

# The Ten Plagues

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- 3-inch wide green construction paper strips
- chenille wires (3 per student)
- wiggly eyes
- glue
- hole puncher
- tape



### Scriptures

Ex 5:1-6:13; 7:1-12:50

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God performed miraculous signs; God is all-powerful.

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To know that God is powerful by learning the ten plagues; to obey Him by following His teachings.

### Memory Verse

"For God has power to help." (2 Chron 25:8b)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Plagues

God performed a miracle by turning Aaron's staff into a snake. Pharaoh's magicians duplicated it through sorcery. Satan can imitate some parts of God's work and lead people astray. If the magicians had been as powerful as God, they would have reversed the plagues, not added to them.

Egypt was a large country, but most of the population lived along the banks of the Nile River. This 3,000 mile river provided water for drinking, farming, bathing, and many other purposes. Imagine how God dramatically turned the water of the Nile into blood. The Egyptians must not have been able to do anything.

After several warnings, Pharaoh still refused to obey God. Even though God gave Pharaoh many opportunities to heed Moses' warning, Pharaoh hardened his heart every time there was a break in the plagues. His stubborn disobedience brought suffering upon himself and his entire country.

The first nine plagues (Ex 7:14-11:10) revealed the superior power of God over the gods of the Egyptians. At the last plague, every firstborn child of the Egyptians died, but the Israelite children were spared because the blood of the lamb had been placed on their doorposts.

### Passover

The Passover commemorated God's deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. For the Israelites to be spared from the plague of death, a male lamb with no defects had to be killed and its blood placed on the doorposts of each home. The lamb was a sacrifice. This foreshadowed the blood of Christ, the sinless and perfect Lamb of God, who gave His blood for the sins of all people.

Inside the Israelites' home, just before the plague, they ate a meal of roast lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs (Ex 12:1-11). Bitter herbs signified the bitterness of slavery. Unleavened bread could be made quickly because the dough did not have to rise. The Israelites ate, were dressed and ready to go after the meal.



## Understanding Your Students

The story of "The Ten Plagues" will likely be very interesting and larger-than-life for the students. They will enjoy hearing about the frogs, gnats and flies that covered the land. They might also be a little scared of hearing about the water that turned into blood or when the first-born sons were killed by God's angel. Since there are so many of them, it will be useful to have pictures or some visuals to assist the students as the story is told. Then they will not get too confused with all the events.

More importantly, no matter what plague is being discussed, it is critical to always link everything back to the power and grace of God. Only God has

the power to do all of those miracles. You can make this more real by asking the students if they could do any of those things that God did, like changing a rod into a snake or turning water into blood. No one can ever be compared to God. That is why He is the Almighty. It is also God's grace that saved His people. Even though some of the plagues may be hard to understand for young children (e.g. why God would kill the first-born sons), God did everything because He heard the cries of His people. In Exodus 2:23 it says that the Israelites "groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out, and their cry came up to God." God is indeed powerful but He is always merciful too. He is our loving Father. The students need to understand that God will always be there for them, as their parents are there for them, because God is love.



## Vocabulary

### **Pharaoh**

the king of Egypt

### **Miracle**

something amazing and unbelievable that only God could do

### **Plague**

a harmful thing in large numbers

### **Passover**

a holiday when the Israelites remember that when God saved them from Egypt



## Before You Teach

In the story of the plagues, God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. Each time Moses spoke with Pharaoh, he was instructed by God to always begin by identifying who had sent him.

"And you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you'" (Ex 7:16a).

"Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews'" (Ex 9:13b).

Why was it important for Moses to do this? The first time he met with Pharaoh and announced that the Lord God of Israel had sent him, the Egyptian king replied, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go" (Ex 5:2).

We can see how stubborn and hard Pharaoh's heart was from his words. But God wanted him to know that the name of God carries with it great power.

