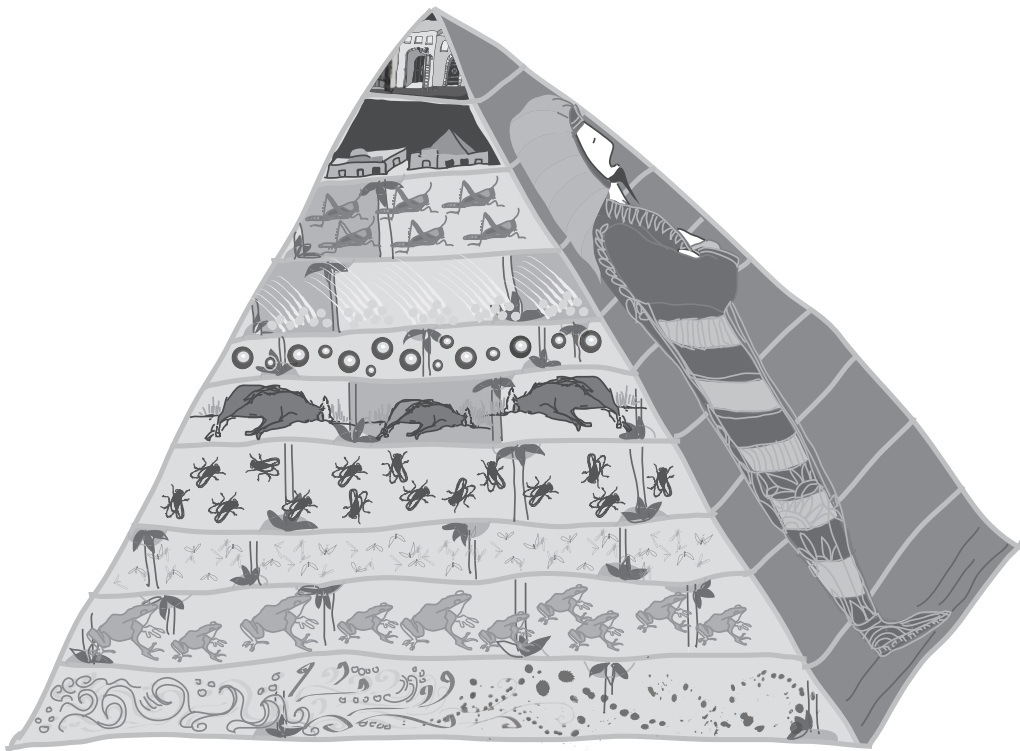


LESSON 30

# God Sends Plagues Against Egypt

EXODUS 7:14–10:29



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

THE WORD OF THE LORD IS SURE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read Exodus 7:14–24 from the Scriptures or read story 30, “God Sends Plagues against Egypt,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Hard and Soft Heart  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ a variety of hard and soft objects; e.g., rock, piece of iron, hard plastic object like a resin casting or plastic wheel, soft modeling clay, thin bendable wire, soft plastic bag
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Do Not Harden Your Heart
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ coloring page 30—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
What Makes a Plague a Plague?  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ bag of confetti (bag should be opaque to hide the volume of confetti from the children)  
✓ broom or vacuum for the end of class

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

**God cannot be stopped**—Moses has already gone to Pharaoh twice, telling him to let God’s people go. Both times Pharaoh has refused and hardened his heart. Clearly, Pharaoh will not let God’s people go simply because Moses tells him to.

God brings ten plagues on Egypt because Pharaoh refuses to obey. Pharaoh has many opportunities to agree to let God’s people go. He refuses every time. Just like everyone who opposes God, Pharaoh will eventually learn that God’s will cannot be resisted.

**Pharaoh’s hard heart**—In this passage the Bible says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 9:34), that Pharaoh’s heart “was hardened” (9:7, 35), and that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart (9:12). At one point Pharaoh even admitted that he knew God was on the side of the Israelites (9:27). But Moses knew that Pharaoh did not yet truly fear God (9:30) and thought he could still oppose God (9:34).

