

# LESSON 7

## THE TEN PLAGUES

### OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the power of our almighty God.
2. To learn that God's commandment is not negotiable.
3. To encourage the students never to compromise their faith.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

(John 4:24)

### PRAYER

1. We thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His word.
2. Lord, please help us obey Your commands every day.
3. Lord, You are the almighty God. Please help us during our troubles and difficulties.
4. Please also help us act according to Your will.
5. May God help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



### Overview

1. **Moses Confronts Pharaoh**
  - The Ten Plagues
  - Pharaoh's Compromises
2. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—One True God
3. **Life Application**—Faith is not negotiable
4. **Activity**
  - Word Search
  - Crossword Puzzle



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

Moses had returned from Midian and confronted Pharaoh with God's message. The Hebrews blamed Moses and rebelled against him. Moses was facing a great problem, but it was an opportunity for God to exercise His great power. It must have been hard for Moses to bring God's message to Pharaoh when His own people had trouble believing it. However, Moses obeyed God and believed that even when the chances for success appeared slim, God would help him. Only those with persistent faith can obey when the task seems impossible.

#### Pharaoh's Sorcerers, Magicians, and Wise Men

Some of your students may ask why the sorcerers were able to duplicate Moses' miracles. Some of their feats involved trickery or illusion, and some may have used satanic power. Ironically, whenever the sorcerers duplicated one of Moses' plagues, it only made matters worse. If the magicians had been as powerful as God, they would have reversed the plagues, not added to them. Tell your students that Satan has many deceiving tricks. He imitates some of God's work and leads people astray. Miracles can help us believe, but it is quite dangerous to solely rely on them.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students may care a lot about whether they fit in with their friends in school and in church. Sometimes, they care so much that they dare not speak up or oppose the opinion of the majority. Other times, they may ignore their own opinions and believe that the majority is right. Explain to your students that it is important for us to uphold God's teachings. Help your students identify what is right in the eyes of God. Try to narrow it down to specific behaviors that might occur in school or at home. For example, saying grace before meals, going to church on Saturday, not celebrating Halloween, Christmas, or Easter. You may want to contrast positive behavior with behavior that is displeasing to God. Ask your students to share their own experiences. Tell your students that when they are afraid or tired of conforming to society, they should rely on God and seek His help. Assure them that they should keep up their good work and that God is always watching their good and bad behavior.



## Opener

*5 Minutes*

Before we begin our story, try to remember the last time you argued with someone. Was it with a friend? Or with someone in your family? Maybe it was with a brother or sister, or perhaps with your mother or father. We often argue with people around us because we all have our own opinions about different things. When we argue, though, we sometimes refuse to admit defeat even if the other person is right, simply because we are stubborn and have pride. Today, we're going to learn about an argument so big that it involved two nations; Pharaoh was so stubborn and so proud that he absolutely refused to let the Israelites go. As a result, the Egyptians had to suffer through ten plagues.



## Vocabulary

**locust:** any type of the grasshopper family that often migrated in immense swarms and devoured vegetation and crops

**louse:** any type of small, biting, wingless insects

**boils:** painful, round, pus-filled inflammations of the skin

**compromise:** to settle an argument with an agreement between two parties that normally involves both sides making concessions

**negotiate:** to try and make two sides in a disagreement meet



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

*30-35 Minutes*

### FOR TEACHERS

In order to aid student memorization, you may want to prepare a poster board with two columns of ten boxes. At the top, title the poster board "The Ten Plagues," and number each row. Prepare twenty pieces of paper that will fit in each box. As you go over each plague in the lesson, the students may write or draw the plague on the pieces of paper and then stick them onto the board.

Before we begin our story, let's review what happened to Moses. Last week, we learned that Moses was chosen by God from the moment of his birth. He escaped death by Pharaoh's hand, was nursed by his mother, and raised by Pharaoh's own daughter. Later, he ran away and spent

forty years raising sheep. Now, Moses has returned to Egypt after being called by God to save His people. Let's turn to the Bible and read what happened next in Exodus 7:8-10.

