

February 2, 2020

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Bondage: The Plagues*

### Lesson Objective:

This week we continue to see the unfolding of the plagues in Egypt. Next week, we will discover the last and final plague in Egypt. 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 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 communicates with man.
- God wants people to know He is a great God.
- God is all knowing.
- God does not need any help.

**Scripture:** Exodus 7:14- 10

**Story:** *Vos Children's Bible*, Pages 65-68; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 58-63; *Jesus Story Book Bible*, Pages 84-91; *The Beginner's Bible*, Pages 105-114; *The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 56-61

### Scripture Memory for February:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5

**Hear, O Israel** (*cup your hands around your ears*)

**The Lord our God, the Lord** (*point up towards the sky*)

**is one.** (*index finger extended up signaling a "1"*)

**You** (*point towards kids or audience*)

**shall love** (*cross hands and arms across the middle of your chest*)

**the Lord your God** (*point upwards*)

**with all your heart** (*make a heart sign in the middle of your chest*)

**with all your soul** (*take both hands, fingers straightened and point back to yourself*)

**and with all your might** (*flex arms out to the side*).

### Craft: Plagues

**Supplies:** White cardstock, verse sticker, ink pad, markers

**Instructions:**

1. Apply Bible verse to blank white cardstock.
2. Use ink pads provided to make thumbprints on the paper.
3. Use markers to make eyes, antenna, etc., to the thumbprints to create "insects".



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

# Story

## List of the first 9 Plagues:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Water to Blood, 7:19    | 6. Boils, 9:8-9           |
| 2. Frogs, 8:2-4            | 7. Thunder and Hail, 9:18 |
| 3. Gnats, 8:16             | 8. Locusts, 10:4-5        |
| 4. Flies, 8:21             | 9. Darkness, 10:21-22     |
| 5. Livestock Diseased, 9:3 |                           |

## Background

Last week we saw that God's people were in bondage under Pharaoh. This meant they worked as slaves for Pharaoh and did exactly as he wanted. Pharaoh hurt God's people and they cried out to be saved. God heard the Israelites' cries and sent Moses and Aaron to rescue His people. But Pharaoh did not care about God. Moses told Pharaoh to let God's people go, but Pharaoh did not listen. To disobey God is a very bad thing. And God was going to show Pharaoh how powerful He really is.

## 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 would not let God's people go.

## The Next Eight Plagues

Seven days went by and the Lord said to Moses, "Go tell Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.'" But Pharaoh said "No!" God then told Moses and his brother Aaron, "Stretch out your rod over the waters of Egypt." When Aaron did stretch out his rod over the waters, frogs began to jump out of the water. At first it was a couple of frogs, but soon a couple of frogs turned into hundreds and then thousands of frogs. Frogs were everywhere! They were all over the ground, in people's homes, in their beds, bathtubs, and even soup bowls! All the Egyptians were miserable because the frogs were everywhere.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses. "Ask God to take away the frogs from Egypt and I will let the people go," Pharaoh said. Moses and Aaron prayed to God and the frogs died. The Egyptians had to sweep up all the dead frogs in great big piles. The Bible tells us it smelled horrible. This was the second plague God sent to Egypt. But once the frogs were gone, Pharaoh's heart changed, and he decided not to let God's people go.

So, God spoke to Moses and Aaron again, "Take your staff and hit the dust on the ground." When Moses and Aaron did this, tiny little bugs, called gnats, came out of the ground and started crawling all over the place. All of the dust in the land became little bugs. Little gnats crawled all over the people and all over their animals too. It was horrible! This was the third plague God sent to Egypt. But the Bible tells us, Pharaoh remained stubborn and would not let God's people go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "In the morning, go to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Let my people go, so they may serve Me, or I will send big bunches of flies on you and the Egyptians. But my people the Israelites won't have any flies on them.'" But Pharaoh would not obey, and God kept His promise. God sent flies everywhere. They were in the Egyptians houses and all over them. But no flies bothered God's people. Pharaoh called for Moses to come to him. "Help me!" begged Pharaoh. "Pray that your God will take away these flies and then I will let your people go." So, Moses prayed and God took the flies away. But Pharaoh's heart remained stubborn, and he still would not let God's people go. This was the fourth plague God sent to Egypt.

