

# LESSON 2

## STUBBORN PHARAOH

### BEFORE YOU TEACH

#### The Plagues

The ancient Egyptians worshiped many gods: the gods of the Nile, the crops, the sun, the weather, and the animals. God demonstrated His power and the impotence of the Egyptians gods by bringing the ten plagues on Egypt. In fact, these plagues were miracles used by God to inspire awe in both Hebrews and Egyptians. They also demonstrated to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that the God of the Hebrews was the one and only God, and that He would defend His people.

#### Order of the Plagues

##### The First Plague: Water Turns to Blood (Ex 7:14-25)

All the water in Egypt—from the water in buckets and jars to the Nile River—turned into blood, causing all the fish to die and creating a terrible stench.

##### The Second Plague: Frogs (Ex 8:1-15)

Frogs left the streams, rivers, and ponds and infested the land of Egypt. They even entered into people's houses.

##### The Third Plague: Lice (Ex 8:16-19)

All the dust of the land became lice and tormented the people and animals of Egypt.

##### The Fourth Plague: Flies (Ex 8:20-32)

Thick swarms of flies covered Egypt and plagued the Egyptians' houses, but they did not enter the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived.

##### The Fifth Plague: Disease of the Livestock (Ex 9:1-7)

Pestilence killed the horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, sheep and belonging to the Egyptians. Those of the Israelites were unharmed.

##### The Sixth Plague: Boils (Ex 9:8-12)

Festering boils broke out on all the Egyptians and their animals.

##### The Seventh Plague: Hail (Ex 9:13-35)

Large and heavy hail rained down on Egypt, destroying and killing any man, animal, and crop out in the field. But hail did not fall on the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived.

##### The Eighth Plague: Locusts (Ex 10:1-20)

Swarms of locusts invaded Egypt, covering the ground and devouring the crops that survived the hail.

### BIBLE TEXT

Exodus 5:1-12:42

### BIBLE TRUTHS

1. If we insist on our own way and refuse to yield to God's will, there will be negative consequences. God does not tolerate rebellion.
2. God protects those who worship Him.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To be able to submit to God and obey His commands.
2. To ask God to remove a hard and disobedient heart.
3. To fear God as well as listen and store His words in our heart.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Be swift to hear, slow to speak."

(James 1:19b)

### PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Our heavenly Father, You love us very much; You have kept us safe and have brought us here to learn Your words. Please open our hearts so we can understand and be Your obedient children. May all the glory be Yours! Hallelujah! Amen.

**The Ninth Plague: Darkness** (Ex 10:21-29)

Darkness descended on Egypt for three days, but the Israelites in Goshen had light.

**The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn**

(Ex 11:1-10; 12:1-30)

God killed all the firstborn children and livestock in Egypt. God spared the Israelites because they celebrated the Passover. Pharaoh finally released the Israelites.

**Pharaoh**

Pharaoh was the title for the ruler of Egypt. The ancient Egyptians believed the pharaoh was a god. He owned all the lands and the people. He also commanded Egypt's army. Over time, the pharaohs eventually lost their power and served as figureheads while their officials governed Egypt.

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## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

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Explain to students that being stubborn means fixating on our own opinions and refusing to allow someone else to help us. For example, we may refuse to listen to our parents, teachers, and pastors.

All human beings are stubborn to different degrees. Stubbornness is a quality that does not please God. Pharaoh was stubborn because he refused to listen to the Lord and prevented the Israelites from leaving Egypt. Help your students understand that submission is the opposite

of stubbornness.

Submission means giving up our own desires and obeying another person. Ask the students to think of people they should submit to: parents, teachers, pastors, and mostly God. Peter said, "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'" (1 Pet 5:5).