Moses and his brother Aaron went immediately to Pharaoh and, even before the ten plagues, performed a miracle before Pharaoh to prove God's power. Aaron cast his rod before Pharaoh, and it became a serpent. Pharaoh, though, summoned his court magicians, and they all threw down their rods and turned them into serpents. However, Aaron's serpent ate up all of theirs. In the end, as God said he would, Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites, so the ten plagues began.

**FOR TEACHERS**

Hand out copies of the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students and help them fill the table out as you teach each plague.

Let's go through the plagues and Pharaoh's reaction to each of them.

**1. Water turned to blood (Ex 7:17-18, 21-25)**

All the fish died and the Egyptians could not drink from the river; they were forced to dig wells for water. Pharaoh's magicians were able to duplicate the miracle, though, and Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, not believing that it was God who performed the miracle.

**2. Frogs (Ex 8:3-14)**

God then sent frogs all over the land of the Egyptians. God made sure His people remained safe, but for the Egyptians, the frogs were literally everywhere. Verse 3 says that they were found even in their ovens and their kneading bowls! Pharaoh's court magicians were able to call up frogs, too, but there was one important thing that they could not do: they could not get rid of the frogs! Pharaoh requested that Moses send the frogs away, but the moment he did, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go, even though he said that he would.

**3. Lice (Ex 8:17-19)**

Next, God sent down lice to plague the Egyptians. A louse is a type of tiny insect that bites your skin and makes you itch. This was the first plague that the Pharaoh's magicians could not duplicate. They even told the Pharaoh that this was the hand of God, but he still refused to let the Israelites go.

**4. Flies (Ex 8:20-32)**

God then sent flies everywhere except Goshen. It's true that calling so many flies to one place is already a great miracle, but imagine this: none of the flies went into Goshen at all! God was clearly setting His people apart and showing the power that He had. This time, instead of promising to let the people go, Pharaoh requested that the people sacrifice to God in Egypt. It is important to note this, because Pharaoh is clearly trying to compromise. Remember this for later on.

**5. Death of livestock (Ex 9:1-7)**

God promised Pharaoh that all of the Egyptians' livestock would die, but none of the Israelites' would be touched. The very next day, true to His word, God did not let any of the Israelites' livestock die, while every single one that belonged to the Egyptians died. Imagine all those cattle, horses, and sheep just dying in one day! But still, Pharaoh refused to let God's people go.

**6. Boils (Ex 9:8-12)**

For the next plague, the Egyptians developed boils all over their bodies. A boil is a very terrible skin condition that is a lot like a blister, but also very painful. It was so bad that none of them could even present themselves before Moses and Aaron! But Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go.

**7. Hail (Ex 9:13-35)**

This is the first plague where the Egyptians were given a choice to heed God's words; Moses warned them to bring their belongings under shelter and to hide in their houses. Now, even some members of Pharaoh's court took Moses' words seriously and obeyed. God then sent hail so heavy that it even broke trees and ruined crops! The passage also mentions a lot of thunder and fire, possibly lightning, that struck the ground. Pharaoh begged for Moses to stop the hail and agreed to let God's people go. But as God said he would, the moment the hail stopped, Pharaoh once again refused to release the Israelites.

**8. Locusts (Ex 10:1-20)**

Now, before the locusts were sent, Moses warned Pharaoh, and Pharaoh's servants begged him to let the people go. They were tired of experiencing all of these disasters! In response, Pharaoh once again tried to compromise: he agreed only to let some of the Israelites go, but not all. But this was not enough for Moses, so God sent locusts to swarm the land. Locusts are really terrible pests. They eat everything they encounter. With the crops and livestock already broken from the hail and disease, the locusts ate what little food the Egyptians had left, even the grass on the fields. During this plague, Pharaoh confessed that he sinned against God, but still refused to let the people go when God swept the locusts away.

