for sin – God's punishment will 'pass over' believers.

Christian Studies Framework**Christian Beliefs****Key Idea 1: Christians believe God is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

Catechism Connections

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

God is powerful and there are fatal consequences for rejecting him. But God loves us and saves us when we love and trust in Him.

THE SEVENTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, property and honour; and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

God rescues us from evil of all kinds and from death through Jesus' death on the cross.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

Early Years

- What was Pharaoh's answer to God's command to let the Israelites go?
- Name some of the plagues.
- What did God want the Israelites to do so their homes would be 'passed over' by the last plague?
- Who rescued the Israelites?

Primary

- What was the first plague God sent to Egypt?
- A few times Pharaoh agreed to release the Israelites if the God ended the plagues. Did Pharaoh keep his word? (No – he changed his mind each time God showed mercy; 8:15, 31-32; 9:34-35)
- What was the final plague? How did the Israelites avoid suffering from it?
- How does the Passover point forward to Jesus' death?

Secondary

- Why do you think God sent each different kind of plague?
 - What lessons can we learn from Pharaoh's response to the plagues?
 - The death of the firstborn sons is a hard thing to understand. Why would God let this happen? What warnings did Pharaoh receive? How did he respond?
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- Pharaoh had a hard heart – what do you think that means? How could a person's heart be softened?

Images or objects to spark discussion

- Food mentioned in the Passover account (lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs)

Pixabay



Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

- The Ten Plagues - Arch Books
- [Big Picture Story Bible](#): God's People Become Great (p112)
- [The Beginner's Bible](#): Hard Times for Egypt (p105)
- [Jesus Storybook Bible](#): God to the Rescue (p84)
- [Gospel Story Bible](#): Moses Confronts Pharaoh (p58)
- [Action Story Bible](#): Spokesman for God (p133)

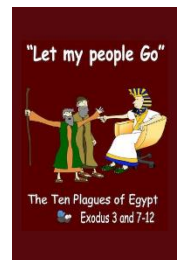
Tracts and Other Resources

Lutheran Tract Mission

[Let my people go – the Ten Plagues of Egypt Tract and Activity Book](#)

GROW Ministries

[Woven Together – February - Exodus 12:1-42, 14:5-31 God rescues the Israelites](#)



Audio Stories/Podcasts

[Bible.is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary

[The Plagues and The Passover | Preschool | The Gospel Project](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[Bible Stories for Kids: Passover and the Final Plagues - Bible Stories for Kids](#)

[The Tenth Plague of Egypt and the Passover - A Faith Kids Bible Story Video](#)

Needs follow up to make the connection to Jesus

[God Sent Ten Plagues - Genesis Kids](#)

Secondary/Staff

[The Book of Exodus - Part 1 – The Bible Project](#)

[What was the meaning and purpose of the ten plagues of Egypt? - Got Questions](#)

[Exodus 11-13 | Passover | Bible Study - Spoken Gospel](#)

Invocation

“Let my people go so they might worship me.”
In the name of God, the Father who created us,

God the Son who liberates and rescues us,
And in the Holy Spirit who leads us to live a life of freedom.
Amen.

Prayers

Prayer

Dear God, you saved your people in Egypt. Thank you for saving us, too. Thank you for making us free from our sins through Jesus. Thank you for showing us the way to the promised land – with you in heaven. Amen.

God who rescues and redeems,
Show up today like you did in Egypt.
Softening the hearts of those who oppress either knowingly or unknowingly.
Free us from that which enslaves us.
Free us to be your people in the world, to love and care for those who have been oppressed themselves. Allow your story to offer a glimmer of hope to people living in a world that can at times be all too dark.

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me.
Amen

Mealtime Prayer

Lord, you set people free, you heal the sick, and you feed the hungry. We give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Blessing

May you go out, free from that which enslaves you, so that God may use you to bring love and light to a world of darkness. And may you go out not on your own, but alongside a God who is always with you, right to the end.

[name], you have been set free by the Lamb of God.

Music

[Pharaoh, Pharaoh Kids Bible Songs with Lyrics - Bible Time](#)
[Pharaoh \(Let My People Go\)- Brandon Lake](#) parting the red sea
[God of Abraham, Lead Us \(All Together OK 403\)](#)
[Give Me Faith – Elevation Worship](#)

Activities

Early Years:

- Trueway Kids - <https://truewaykids.com/the-plagues-of-egypt-bible-lesson/> has some useful resources for sharing this story with young children. Has translations in multiple languages.

Primary:

- Science Experiment – Dissolving the hard shell of a mentos or M&M
- Make a Plague Scroller – find download and instructions at <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/pharaoh-exodus-7-make-1/>

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Make unleavened bread or purchase some and have a 'meal on the run' with barbecued lamb, flat bread and 'bitter herbs' (tabouleh works!). Discuss how God protected and rescued his people from evil while you eat.
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