### VOCABULARY

**stubborn:** unyielding; not submitting; demanding your own way

**plague:** a disaster that happens and causes harm

**boils:** red, pus-filled lumps that are tender, warm, and extremely painful

**firstborn:** the first one to be born, i.e., the oldest child in the family

**lice:** small, biting, wingless insects

**locusts:** similar to grasshoppers with long hind legs and sharp razor-like teeth; locusts often migrate in big swarms that devour vegetation and crops

**hail:** pellets or balls of ice that fall from the sky during thunderstorms

### REVIEW

Last week, we learned about a very special job that God gave Moses. Do you remember what it was? It was to rescue the Israelites out of Egypt and bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey. This land was called Canaan.

Why did God want Moses to bring them out of Egypt? The Israelites lived terrible lives there; all day they were forced to do hard work and the Egyptians treated them cruelly. The Lord heard their cries and felt sorry for them. He used Moses to bring them out of Egypt.

Do you remember how Moses felt about the job that God gave him? Moses felt that he could not do it. He made many excuses, but God still chose him for this mission. Because God chose him, He gave Moses the skills and abilities to do the job. Today, we will learn what happened to Moses and Aaron when they appeared before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

## BIBLE STORY

### **Moses and Aaron Go to the King of Egypt**

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and told him, "The Lord God says: 'Let My people go, so they can honor Me with a feast in the desert.'"

But Pharaoh replied, "Who is this Lord? Why should I obey Him and let you and your people go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let the people of Israel go!"

They answered, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has appeared to us. Let us go so that we can offer sacrifices to Him. If you don't let us go, He may strike us all down with terrible troubles or with war."

Pharaoh said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you keeping these people from working? They need to get back to work!"

Pharaoh's heart was very hard and stubborn. What does it mean to have a stubborn and hard heart? [Allow students to answer.] Someone who has a heart that is stubborn and hard refuses to listen to others' ideas or opinions and insists on their own ideas.

Pharaoh wanted the Israelites to remain in Egypt as slaves. He did not care about God's will and insisted on his own plans.

Think of something that is hard. [Allow students to answer.] Rocks and stones are hard and they are not easily broken. It takes a lot of force to break them.

I am going to give each of you a stone that represents the Pharaoh's stubborn heart. I am also going to pass out a marshmallow. What's a marshmallow like? It is soft and sweet. It represents a submissive heart. We are submissive if we listen to others and do not insist on our own way. Only then are our hearts as soft and sweet as a marshmallow.

I am going to continue with the story, and we are going to see if Pharaoh hardened or softened his heart. If Pharaoh hardened his heart, lift up your stone. If he softened his heart, lift up your marshmallow.

### **Bricks Without Straw**

The Israelites were the Egyptians' slaves. They had to work through the day and into the night to build the Egyptians' palaces and cities.

The Israelites used bricks to build these structures. Do you know how the Israelites made bricks? They would mix sand, clay, water, and straw to form them. Then they would leave them in the sun to dry and harden.

Originally, Pharaoh gave the Israelites straw to make the bricks. But he didn't like what Moses and Aaron were telling him to do. He didn't want the people to be free. So he gave the Israelites more work. Pharaoh gave orders that none of the Israelites would have any straw. This meant that they would have to work even harder to make the bricks now because they were missing a material they needed. If they didn't make enough bricks each day, they would be beaten. The Israelites did not like this and

complained to Moses and Aaron for bringing them so much trouble.

### **The Ten Plagues**

When Moses saw that things were getting worse for God's people, he prayed to God and said, "Lord, why have You brought so much trouble on Your people? Ever since You told me to speak to Pharaoh, he has caused nothing but trouble for them. And You have not done a thing to help them!"

The Lord said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let the Israelites go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

After this, the Lord brought ten terrible disasters, called plagues, upon the Egyptians to show them His great power. God used these plagues to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians because they did not worship the true God. The plagues also demonstrated that the God of the Hebrews was the one true God.

#### 1. The Plague of Blood

Then God said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to take his rod and stretch out his hand over all the waters of Egypt so that they may become blood." So Moses and Aaron did what God asked.