**9. Darkness (Ex 10:21-27)**

The next plague proved God's power over not just nature, but the very heavens. He made it dark in Egypt for three whole days. Imagine waking up the next morning only to find that the sun has not risen! The Egyptians were probably very scared, but not only because they had no light. The Egyptians had many gods, and their greatest god of all was the very sun. God was truly showing His power as the one and only God on earth, and proving that the Egyptians' own gods were powerless. In fact, Pharaoh actually agreed to let the people go...on the condition that their livestock stay. This might seem reasonable to us—God wanted His people to be free, after all. It was okay for Pharaoh to keep the animals, right? But this was still unacceptable in Moses' eyes. God would not permit any sort of compromise.

**10. Death of the firstborn (Ex 11:1-10; 12:29-32)**

The last plague was the last and most terrible plague. Every single family has a firstborn, and it was every single Egyptian firstborn that God struck down. The Bible says that there was not a single house where there was not one dead. Imagine streets and streets of houses with at least one—if not more—person who died overnight! It was a terrible plague and the one that finally made Pharaoh change his mind. Pharaoh did not even wait for daytime! During the night, he sent for Moses and allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. Finally, they were free from Pharaoh's hand!

From the plagues that happened in Egypt, you can see how powerful God is and the consequences of Pharaoh's refusal to obey God's commands. But there is another very important lesson that we should learn from these events.

Remember when, during the plague of the flies, Pharaoh asked that the Israelites worship God within Egypt? Then, during the plague of locusts, Pharaoh agreed only to let the men go, and during the plague of darkness, he tried to make them leave their livestock behind. These were all methods of **compromise**. To compromise means to try to bargain or to try and settle things by meeting the other person halfway. Now normally, when you are arguing with a parent or a friend, making a compromise is a good way to settle the argument. But there is one case in which compromises must never be made and that is with our faith.

Let's examine each compromise that Pharaoh made, and see what we can learn from them.

First, Pharaoh said that instead of leaving Egypt to worship God, they could worship Him while staying in Egypt.

The Israelites could not worship God while living in Egypt, and in the same way, we cannot worship God while

we are sinners. We have to worship God in spirit and in truth, and in order to do that, we must baptize into the church and follow His teachings every day.

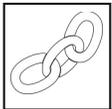
Second, Pharaoh agreed to let only the men go, even though Moses clearly demanded that he let all of the Israelites go.

Pharaoh wanted to keep the women and children in Egypt because he knew that the men would come back to Egypt for them. We must never leave our family behind in our journey of faith. This includes the brothers and sisters in our class. If we see someone fall behind in their faith, we should stop to help them and go forward with them.

Third, Pharaoh tried to make them leave their livestock behind.

In those days, all that the Israelites had was their livestock. They used their flocks and herds for food and trading, but most importantly, they used them for worshiping God with sacrifices and burnt offerings. What do we use to worship God today? (We worship with our hearts and we offer prayers.) Today, Satan works very hard to try and get us to leave our worship behind, too. For example, when we come to church, we might be thinking of other things, such as our games or maybe what we want to do when we get home. Instead, we ought to be thinking more about God. So, when we leave Egypt to worship Him, we need to make sure we bring our hearts to worship Him.

Pharaoh kept trying to compromise because he wanted something in return for letting them go, something that would still let him keep his power. Moses, however, refused to negotiate. He knew that there was no way God would allow any compromises. In the same way, we also have to remember that when it comes to our faith, we can't have a little bit of this or a little bit of that. It is either God or the world. **Faith is not negotiable.**



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

God's power is shown through these plagues. He is more powerful than the magicians and Satan. Yet, we saw that Pharaoh did not completely yield to this power. If our God is capable of these things and more, then we must fear God. However, we should not fear that He will punish us or make us suffer, but respect and appreciate His holiness and power. He is, after all, the creator of the universe and the creator of humans.