By stating who had sent him each time there was going to be a plague, Moses allowed Pharaoh to not only hear God's name but also see the One with real power. The plagues served as a means to make God known among all the people of Egypt. They could see from the frogs, gnats and hail, God's power over the forces of nature. With the death of their first-born sons, the Egyptians could not deny who had the power over life and death. After all the plagues had come and gone, there was no question in anyone's minds who the God of Israel was.

Today, God's name carries the same power. When we cry out to the Lord, we know His name is full of unlimited power and authority. And because we are able to call out to Him, we can also be confident that God will hear us and have mercy and compassion upon us.



## Bible Story

### Moses and Aaron See Pharaoh

God is very powerful. He created the whole world with all its colors, animals, and people. He makes food grow so that we can eat it and be strong and healthy. He gave us loving families. God takes care of us. He helps us do things we cannot do by ourselves. Today we will hear how God used His power to free the Israelites.

In the last lesson, we learned that God chose Moses to help the Israelites leave Egypt. God knew that the people were suffering so He chose Moses to go talk to Pharaoh. But Moses still felt a little afraid. It had been forty years since he ran away from Egypt. Then Moses remembered what God said to him from the burning bush and felt stronger. Moses knew that God is all-powerful and would be able to free the Israelites from slavery. God would help Moses. Together, Moses and his brother Aaron went to the palace to see Pharaoh.

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

When Pharaoh heard this, he replied, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go. Now get to work." Pharaoh did not believe in God's power. Instead of obeying God and letting the Israelites go, Pharaoh made them work even harder!

The Israelites felt very sad. Instead of being free, they had even more work than before. God told Moses not to worry.

God said to Moses, "I am the Lord. I will bring the Israelites out of Egypt with many mighty acts. Now go, tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country."

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh again. They told him, "The God of Israel says: 'Let my people go.'"

"Who is this God?" Pharaoh laughed. "Perform a miracle to show me."

Aaron threw down his staff in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it turned into a snake! Pharaoh told his magicians to do the same. Each Egyptian magician threw down his staff and it also turned into a snake. But Aaron's snake swallowed up their

snakes! Still, Pharaoh would not listen. His heart was hard.

### The Ten Plagues

Moses and Aaron did not give up. They met Pharaoh at the Nile river, the same one Moses was found in as a baby, and Moses told him again, "The Lord has sent me to say to you: 'Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert.'" This time Moses also warned Pharaoh that God would punish him by sending bad things on the land called plagues if he did not listen. When Pharaoh still said no, Moses stretched out his staff and hit the water with it. As soon as the staff touched the water, God turned all the water into blood! Can we drink blood, cook with it, or even use it to take a bath? Of course not! So, the Egyptians had no water to drink, all the fish in the river died, and blood was everywhere. But even after this first plague, Pharaoh would not listen.

Seven days later, God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh again. This time Moses told Pharaoh that God said, "Let my people go or your whole country will be filled with frogs." Again, Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go, so God sent many frogs. They jumped on their beds, on their tables, and in their kitchen. Frogs were everywhere!

Pharaoh could not stand it anymore and told Moses that he would let the Israelites go if Moses prayed to God for the frogs to stop coming. So Moses cried out to God and God listened. The frogs all died and were carried out of the houses. Only the frogs in the Nile stayed. But when Pharaoh saw that the frogs were gone, he hardened his heart and did not keep his promise! He would not let the Israelites go!

God sent many more plagues to show that God's power is greater than the Pharaoh's. Each plague was more terrible than the one before. God sent the plague of gnats, flies, animal disease, and sickness. There was a huge hailstorm, a plague of locusts that ate all the food, and three days of darkness with no sunlight. (Teacher's Note: Please feel free to elaborate on each plague as needed.)

With each plague, Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go, but he always changed his mind once the plague stopped. Finally, God said to Moses, "There will be one more plague, and then Pharaoh will be glad to let my people go. Get the

Israelites ready to leave Egypt.”