The Nile is the world's longest river. It is approximately 4,130 miles long. Imagine this entire river turning into blood. God turned all the waters in Egypt into blood, including the waters in buckets, jars, ponds, canals, and streams. The Egyptians had no water for drinking, cooking, or bathing. The fish and other animals in the Nile River died and started to stink very badly. Pharaoh's magicians could also turn water into blood, but this was not from God's power. But because Pharaoh saw that his own magicians could do the same thing, he did not care that Aaron had turned water to blood. Did this make Pharaoh's heart hard or soft? [The students should raise their stones.] That is correct: Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt, even after seeing this plague.

#### 2. The Plague of Frogs

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Tell Aaron to stretch out his hand with his rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause the frogs to come up on the land of Egypt." So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

Imagine frogs in your bed, in your food, in your oven, and in your clothes. The frogs croaked all the time and were everywhere. They were pests and no one in Egypt had any peace. The frogs annoyed the Pharaoh so much that he told Moses he would let the Israelites go if Moses

would get rid of the frogs. So Moses and Aaron prayed to the Lord and the Lord caused the frogs to die. Afterwards, what do you think happened to Pharaoh's heart? [Allow the students to show the answer.] That is correct: Pharaoh hardened his heart and did not allow the Israelites to leave Egypt because there were no more frogs to deal with.

### 3. The Plague of Lice

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to stretch out his staff and strike the dust on the ground. Then throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become lice." So they did this, and all the dust throughout the land of Egypt became lice. Lice are small, wingless insects that travel from host to host, biting them. When they bite you, your skin will itch.

The lice were everywhere, biting people and animals. This made everyone in Egypt miserable. When the magicians tried to summon lice by using their secret tricks, they could not. The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." Even the magicians realized that God was the reason why this happened. But do you think Pharaoh let the Israelites go? [Students can pick up their stones again to show their answers.] No, the Pharaoh's heart was still as hard as stone and he would not release the Israelites.

### 4. The Plague of Flies

Next, God caused flies to swarm all over the Egyptians, but amazingly there were no flies where the Israelites lived. Again, Pharaoh asked Moses to pray to God and have God remove the flies. Pharaoh promised Moses he would let the Israelites leave Egypt if he did so. After the flies left, what did Pharaoh do? [Students should raise a stone or marshmallow as their choice.] Again, Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the Israelites leave.

### 5. The Plague of Disease of the Livestock

Then God caused all the livestock that belonged to the Egyptians to die of disease. Not one of the horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, sheep, or other livestock survived.

What did this do to the lives of the Egyptians? With all these animals dead, the Egyptians did not have any horses to ride, any cows to milk or eat, any oxen to pull carts or plows, or any camels to carry things across the desert. But God protected the Israelites so that not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. What did Pharaoh do with his heart when he saw all the dead livestock? [Have the students raise a stone or marshmallow.] Again, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

### 6. The Plague of Boils

After this, the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens before Pharaoh. Then it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and animals throughout the land."

Does anyone know what boils are? Boils are skin infections that form red, tender bumps. They are painful and full of pus. Pharaoh's magicians were covered with so many boils that they did not dare to appear before Moses. Did Pharaoh harden or soften his heart after seeing this sixth plague? [Have the students raise up a stone or marshmallow.] Pharaoh continued to harden his heart.

### 7. The Plague of Hail

Next, God told Moses to stretch out his staff toward the sky. What do you think fell from the sky? God sent thunder and hail upon all of Egypt. It was the worst storm they had ever had. Hail is ice that falls from the sky. Hail stones can be small or large, but they are always hard. People and animals can be killed, and vegetables are destroyed if they are hit by large hail stones. And that was what happened to the Egyptians and their livestock that were out in the field during the hailstorm. Pharaoh asked Moses to pray to God and stop the hail. Moses did so. But what happened to Pharaoh's heart once the hail stopped falling? [Have the students raise the marshmallow or stone.] Pharaoh remained stubborn and refused to let the people go.

### 8. The Plague of Locusts

The Lord then told Moses to stretch out his staff over the land of Egypt. God caused swarms of locusts to invade the land of Egypt. What is a locust? A locust is like a grasshopper, with strong hind legs and very sharp teeth. They fly in great numbers called swarms and, if there are enough of them, they can cover the entire ground. With their sharp teeth, locusts can eat through the crops in the fields and the fruit on the trees. When Pharaoh saw the land ruined by the locusts, he quickly promised that he would let the people go if the locusts were removed, but did he? Pharaoh again refused to let the Israelites leave.