We, as the children of God, have this almighty God to rely on. When we are in need or in trouble, we can ask God. Nothing is impossible for Him; we only need to believe in Him.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **When Aaron threw his rod down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, what happened to the rod?** It became a serpent.
2. **What happened to the serpents that the magicians created when they imitated Aaron?** Aaron's serpent swallowed their serpents.
3. **What are the Ten Plagues in order?**

First Plague: Blood	Sixth Plague: Boils
Second Plague: Frogs	Seventh Plague: Hail
Third Plague: Lice	Eighth Plague: Locusts
Fourth Plague: Flies	Ninth Plague: Darkness
Fifth Plague: Death of livestock	Tenth Plague: Death of Egyptian Firstborn
4. **What did Pharaoh try to do three times? Describe his terms each time he tried to do this.** He tried to compromise. The first time, he tried to get them to worship God in Egypt. The second time, he tried to keep the women and children in Egypt. For the third and last time, he tried to keep their livestock.
5. **What can we learn from Moses' response each time?** We cannot worship while in sin; we cannot leave our family behind in our journey of faith; and we must bring our hearts with us to worship God. Faith is not negotiable.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

### 1. God's Commandment Is Not Negotiable

[Ask students to fill out Life Application Worksheet #1. The answers have been listed below.]

1. **Pharaoh tried to make them...**worship God while staying in Egypt.  
**What we can learn from this:** We cannot worship God while we stay in sin. We have to be baptized, and we have to learn to follow God's commands in the Bible. Those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth, which means "leaving Egypt," or separating ourselves from this world.
2. **Pharaoh tried to make them...**leave their women and children behind.  
**What we can learn from this:** We must do our best to bring our family with us in our journey of faith. It is important to work together on our journey. If we see someone stumble, we should stop and bring them forward with us, not move on and encourage them from ahead. We must worship God with our family and support our brothers and sisters.
3. **Pharaoh tried to make them...**leave their livestock behind.  
**What we can learn from this:** We worship God with our hearts, but if we leave our hearts in the world, then we can't worship Him properly. It is important that we do our best to keep Satan from ensnaring us with the pleasures of this world.

In conclusion, we must never compromise in our faith. Faith is not negotiable.

### 2. Never Compromise in Our Faith

[Ask students to read the scenarios on Life Application Worksheet #2 and answer the questions that follow. The suggested answers have been listed below.]

1. It's Friday night and you're back home from service at church. You've finished your homework, and you've completed all of your chores beforehand, so all that's waiting for you is that video game that you haven't finished yet! The only problem is, it's already quite late, and you know that you have to get up early to get to church on time the next day. But it should be okay to play for a while, right? It's the weekend, after all...

Isaiah 58:13 - "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words."

God emphasizes the importance of Sabbath over and over throughout the Bible. But Sabbath isn't simply physically attending church on Saturdays. To truly celebrate the Sabbath day, your heart must also be with Him. For just one day of the week, God wants us to focus on Him alone. When you sit in service, are your thoughts wandering to that game at home? Are you falling asleep because you stayed up late watching TV? We should reflect on what it truly means to keep the Sabbath day.

2. Your RE homework for the month is to read a few verses from the Bible every day before you go to bed. For the first few days you diligently read the assigned verses, but then you begin to play games until the last minute before bedtime without reading any. Occasionally, you think to skim a couple verses, but really, what's the big deal? It's not like you're getting tested or graded on the homework.

Joshua 1:8 - "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

We are tested and graded many times in school, and seeing the letters or points we receive on our report cards motivates us to work hard. But what about our RE work? Who tests us? Who grades us? The answer is: we are tested every day, and we receive our grades at the Second Coming! The kind of tests that we receive, though, are based on how well we can live a godly life. We need to study the Bible carefully, and remember not to compromise our faith for the sake enjoying worldly entertainment so that we can receive full marks when Jesus comes again.

3. One of your best friends has invited you to a birthday party. The only problem is, it's on a Saturday. You've never told your friend about going to church before, so he doesn't realize that you won't be able to attend. Your parents disapprove and prefer that you go to church, but if you insist, then maybe they will let you attend the party in the afternoon...

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Sabbath day is so important that God made it one of the Ten Commandments! It's very important that we dedicate the whole day to God, not just some of the day. Perhaps to avoid this situation, you can tell your friends how your Saturdays are spent so that they know to schedule their parties on Sundays instead! Taking away time dedicated to God means compromising our faith, which we should never do.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

**Plagues**

1. Water turned to blood
2. Frogs
3. Lice
4. Flies
5. Death of livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of Egyptian firstborn

**Short Answer**

1. Aaron cast down his rod and it turned into a serpent. The magicians copied him, but Aaron's serpent ate all of theirs.
2. During the plague of flies, the plague of locusts, and the plague of darkness.
3. First, that they worship in Egypt, then, that they leave their women and children behind, and lastly, that they leave their livestock behind.

**ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY**

**Word Search**

Q	F	Q	A	O	I	F	R	E	Q	T	N	F
T	M	J	I	O	S	G	O	R	F	H	Z	L
S	U	V	V	G	K	D	L	I	H	U	L	I
K	H	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	O	N	E
D	S	W	C	D	H	S	T	O	T	J	Y	S
Z	X	S	G	U	T	L	K	K	S	H	C	Q
W	T	D	L	B	G	H	I	H	E	P	X	G
X	B	G	O	L	F	B	P	A	O	N	K	
E	Z	R	C	I	S	O	K	Z	S	W	X	Y
C	N	B	U	L	X	J	O	O	E	O	S	Y
I	X	J	S	S	F	I	J	D	Q	X	Y	K
L	P	F	T	X	S	Y	C	D	V	I	B	B
P	W	L	S	F	I	R	S	T	B	O	R	N

**Crossword Puzzle**

**DOWN**

1. flies
2. darkness
4. lice
5. blood
6. locusts

**ACROSS**

3. hail
7. livestock
8. boils



# Activity

## Word Search and Crossword Puzzle

10-15 Minutes

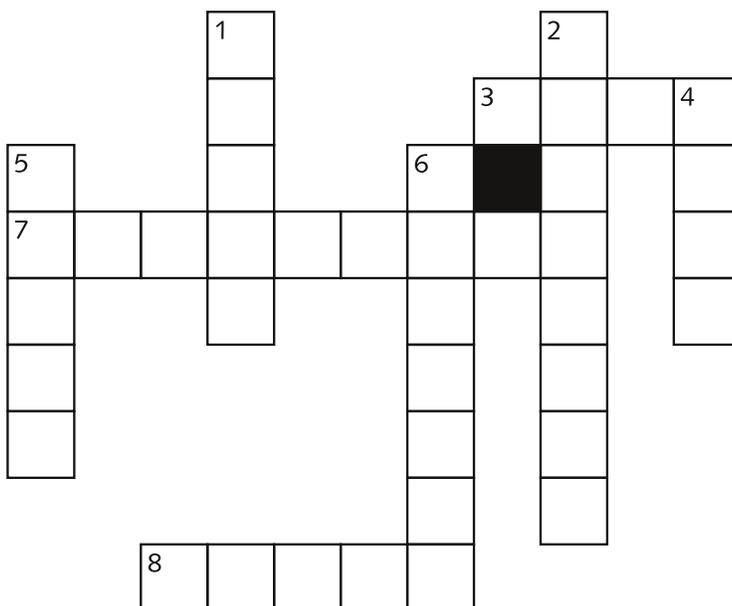
Complete the word search and crossword puzzle.

### Ten Plagues Word Search

- Blood
- Boils
- Darkness
- Disease
- Flies
- Frogs
- Lice
- Hail
- Locusts
- Firstborn

Q F Q A O I F R E Q T N F  
 T M J I O S G O R F H Z L  
 S U V V G K D L I H U L I  
 K H S S E N K R A D O N E  
 D S W C D H S I Q I J Y S  
 Z X S G U T L K K S H C Q  
 W T D L B G H I H E P X G  
 X B G O O L F B P A O N K  
 E Z R C I S O K Z S W X Y  
 C N B U L X J O O E O S Y  
 I X J S S F I J D Q X Y K  
 L P F T X S Y C D V I B B  
 P W L S F I R S T B O R N

### Ten Plagues Crossword Puzzle



#### DOWN

1. The fourth plague
2. The ninth plague
4. After Moses struck the ground, the dust turned into these
5. The waters of the Nile turned into this
6. This swarm of insects ate the crops

#### ACROSS

3. This rained from the sky
7. These kinds of animals were struck down
8. This painful skin disease broke out on the skins of the Egyptians

### The Power of God

Write down the ten plagues as you learn them, and then write a sentence explaining each. The first has been given as an example.