Moses told the Israelites, “This is what the Lord says: ‘At midnight an angel of the Lord will go through the land. The oldest son in every home will die unless you take a lamb, kill it, and paint the lamb’s blood on the doorframe of each home. Tonight, gather in your house, eat the lamb quickly, and have your coat on, your sandals on, and your staff in your hand so that you are ready to leave.’”

The Israelites did as God commanded them. That night at midnight, the angel went through the land and killed all the first-born sons of the Egyptians. But, whenever the angel saw the blood on the Israelites’ doorframes, he passed over those houses and did not touch anyone in them.

That night, Pharaoh’s own son was killed. Pharaoh was sad, angry, and frightened. In the middle of the night, Pharaoh cried out to Moses, “Get up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord. Take your flocks and herds as you have said, and go.”

All the Egyptians told the Israelites to leave quickly. They even gave the Israelites silver, gold, and clothing to take with them. The Egyptians were very afraid of God’s plagues. So, after 430 years of living in Egypt, all the Israelites took what they had

and left that same night. God had taken them out of Egypt after the tenth plague. They were finally free! They did not have to be slaves anymore.

Today, Jewish people still celebrate that day in order to remember how God performed miracles to bring them out of Egypt. It is called the Passover because the angel passed over their homes.

Children, we can learn a lot from this Bible story. First, we need to listen to God. Someone with a hard heart does not listen to God. He does not let God’s words into his heart. Pharaoh had a hard heart. He would not let the Israelites go. That is why God punished Pharaoh by sending bad things called plagues into the land of Egypt. Because Pharaoh’s heart was so hard, it took ten plagues for him to finally let the Israelites go!

Today, we need to have a soft heart to listen to God, to the pastors, teachers, parents, and older brothers and sisters. Also, when we say we will do something, we must do it. Promises are meant to be kept. After all, God gives us a promise that He keeps forever. He says, “I shall help you and protect you.” God has the power to do things we cannot do. He uses this power to take care of us. Let’s always take time to think about how God takes care of us and remember to thank Him.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What did Moses and Aaron say to Pharaoh when they saw him?** (They asked him to let the Israelites go so that they could worship God.)
2. **What was Pharaoh’s answer?** (He said no and made the people work harder.)
3. **What was the first plague that God sent to punish the Egyptians for not listening to Him?** (He turned the water of the Nile River into blood.)
4. **How many plagues did God send altogether?** (Ten.)
5. **What was the last plague?** (God sent an

angel to kill the first-born males in every house.)

6. **Why were the Israelite not harmed?** (God told them to put lamb’s blood on the door frame of each house. The angel would pass over the houses with blood on them.)
7. **What did the Israelites do after Pharaoh told them to leave Egypt?** (They packed up all their belongings and left that night. They were finally free!)
8. **How do you know God is powerful and great?** (Allow students to answer. Some possible answers: Only God could perform all these miracles, He saved all the Israelites from Egypt.)





## Life Application Story

### The Bee Sting

"Michelle! John! Are you two ready for the picnic yet?" Mr. Marsh asked loudly.

"Almost, Dad!" John answered.

"Just five more minutes, Dad!" Michelle said.

"It's okay," said Mrs. Marsh. "You don't need to rush them. I need a few more minutes too, to finish packing up all the food. I think we have enough here to feed the entire church!"

Mr. Marsh began to laugh. He had been looking forward to this day. No work. Just the family, having a great time together outdoors.

Just as Mr. Marsh was daydreaming about all the wonderful things the family could do, he heard Michelle say, "Okay, Dad. We are ready!"

After everyone got into the car, the Marsh family left for their picnic trip to Mt. Palomer. Although it was a little bit far away, the family had a fun time in the car singing hymns and playing games. After two hours, they arrived.

As the kids got out of the car, they could see how wonderful this place was. It had lush green grass and a big lake. They breathed in the fresh air.

"Wow, this is a beautiful place, Dad!" Michelle exclaimed.

"Yeah, it's nice! This is a great spot to play catch," said John, pointing to a clear opening.