### 9. The Plague of Darkness

The Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was darkness for three days. But in the land where the Israelites lived, there was light.

The darkness that God sent to Egypt was so dark that no one could see. It was so dark the Egyptians were too scared to leave their houses. The Bible even said the darkness could be "felt." Have you been in a place that was so dark, you could not see anyone or anything? [Note: The teacher can turn off the light and ask the students to close their eyes to give them a sense of darkness.] How did you feel? Just now we switched off the lights for only a brief moment, but imagine how terrible it was for the Egyptians to be in deep darkness for three whole days. The amazing thing was that the Israelites had plenty of light and did not live in the darkness.

What did Pharaoh do once the darkness left Egypt? [Have the students raise the stone or marshmallow.] Pharaoh hardened his heart and was unwilling to let the people go.

#### 10. The Death of the Firstborn

What do you think it would take for Pharaoh to let the people go? God knew that if He took away what Pharaoh loved most, Pharaoh would soften his heart and allow the people to go. So God allowed the last plague to be the most terrible plague: the death of all firstborn children throughout Egypt. That night, God not only killed the oldest child in Pharaoh's family, but also the oldest child in every Egyptian family. From the firstborn of the king to the firstborn of every prisoner in jail, God spared no Egyptian. He also killed every firstborn animal that belonged to the Egyptians. The Bible recorded that there was "a great cry in Egypt" because the Egyptians cried and mourned over

the death of their children. After his firstborn died, did Pharaoh harden or soften his heart? [Students may raise the stone or marshmallow.] Pharaoh finally softened his heart and allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt.

#### **The Israelites Leave Egypt**

Only after the tenth and most terrible plague did Pharaoh order the Israelites to leave. That night, about 600,000 Israelites, not counting women and children, left Egypt. They also took a lot of sheep, goats, and oxen. It was a very important night because on that night, after 430 years as slaves in Egypt, all of the Lord's people left Egypt as free people. On that night, the Lord kept close watch over His people as they left Egypt.

Each year, the people of Israel remember this special day to honor the Lord for His amazing power over the Egyptians and to remember how much God loved His people by bringing them out of Egypt.

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Pharaoh forced the Israelites to make bricks without \_\_\_\_\_ (straw).
2. Pharaoh freed the Israelites right away when Moses and Aaron asked him to release them. False.
3. Why did God send the plagues? To convince Pharaoh and the Egyptians that He was God.
4. Why did God spare the Israelites? To prove that they were special to God, and that He would protect those who worship Him.
5. How many plagues did God send on the Egyptians? Ten.
6. Who suffered from the plagues? The Egyptians, their animals, and their crops.
7. Name as many plagues as you can.
  - a. Water to blood
  - b. Frogs
  - c. Lice
  - d. Flies
  - e. Disease of the livestock
  - f. Boils
  - g. Hail
  - h. Locusts
  - i. Darkness
  - j. Death of the firstborn
8. How did the Egyptians feel when the plagues struck? The Egyptians were thirsty, hungry, sick, and miserable.
9. How did the Israelites feel to be spared of the plagues? They were thankful and glad.

### MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.  
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Be swift to hear, slow to speak." (James 1:19b)**

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## SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

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1. Why did Pharaoh prevent the Israelites from leaving Egypt? [Allow students to answer.] Are there things we refuse to change or give up that prevent us from listening to God? Maybe it's spending too much time playing video games or watching television. These can take away the time we spend with God in prayer or Bible reading. What can we do to spend more time with God on our own and as a family?
2. When the Israelites cried out to God, He remembered them and sent Moses to perform the ten plagues and to eventually lead them out of Egypt. God loved and cared for His people so that they did not experience any of the plagues the Egyptians faced. What can we learn about how God treats those who fear and worship Him? In what ways has God shown His love to us?
3. Pharaoh's heart was hard and stubborn and he refused to listen to God and let His people go. How would you describe your heart? Is it hard like a stone or is it soft like a marshmallow? If you find that your heart is hard, how can you make it soft to listen to God's words and to obey God and others (e.g., parents and teachers)?
4. Read the selected verses below:
  - a. Ezekiel 36:26
  - b. Proverbs 28:14
  - c. Job 22:22; Psalm 40:8
  - d. Psalm 51:10