Plague	Brief Description
water turned to blood	Moses dipped his staff in the Nile River and all of the water turned to blood so that the Egyptians could no longer drink from it.

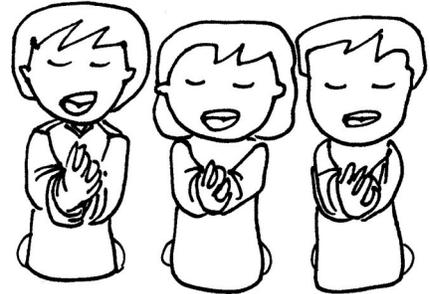


### God's Commandment Is Not Negotiable

Pharaoh tries to compromise with Moses three times during the ten plagues. Write down each compromise, and then briefly explain what we can learn from it.

**1. Pharaoh tried to make them...**

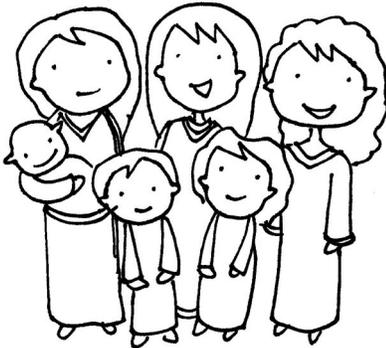
What we can learn from this:




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**2. Pharaoh tried to make them...**

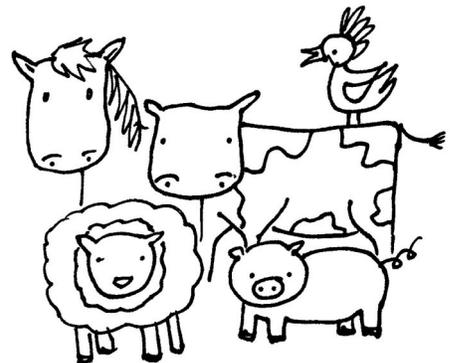
What we can learn from this:




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**3. Pharaoh tried to make them...**

What we can learn from this:



**In conclusion, we must never \_\_\_\_\_ in our faith.**

**Faith is not \_\_\_\_\_.**

### Never Compromise in Our Faith

Read each scenario and, for each one, answer the following questions.

1. How would you normally respond to the situation?
2. What would God want you to do?
3. Write down the listed verse.

It's Friday night and you're back home from service at church. You've finished your homework, and you've completed all of your chores beforehand, so all that's waiting for you is that video game that you haven't finished yet! The only problem is, it's already quite late, and you know that you have to wake up early to go to church on time the next day. But it should be okay to play for a while, right? It's the weekend, after all...

1.

2.

3. Isaiah 58:13



Your RE homework for the month is to read a few verses from the Bible every day before you go to bed. For the first few days, you diligently read the assigned verses, but then you begin to play games until the last minute before bedtime without reading any. Occasionally, you think to skim a couple verses, but really, what's the big deal? It's not like you're getting tested or graded on the homework.

1.

2.

3. Joshua 1:8



One of your best friends has invited you to a birthday party. The only problem is, it's on a Saturday. You've never told your friend about going to church before, so he doesn't realize that you won't be able to attend. Your parents disapprove and prefer that you go to church, but if you insist, then maybe they will let you attend the party in the afternoon...

1.

2.

3. Exodus 20:8



E2 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 7—The Ten Plagues

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

### What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

### Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (John 4:24)

\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in each plague.

	Verse	Plague
1	Exodus 7:14-25	
2	Exodus 8:1-15	
3	Exodus 8:16-19	
4	Exodus 8:20-32	
5	Exodus 9:1-7	
6	Exodus 9:8-12	
7	Exodus 9:13-35	
8	Exodus 10:1-20	
9	Exodus 10:21-29	
10	Exodus 12:29-31	

### Short Answer

1. What miracle was performed before the ten plagues?
  
2. During which plagues did Pharaoh try to compromise?
  
3. What kind of compromises did Pharaoh offer?