

January 26, 2020

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Bondage: Israel's Pain and 1st Plague*

### Lesson Objective:

This week we begin to see how God delivers His people from the bondage of slavery. In our lesson we see God demonstrate His power and might against the heart of Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. God will not stop in His rescue plan of His people, the Israelites, and He goes to great lengths to bring them safely out of Egypt. We also notice in this story that Moses and Aaron operate only as God's mouthpiece to Pharaoh; God is doing all the acting. This story should remind us of God's relentless love and of His great rescue plan for us. His power knows no limit in bringing us safely out of our own bondage. In fact, many years later He'll use another man to do this for us, and his name is Jesus. Why? Because God promised that He would (Genesis 3:15-17).

### Teaching Points:

- God is faithful and never changes. God keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign (or in control).
- Man is sinful.
- God is kind and merciful.
- God is everywhere all the time.
- God is all knowing.

**Scripture:** Exodus 4:18-6:13; 7:1-25

**Story:** *Vos Children's Bible*, Chapter 34  
*Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 58-63  
*Jesus Story Book Bible*, Pages 84-91

**Scripture Memory for January:** Exodus 20:2 (ESV)

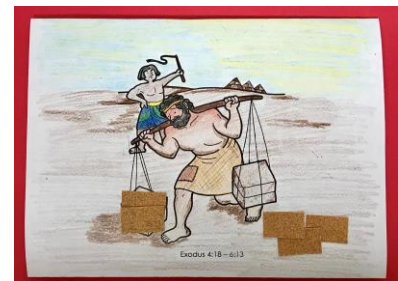
**I am the Lord your God** (*point index finger upwards toward the sky*)  
**who brought you out of** (*reach down to ground like you are scooping or grabbing something*)  
**the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.** (*wrap hand around opposite wrist like a handcuff*)

### Craft: Israelite Bondage

**Supplies:** Cardstock scene, sand paper pieces (bricks), crayons/markers, glue

**Instructions:**

1. Color scene.
2. Glue sand paper (bricks) to scene.



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

# Story

## Review

Last week we learned about Moses and the Burning Bush. This was God's way of speaking to Moses to give him a big job – to lead God's people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. The Israelites were servants to the Egyptians; the Egyptians were very mean to God's people. The Israelites cried out to God for help, and God heard their cries. This is why God sent Moses. However, Moses was afraid to go to Egypt. He told God he could not do it alone. So, God told Moses, "I will send your brother Aaron to be your helper. I have already promised to be with you. Now go and tell Pharaoh, "The Lord says, 'Let my people go, that they may serve Me.'" After all this, Moses was ready to obey to God.

## Heading Back to Egypt

Moses went to his father-in-law Jethro. Moses said to him, "Let me go back to my people in Egypt. I want to see if they are still alive." Jethro said to Moses, "You may go. Have a safe trip."

The Lord said to Moses, "When you get back to Egypt, you will do miracles. I have given you the power to do them. Show them to Pharaoh." But Pharaoh would not listen to Moses. Pharaoh would never let the Israelites go.

Meanwhile, the Lord said to Aaron, "Go out into the desert to meet Moses." When Moses met Aaron, he told him everything the Lord had said. Moses and Aaron traveled back to Egypt. Once there, they gathered all the leaders of the Israelites. Aaron told them everything that the Lord had told Moses. Then Moses did the miracles for all the people to see. And the Israelites believed God had sent Moses. The Israelites heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their troubles. The Israelites' cries for help and for God to deliver them had been heard. The Israelites bowed down and worshiped God.

## Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh

After Moses and Aaron talked to the people, they went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: 'Let my people go so they can worship me.'"

But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord? Why should I obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord. And I will not let Israel go." Pharaoh did not know the God of the Israelites. Pharaoh thought He was in control and all-powerful.

Then Aaron and Moses said, "God has talked with us. He wants you to let His people go, so they can worship Him." Both Aaron and Moses knew that to disobey God there would be serious consequences.

But Pharaoh replied, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their work? Go back to your hard work! There are very many Hebrews. And now you want them to quit their hard work!"