What does the Bible teach us about removing a hard, disobedient heart? We were made in the image of God to reflect His glory in the world. Jesus is the true image of God who reflects God's glory. Our goal is to become more like Jesus so that we reflect God's glory. The only way we can change is to examine our hearts every day. God is willing to change us. He can help us with our circumstances and struggles, but sin is caused by the thoughts and desires of our hearts. Therefore, we must repent and ask God to remove a hard and disobedient heart. We need to fear God, ask God to remove the sins in our heart, listen and store His words in our heart, and pray and ask God to transform our heart through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## ACTIVITIES

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1

### Ten Plagues Collage

**Objective:** To remind students of the ten plagues.

#### Materials

- Old nature or outdoor magazines, or pictures printed from the Internet
- Poster board
- Crayons
- Glue
- Scissors

#### Instructions

On each piece of poster board, draw and number 10 boxes (1 for each plague). List the 10 plagues on the board in the order they occurred.

1. Have students work individually or in pairs.
2. Give each student/pair a piece of poster board with the 10 squares already drawn.
3. Let students leaf through the magazines or pictures to find a picture that represents each of the 10 plagues. Cut out the pictures.
4. Have students glue their pictures into the corresponding boxes.
5. The students may decorate their collage with crayons.

2

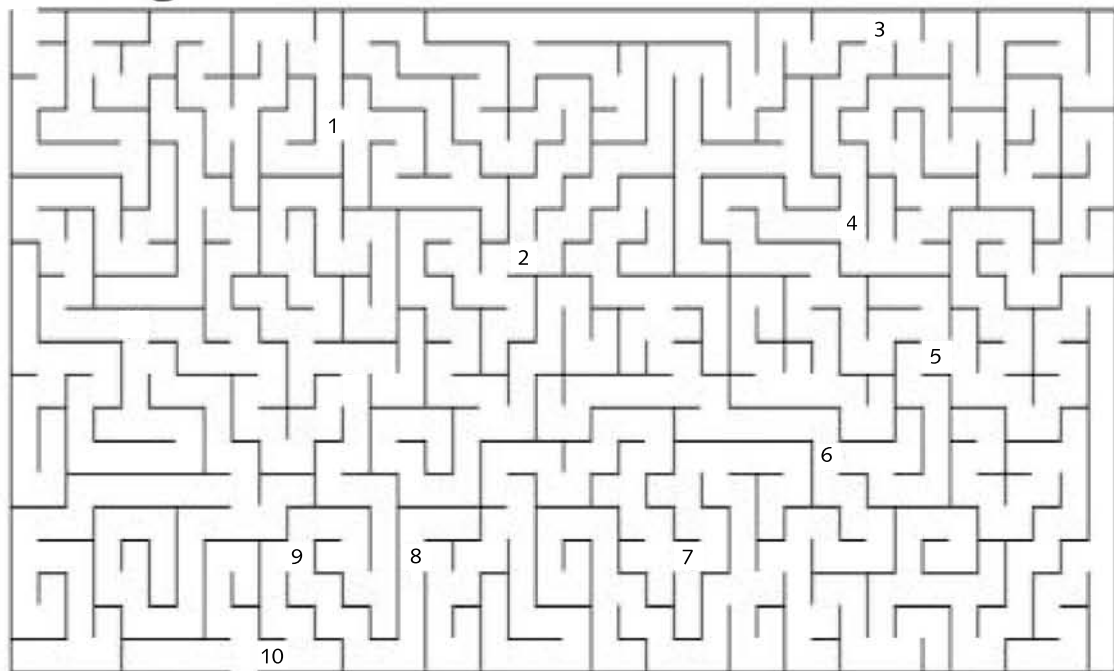
**Out of Egypt****Objective:** To remind students of the ten plagues.

