

# The Ten Plagues

Exodus 7:14-11:10; 12:29,30

## **MEMORY VERSE**

DANIEL 6:27a

God delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A piece of paper with the memory verse printed in a sealed envelope addressed to your class, masking tape, and prepared 3"x 5" index cards. A table, plain cheerios, fruit loops, drinking straws, and a stopwatch or watch with a second hand.

Play-doh, red construction paper and small sandwich baggies.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Please Mr. Postman!**

You will need a piece of paper with the memory verse printed on it and sealed in an envelope addressed to your class, masking tape, and prepared 3x5" index cards.

Tape two long parallel lines on your floor about 10 inches apart and nine feet long. Then tape every three inches or so from one line to the next making approximately 25 spaces. Your floor should look like a ladder. Then tape a square off at each end. One end is "start" and the other one is "finish." Make several 3x5" cards ahead of time and have them well shuffled. Make the majority of the cards say "advance 3 spaces," and one each of the cards say: "windstorm, back 1 space," "hailstorm, back 1 space," "lightening strikes, back 1 space," "tree fell, back 1 space," "bridge out, back 2 spaces," "rainstorm, back 2 spaces," "snowstorm, back 2 spaces," "flood, back 3 spaces," "got sick, back 3 spaces." Be sure that the majority of cards will ensure that the letter will reach the finish line. Place the letter with the verse inside on the "start" square and let the children take turns drawing a card and do what it says with

the letter When the letter gets to the finish open the letter and read its' contents. Remind your class that God is always able to deliver us! **God can save His people from anything.**

## **LESSON TIME!**

God wanted to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land; but Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler, would not let the Israelites go. In today's lesson we will learn how God worked with Pharaoh and the Egyptian nation to do what He wanted them to do.

We are going to see Pharaoh harden his heart against God and His people. We will also see him fail to keep his promises. We will also see God judge the nation that has rejected Him to worship idols. As we study the ten plagues it is interesting to note that each plague was a judgment on an Egyptian god. For example, the Nile River turning to blood was a judgment on the god that the Egyptians worshipped who was supposed to be over the Nile. God showed Himself more powerful than all of the Egyptian gods.

We also learn that **God can save His people from anything.** There is no Pharaoh or king, false god or person who can stop God from accomplishing His plan. God's power is very comforting to us because He loves us so much and wants to use His power to help us in our time of need.

### **EXODUS 7:14-20**

**So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.**

**"Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.**

"And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!

'Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.

"And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river."

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and vessels of stone.'

And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

Pharaoh had a hard heart. He would not listen to God and chose to disobey Him. So God brought the first of 10 plagues on Egypt. God turned the Nile River into blood. By doing this God was proving that He was the only real God and that He was powerful. The Egyptians worshipped a river god, but God proved that He had power over the river. **God can save His people from anything.**

One of the interesting things we learn from Pharaoh is the danger of pride and having a hard heart. Because he thought he knew more than God and refused to be humble, he brought a lot of pain upon himself and others in his nation. If he had just humbled himself before God then he could have been spared so much. If we refuse to humble ourselves and have a soft heart, we will only bring pain to ourselves and to those we love.

If we will humble ourselves and obey the Lord then we will be blessed by God as His people were here. Even though God's people were in slavery, God heard their cry and was doing something about it. God will always help those who have a humble heart towards Him. **God can save His people from anything.**

### EXODUS 8:1-3

And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

"But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs.

"So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedchamber, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls."

After the plague of blood was over, Pharaoh's heart grew harder and God sent a plague of frogs to cover the land. By this God showed that He was real and the Egyptians' frog goddess was a false god. So Moses prayed for the Egyptians, that the frogs would leave and God took them away. "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said." (Exodus 8:15). **God can save His people from anything.**

## EXODUS 8:16-19

So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'

And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.

Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

Next God brought lice on the land of Egypt. Pharaoh had magicians who had copied the other two plagues after Moses announced them. They were able to make blood and bring frogs, but this time they could not copy the plague. Even the magicians realized that this was from God. And God proved that the god of the desert was a false god, but Pharaoh's heart grew harder.

Sometimes false prophets try to imitate God's truth. Because Pharaoh's magicians could copy the plagues, Pharaoh felt like he was just as powerful. However, now God has done something that can't be copied. God was showing that He was more powerful than their idols as well as more powerful than their magicians and false religions. Even after blood in their water supply, frogs everywhere, and lice everywhere, Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go.

## EXODUS 8:20-22

And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

"Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.

"And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land."

This time God not only brought a plague of flies, but He showed Pharaoh that He could keep the flies away from the land where the Israelites dwelled; this proved the Egyptian fly god as false. Isn't it interesting that God was even showing His strength more by blessing the Israelites and protecting them from the plagues while He was judging the Egyptians?

So Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go into the wilderness to sacrifice, but when the plague was over he changed his mind and would not let them go. He didn't keep his promise; but, God is still in control, and **God can save His people from anything.**

## EXODUS 9:1-7

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

"For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them,

"behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep. There will be a very severe pestilence.

"And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel." ' "

Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, no one died.

Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

Next God sent a plague of disease upon all of the Egyptians' livestock. Once again God proved that the Egyptian livestock gods were false.