"Kids, please help me unload the food and the drinks from the car," said Mrs. Marsh.

"Coming!" they answered. As John walked back towards the car, he noticed a big bee flying near his sister.

"Hey, Michelle. There is a bee flying next to your head."

Michelle, who was scared of bees, began to run around in circles.

"Where is it? Is it gone?" Michelle screamed, as she swatted her hands in the air.

"You are moving so fast, I can't see anything," said John.

Suddenly, Michelle yelled out, "Ouch!"

"What happened?" Mr. Marsh asked as he came running over. "What's all the yelling about?"

"I think I got stung by the bee, Dad," cried

Michelle, as she looked at her right arm.

"How do you feel?" asked Mr. Marsh.

"Not good. My arm hurts a lot. It looks swollen. Is anything bad going to happen to me?" Michelle asked.

"I don't think so," said Mr. Marsh.

By now, Mrs. Marsh had also come over from the car. "Let's get to the nearest hospital just in case. Before we leave, let's first pray for Michelle, and ask God to help her get better. He is powerful and can do anything, if we believe," Mrs. Marsh said.

Everyone piled back into the car. Because everyone was very worried about Michelle, no one complained about leaving. Before Mr. Marsh started the car, everyone prayed. After a while, they arrived at the emergency room at the hospital.

"Will this hurt me?" asked Michelle as they entered through the doors. She didn't like to see doctors. "Will they have to give me a shot?"

"I am not sure, honey," replied Mrs. Marsh. "But if they do, it will only pinch for a second. We will be right beside you the entire time."

The doctor checked on Michelle's wound and said that she was lucky because the bee that stung her wasn't harmful. She would just have to wait for the swelling to go down. The doctor did say it might be sore for a week or so, but Michelle and the whole family was glad she was alright.

"Thank God for watching over Michelle," John said. "He really can make everything better."

"Yes, thank God!" said Mr. and Mrs. Marsh. "God really can do anything, if we believe."

### Questions to Think About

1. **Where was the family going?** (They were going on a picnic.)
2. **How did everyone feel about this trip?** (They were excited.)
3. **What happened to Michelle as they were unloading the car at the picnic site?** (She got stung by a bee.)
4. **What did the family do right away after she was stung?** (They prayed to God and drove to the nearest hospital.)
5. **What did the doctor say to Michelle?** (The bee was harmless and she was going to be just fine in a week.)
6. **What did they family say after they found out**

*Michelle was going to be okay? (They all praised God and gave thanks to Him.)*



### Activity 1

#### **The Ten Plagues**

*Look at the pictures. Do you remember what the ten plagues were? Ask the students to tell you what they are. (Teacher: please write down the appropriate words on the board for them to see as they tell you.)*



### Activity 2

#### **The Passover**

*Look at each picture. Which people obeyed God? Which ones did not? Put an "X" over that picture.*



### Activity 3

#### **Locusts Alive!**

##### Materials:

1. 3-inch wide green construction paper strips
2. chenille wires (3 pieces per student)
3. wiggly eyes
4. glue
5. hole punch
6. tape

##### Directions:

1. Provide each student with a piece of construction paper. Help them roll it into a green tube and close the ends by stapling or taping.
2. Help the students punch three holes evenly along each side of the tube (make sure holes are opposite one another, to insert legs).
3. Thread one chenille wire through two holes opposite each other. Bend the wire so that there will be "legs" and "feet".
4. Repeat for the remaining two wires.
5. Glue the wiggly eyes on the top of the tube to create locust eyes.
6. Use the locusts to re-tell the story or to help the students remember the story.

Activity 6:1

## The Ten Plagues

Look at the pictures. Do you remember what the ten plagues were? Ask the students to tell you what they are. (Teacher: please write down the appropriate words on the board for them to see as they tell you.)



Activity 6:2

### The Passover

Look at each picture. Which people obeyed God?  
Which ones did not? Put an "X" over that picture.