# Out of Egypt



Help Moses and the Israelites leave Egypt by following the plagues.  
Circle the correct plague when you reach its number the maze.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| First plague:  | water to blood / water to wine            |
| Second plague: | snakes / frogs                            |
| Third plague:  | lice / spiders                            |
| Fourth plague: | dragonflies / flies                       |
| Fifth plague:  | death of firstborn / disease of livestock |



- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sixth plague:   | boils / leprosy                                |
| Seventh plague: | snow / hail                                    |
| Eighth plague:  | locusts / snails                               |
| Ninth plague:   | light / darkness                               |
| Tenth plague:   | death of firstborn /<br>death of all Egyptians |

## 3

**The First Plague: Water Turns to Blood / Optional activity****Objective:** To illustrate the effects of the first plague.**Ingredients**

- 1 box of red-colored Jell-O (i.e., cherry, strawberry, etc.)
- Gummy fish/worms
- 1 can of fruit cocktail, drained well
- Small glass bowl

**Instructions**

1. Make the Jell-O according to the instructions on the package.
2. Put the drained fruit cocktail in the bottom of the bowl and pour the Jell-O over the fruit cocktail. Place the bowl into the refrigerator to set. To set the Jell-O quickly, you may add ice, and/or put the bowl into the freezer.
3. When partially thickened, take the bowl out and add gummy fish.
4. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.
5. You may want to make this in advance, prior to the lesson, so that the Jell-O has time to set.

**HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY**

1. To show His mighty power and to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians for worshipping false gods.
2. We need to fear God, ask God to remove the sins in our heart, listen and store His words in our heart, and pray and ask God to transform our heart through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. True
7. False; the ten plagues only struck the Egyptians.
8. True
9. Plague 5 - Death of livestock  
Plague 8 - Locusts  
Plague 3 - Lice  
Plague 10 - Death of firstborn  
Plague 1 - Water turned to blood  
Plague 4 - Flies  
Plague 9 - Darkness  
Plague 7 - Hail  
Plague 6 - Boils  
Plague 2 - Frogs
10. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)



## E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 2—Stubborn Pharaoh

# Homework Assignment

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

**Bible Truths:** 1. If we insist on our own way and refuse to yield to God's will, there will be negative consequences.  
 God does not tolerate rebellion.  
 2. God protects those who worship Him.

**Lesson Objectives:** 1. To be able to submit to God and obey His commands.  
 2. To ask God to remove a hard and disobedient heart.  
 3. To fear God as well as listen and store His words in our heart.

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

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

|               | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bible Reading |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Prayer        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 1:19b)

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## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

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

# Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

**Short Answer**

1. Why did God punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians with the ten plagues?

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2. How can we avoid having a hard heart like Pharaoh?

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**Multiple Choice**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ : In Egypt, the Israelites were \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Slaves
  - b. Masters
  - c. Builders
4. \_\_\_\_\_ : How many years did the Israelites serve as slaves in Egypt?
- a. 130
  - b. 330
  - c. 430
5. \_\_\_\_\_ : Whose firstborn died when the tenth plague struck Egypt?
- a. Pharaoh's family only
  - b. Pharaoh's and the magicians' families
  - c. Pharaoh's family and all of the Egyptian families

**True or False**

6. After Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh, the Israelite slaves were ordered to find and gather their own straw, but they still had to make the same number of bricks as before. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The ten plagues struck both the Egyptians and the Israelites. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Egyptian magicians were unable to perform all the miracles that Moses performed. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Draw a line to match up the number with the correct plague.

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

**Bible Verse**

10. Copy Ezekiel 36:26. Ask God to change our heart of stone into a heart of flesh that is obedient to Him.

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**Life Application**

Jesus sacrificed Himself as the Passover lamb for us. What are five ways you can show that you are thankful for His loving sacrifice?

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

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_