God said to Moses, "Tell Pharaoh, let my people go, or all of your animals will get sick and die." Pharaoh did not let God's people go. God kept His promise and all the Egyptian animals died. The Bible says all of the cattle, the donkeys, the horses, the camels, the oxen, and the sheep that belonged to the Egyptians got sick and died. But God's people had horses, cattle and sheep, and not one of them got sick and died. God protected His people. It happened just like He had said. But Pharaoh remained stubborn and he would not let God's people go. This was the fifth plague God sent to Egypt.

Next God made sores come on the Egyptians. Sores are open spots on the skin, and they are itchy and hurt a lot. Every Egyptian had big sore spots on their skin. They would cry out in pain, but Pharaoh would not let God's people go. This was the sixth plague God sent to Egypt. But Pharaoh still would not obey God. He would not let God's people leave Egypt.

So, God told Moses to stretch out his staff to the sky and God sent a horrible storm. Lightening flashed and thunder boomed. Balls of hard ice, called hail, fell to the ground. There had never been a storm like this in Egypt. The hail hit animals and people and it even broke all the trees. All the crops were ruined because the hail damaged it. But in the part of Egypt where God's people lived, there was no hail. God was taking care of his people. The hail was the seventh plague God sent to Egypt.

Still, Pharaoh would not let God's people go. God told Moses to stretch out his staff, and he did, and the Lord sent a wind and in the wind were locusts. Locusts are like grasshoppers, but locusts eat a lot. Locusts were everywhere. They were all over the ground, eating everything in the fields and on the trees. They were eating all of the Egyptians' food. The Egyptians were afraid they wouldn't have anything to eat. But the locusts did not bother God's people. The locusts did not eat their food. This was the eighth plague God sent to Egypt. But still wicked Pharaoh would not obey God and let His people go.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt." Moses did as God commanded. For three long days the Egyptians could not see anything. There was no light, not from the moon or stars or anything. Everything was black. If the Egyptians walked around, they would stumble and even fall down because they couldn't see anything. But in the houses where God's people lived, there was light. God took care of his people! The darkness was the ninth plague God sent to Egypt. Then Pharaoh said he would let

God's people go! But as the darkness lifted, Pharaoh's heart changed. He decided to keep God's people in Egypt. Pharaoh was also very angry with Moses. He said, "Get out of here. Never come back to my palace again!"

Pharaoh did not believe the Lord was all-powerful. Pharaoh did not listen to Moses and Aaron and Pharaoh refused to let God's people go. He made them stay in Egypt.

But not for much longer.

### **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.

- God's people were in bondage in Egypt. (Yes)
- God sent Moses and Aaron to rescue His people. (Yes)
- Pharaoh had a stubborn heart and refused to let God's people go. (Yes)
- The first plague was the river of water changed into Apple Juice. (No! The river changed into blood.)
- The second plague was frogs everywhere. (Yes)
- The third plague was tiny little spiders came up out of the ground. (No! Dust in the land turned into gnats.)
- The fourth plague was flies were everywhere. (Yes)
- The fifth plague was large pancakes fell from the sky. (No! All Egyptian animals died.)
- The sixth plague was sores all over the bodies of Egyptians. (Yes)
- The seventh plague was everyone spoke like a baby when they tried to speak. (No! God made hail come down out of the sky.)
- The eight plague was locusts came in a whirlwind and ate everything in Egypt. (Yes)
- The ninth plague was everyone sneezed for three days straight. (No! God sent darkness over all of Egypt for 3 days.)
- Pharaoh refused to obey God and let His people go. (Yes)