That same day Pharaoh had an idea to get back at Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh gave a command to the foremen (foremen were responsible for making sure the Israelites did their work), "Don't give the people straw to make bricks as you used to do. Let them gather their own straw." The Israelites would have to make bricks but looking for their own straw would make it harder and it would take longer. The foremen would hurt the Israelites when they did not find enough straw or make enough bricks. The Israelites complained to Pharaoh. They wanted to know why they did not have any more straw and why they were being beaten so much.

Pharaoh told them, "You are lazy! You don't want to work! That is why you ask to leave here and make sacrifices to the Lord. Now, go back to work! We will not give you any straw. But you must make just as many bricks as you did before."

The Israelite foremen knew they were in trouble. After the meeting with Pharaoh, some of the Israelite leaders met with Moses and Aaron and said to them, "May the Lord punish you. You caused Pharaoh to hate us." The Israelites

were afraid. They were scared that Pharaoh would hurt them a lot. So, they became mad at Moses for making things worse.

After hearing this, Moses prayed to the Lord, “Lord, why have you brought this trouble on your people? Is this why you sent me here? I went to Pharaoh and said what you told me to say. But since that time he has made the people suffer, and you have done nothing to save them.” Moses was upset with God. The Israelites did not believe God would help them and Moses was not quite sure either. But God was going to show everyone – Moses, Pharaoh, and the Israelites – that no one can stop His plans.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Plague**

The Lord told Moses that He had given him great power to do miracles and the help of Aaron. Pharaoh did not want to listen to Moses and did not want to obey God. God promised Moses that He was going to lead His people out of Egypt. God was going to show everyone how powerful He was.

The Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh is very stubborn. He refuses to let My people go. In the morning Pharaoh will go out to the Nile River. Go meet him by the edge of the river. Take with you your walking stick. Tell him this: ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you. He said, ‘Let my people go worship me in the desert.’ Until now you have not listened. This is what the Lord says: ‘This is how you will know that I am the Lord. I will strike the water of the Nile River with this stick in my hand. And the water will change into blood. Then the fish in the Nile will die, and the river will begin to stink. And the Egyptians will not be able to drink the water from the Nile.’”

Not only would the Nile turn into blood, but Aaron would walk around Egypt stretching his walking stick over rivers, ponds, and pools. Whenever Aaron did this, the water would turn into blood.

So, Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded. Aaron raised his walking stick and struck the water in the Nile River. He did this in front of Pharaoh and his officers. So, all the water in the Nile changed into blood. The fish in the Nile died, and the river began to stink. The Egyptians could not drink water from it. Blood was everywhere in the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh’s magicians did the same thing. They turned water into blood, but they could not turn the Nile back to normal! Pharaoh was stubborn and refused to listen to Moses and Aaron. The Egyptians could not drink the water from the Nile. For many days the Egyptians went looking for water. But only God could turn the Nile back to normal. After seven days passed, the Lord changed the Nile River back to regular, normal water.

Pharaoh did not believe the Lord was all-powerful. Pharaoh did not listen to Moses and Aaron and would not let God’s people go. God would continue to show Pharaoh that only He was all-powerful.

### **Questions for Review with Younger Children**

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- Moses went back to Egypt. (Yes)
- Moses got a job and lived a quiet life. (No! He went to tell Pharaoh to let God’s people go.)
- Moses told Pharaoh his secret recipe for chocolate cake. (No! Moses told Pharaoh to let God’s people go.)
- Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen to Moses and Aaron (Yes)
- Pharaoh made life more difficult for the Israelites. He would not give them any straw (Yes)
- The Israelites had a hard time making bricks without straw. (Yes)
- Moses prayed to God after meeting with the leaders of the Israelites. (Yes)
- God told Moses to leave Egypt. (No! God told Moses to go to the Nile River in the morning.)
- When Aaron stretched out his staff over water in Egypt, it turned to blood. (Yes)
- Only God could make the blood turn back to water. (Yes)
- After the Nile turned back to water, Pharaoh listened to God. (No! Pharaoh became more stubborn.)