We must remember that, just like us, even *before* he hardened his own heart, Pharaoh was naturally a sinner and an enemy of God. Pharaoh was clearly responsible for his own willful disobedience to God. None of us deserves anything better from God than the awful judgments Pharaoh received. Without grace from God to soften our hearts, all of us would have hard hearts. None of us would obey God’s commands.

**God means what he says: whether blessing or judgment**—When God said through Moses that he would bring hail or locusts, he did. God brought all the plagues just as he promised. The warnings to Pharaoh were not empty words. In the same way, when God says he is going to save or deliver, he does. God keeps every promise, and his every word comes true.

This tells us we should take the warnings and promises in God’s Word, the Bible, very seriously. Galatians 6:7–8 is both a promise and a warning that we should pay close attention to: “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Hebrews 3:4–6.

Notice how these verses compare Moses to Jesus. Once again we see that the life of Moses points to the life of Jesus. Moses led his people and taught them. As we will see later, he also delivered them from bondage. In this way, Moses' life illustrates and proclaims the coming Savior. Just as Moses was a faithful deliverer, so Christ is a faithful deliverer and redeemer.

## THE LESSON

### OPENING REVIEW

**5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### BIBLE STORY

**10 MIN**

Read Exodus 7:14–24 from the Scriptures or read story 30, "God Sends Plagues Against Egypt," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

### OBJECT LESSON 1

**10 MIN**

#### Hard and Soft Heart

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a variety of hard and soft objects; e.g., rock, piece of iron, hard plastic object like a resin casting or plastic wheel, soft modeling clay, thin bendable wire, soft plastic bag

The object is to provide both a tactile experience and also demonstrate that similar items can be either soft or hardened.

Circulate the materials for the children to feel and examine. Then ask the class the following questions:

- What does the Bible mean when it uses the description “hardened heart”?  
*(A hardened heart means a stubborn, unrepentant heart that refuses to obey God’s commands.)*
  
- How do these items demonstrate hardness of heart?  
*(Just like our hearts, they show us that something that is soft can become hard. Clay, if left to dry, turns into rock; metal in the form of wire can be molded and formed into a block that is solid and unmovable; and finally, thin plastic is movable but hard plastic can be as rigid as steel. When we have soft hearts they can bend and move to obey the commands of the Lord, but hard hearts only do what they want.)*
  
- What are some ways that children your age can demonstrate a hard or soft heart?  
*(Listen to their responses and help them to see that this passage speaks to their lives.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**

**Do Not Harden Your Heart**

Read Hebrews 3:15 and 4:7 to the children and explain the message that they teach us in light of learning about Pharaoh’s hardened heart.

Help the class to see that when we look back at the story of the plagues we should not associate ourselves with Moses, but rather with Pharaoh and the Israelites. Like Pharaoh, we all are enemies of God and would harden our hearts if it were not for the grace of God. And like Israel, we all need to be saved from slavery to sin.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 30—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What did Pharaoh do each time a plague came upon Egypt?  
*(He summoned Moses and asked him to take the plagues away.)*
- Did Pharaoh promise to let the people go?  
*(Yes, but each time he broke his promise once the plague was gone.)*
- Have the children draw more frogs on their coloring sheets.

**CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

What Makes a Plague a Plague?

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ bag of confetti (bag should be opaque to hide the volume of confetti from the children)
- ✓ broom or vacuum for the end of class

Ask the children if they can tell you what a plague is? Explain that Egypt always had flies, gnats, frogs, and cattle that died but what made these things a plague is the degree to which they happened all at once.

To illustrate this, show the children three pieces of confetti. Say, “Let’s see who can pick these pieces up?” Then throw them up in the air. They will clamor for the pieces. Next, ask them if that was fun and whether they would like to do it again. When they say “yes,” reach into the bag and start throwing confetti all over the children. At first it will be fun, but soon, when they have to pick up every piece, it will get tiring. Use this illustration to show how one frog is not a big deal, but if every piece of confetti were a frog, that would be something completely different!

LESSON 30 - GOD SENDS PLAGUES AGAINST EGYPT