All of the Israelites' livestock was spared, but Pharaoh's heart became hard again and he would not let Israel go. **God can save His people from anything.**

## Cheerio Rodeo

You will need a table, plain cheerios, fruit loops, drinking straws, and a stopwatch or watch with a second hand.



Divide your class into teams of three or four and give each child a straw. Place one cup of cheerios and one cup of fruit loops on a tabletop and mix them up. Have one team play at a time. When you say, "GO!" the chosen team will try to separate the cheerios from the fruit loops. Time each team and write it on the chalkboard. The team with the shortest time wins. You will need to wipe the table and start with new cereal each time.

Remind your class that throughout all the plagues, God made a distinction between His people and the Egyptians; He never made any mistakes. In the same way we are a separate people in the world today. The Bible says that we are to be in the world, but not of it. God's hand of protection is upon His people and we need to live our lives in obedience to what He says, not according to the ideas of the world.

#### EXODUS 9:8

So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

Then God sent boils and sores on all of the Egyptians. Here God proved Himself mighty over the Egyptian goddess of disease. This time God hardened Pharaoh's heart because He saw that Pharaoh was intent on disobedience. **God can save His people from anything.**

#### EXODUS 9:13-18

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me,

"for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth.

"Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth.

"But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

"As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

"Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now."

Next, God sent a plague of hail to destroy the Egyptian crops. He proved Himself true over their gods of crops and storms. This time Pharaoh pleaded for relief. As these plagues happened there were a lot of people in Egypt who were suffering. It is too bad that many people suffered because of Pharaoh's pride. We need to remember that our disobedience not only affects ourselves, it affects others. It does affect others we care for. **God can save His people from anything.**

**EXODUS 9:27-34**

And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.

"Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

And Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the Lord's."

"But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God."

Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops.

So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth.

And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

Pharaoh was willing to acknowledge God when he needed help, but not when all was well. There are many people like that who will turn to God only when bad things happen in their lives. They even make promises to serve Him; but when the bad times are over, they break their promises. People like that have not really repented or turned from their sin. We need to be careful not to have that kind of attitude in our lives. Pharaoh sinned again by hardening his heart to the voice of the Lord, but **God can save His people from anything.**

## EXODUS 10:1-6

Now the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,

"and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

'Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.

'And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field.

'They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians--which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.'" And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

It is interesting in these verses that God tells Moses that one of the reasons that He is hardening Pharaoh's heart and allowing these things to happen is so that he and the nation of Israel could understand His mighty power. He tells them that they are to pass

these stories down from one generation to another so that the Israelites would never forget what God has done for them.

It is also important for us to remember all that God has done in our lives. We are to pass those things on to our own children and to others that we care about. Imagine the stories that Moses had for his grandchildren!

The eighth plague God brought upon Egypt was a plague of locusts. Locusts were insects like grasshoppers and they came and covered the land. The Egyptians also had a god of crops and God proved him powerless by destroying their crops.

Again Pharaoh pleaded for relief and admitted his sin, but when God removed the locusts Pharaoh would not release the Israelites. **God can save His people from anything.**

**EXODUS 10:20-29**

**But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.**

**Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt."**

**So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.**

**They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.**

**Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you."**

But Moses said, "You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

"Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!"

And Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

The ninth plague God brought was a darkness that covered Egypt for three days. There was no light except in the Israelites' homes. Here God challenged the Egyptian sun god, but Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not let them go. **God can save His people from anything.**

#### EXODUS 11:1-10

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.

"Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold."

And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt;

'and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the beasts.

'Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.

'But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

"And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

But the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

The final plague God brought was one that killed the firstborn child of every Egyptian and their livestock's first born also. Pharaoh was not willing to let the Israelites go until this plague came upon them. God proved Himself mighty over all of the Egyptian gods, including their gods of reproduction. **God can save His people from anything.**

In all of the plagues God proved that He was the true God. He could foretell the future and make His promises come to pass. God has power over all things, alive or not, because He created them. **God can save His people from anything.**

God proved that He cares for His people, those who believe in Him and serve Him. Not one of the plagues harmed the Israelites. **God can save His people from anything.**

Today God promises to protect us if we believe in Him and He promises that we will not face the judgments that He has prepared for non-Christians. Being a Christian means that God has saved us from sin and even death because Jesus paid the price for us on the cross. **God can save His people from anything.**

In Pharaoh we see a stubborn man unwilling to submit to God. Even though God proved Himself to Pharaoh again and again, Pharaoh chose not to listen to God. Pharaoh hardened his heart so many times that he was callous and unable to believe in God. We need to be careful to listen to God and obey Him every time or we could end up like Pharaoh, unable to believe and facing God's judgment.

## **Pass Over My Play-doh**

You will need play-doh and red paper.

Give each child a piece of play-doh or home-made clay and a quarter of a sheet of red paper. Let them work on their own



creations. Appoint one child (or teacher) to be the "angel of the Lord" who can go around taking away play-doh creations unless the child holds the red paper over the play-doh. The "angel" may wander around while the kids work and probably shouldn't be the most aggressive kid in class. But explain to the children that as long as they hold up the red paper than the angel will "pass over" them.

Use this as an illustration of how the Angel of the Lord passed over the Israelites who had the blood applied over their doorposts. Also explain how that this is a picture of the blood of Jesus that protects us from God's judgment and allows us to have a relationship with God. Supply small baggies at the end of class for the children to take their play-doh creations home.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's amazing power to save us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.