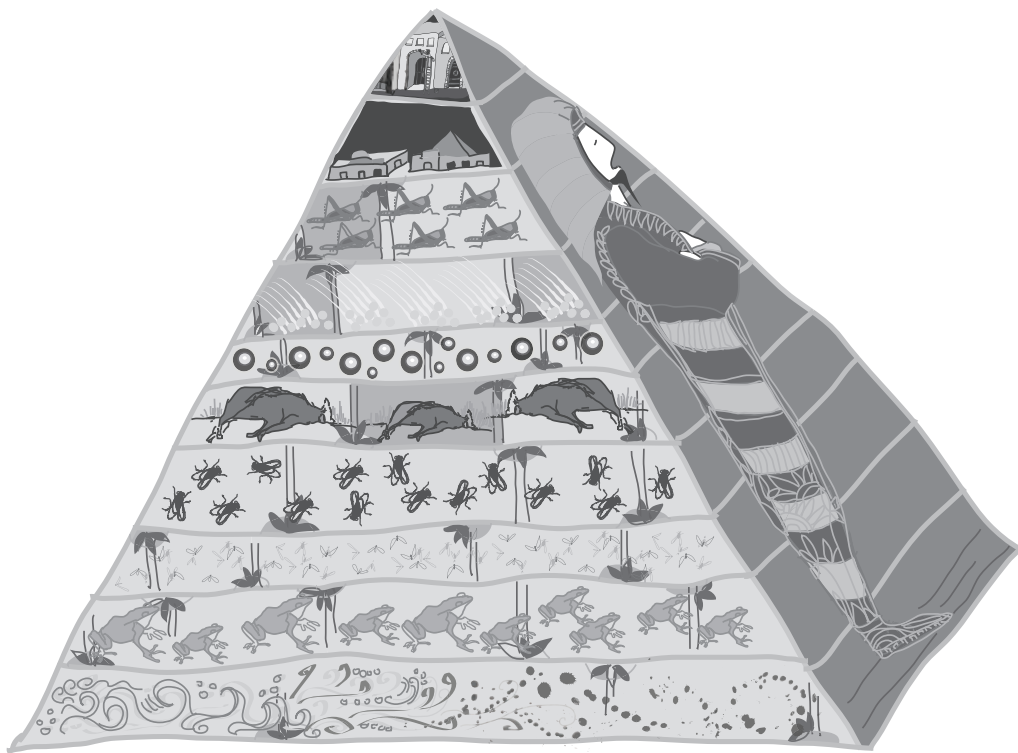


LESSON 30

God Sends Plagues Against Egypt

EXODUS 7:14–10:29



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**
 Whose Fault Is It Anyway?
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ several containers of modeling dough
 ✓ a box of resealable bags
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN**
 Ten Questions
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ list of trivia questions (below)
 ✓ two tables
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
 Draw a Plague
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN**
 Plague Contest?
SUPPLIES:
 ✓ roll of freezer or butcher paper (available at a grocery store)
 ✓ markers and crayons

TOTAL 95 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."

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Judgment

Judgment is the activity of God as judge. God is a judge and he brings pronouncements of guilt or innocence. God judged the Egyptians with ten plagues, which are called God’s great acts of judgment (Exodus 7:4).

The Bible tells us that there will be a final judgment when God will judge all men according to what they have done, good or bad (Romans 2:5–6).

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus was judged for those who would trust in him; he took the penalty for their crimes. Now we who trust in Jesus will not be eternally judged for we have been justified (Romans 5:16–19).

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****Whose Fault Is It Anyway?****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ several containers of modeling dough
- ✓ a box of resealable bags

Pass out a small portion of modeling dough and a plastic bag to each of the children. Ask them to divide their portion of dough into six individual pieces. Explain that the modeling dough will harden unless it is protected from exposure to air. Give them the option to place one or all of their pieces inside the plastic bag. When they have finished, ask them the following questions:

- Which of the pieces, if not placed in the plastic bag, will harden?
(All of the pieces left outside of the bag will harden.)
- What happens to the pieces you chose to protect in the bag?
(The pieces protected in the bag will remain soft and moldable.)
- Do you have to do anything to help the pieces left outside the bag to harden?
(We do not need to do anything additional to the pieces to make them harden. They will harden naturally without further aid.)
- Could you say that you hardened the pieces outside the bag just as easily as you could say the pieces themselves hardened?
(Yes, either way of describing the hardening is accurate.)

Explain to the children that the modeling dough is like Pharaoh's heart. Apart from God's mercy, Pharaoh's heart was automatically hard by nature and would further harden. Only God's mercy, like the protection of the plastic bag, could keep Pharaoh's heart from hardening.

Read Romans 9:17. Ask the children how God demonstrated his power through Pharaoh and how God's name was proclaimed throughout the earth because of Pharaoh. (God's power was demonstrated by the plagues that came to Egypt and by the deliverance of Israel. Later in Exodus 15:14 we learn that the surrounding countries trembled at what they heard God did to the Egyptians.)

Have the children look up the following verses, compare them, and answer the questions below. Exodus 7:13; 7:22–23; 8:15; 8:32; 9:12; 10:1; 11:10.

- What two very different thoughts do we learn from these passages?
(We learn that Pharaoh hardened his heart and God hardened Pharaoh's heart.)

- Who is held responsible for Pharaoh's sin?
(Pharaoh is held responsible for his sin. Pharaoh, of his own free choice, rebelled and hardened his heart against God. God did not extend grace for Pharaoh to repent because nowhere does Scripture tell us that Pharaoh placed his faith in God.)

Romans 9:18 tells us that God “has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.” Since the mercy of God is needed for any sinner to repent, without mercy anyone’s heart would harden. The Bible clearly demonstrates the sovereign power of God and does not allow us to question God’s wisdom, love, or authority (Romans 9:20).

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Ten Questions

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ list of trivia questions (below)
- ✓ two tables

Recruit two teams of three students and have them sit in front of the class at two tables. Tell the teams that you are going to read a question, and if they know the answer, they should raise their hand. If they are the first to raise their hand, they have to give their answer.

A correct answer earns the team one point. A wrong answer makes the team lose a point. After ten questions, declare the team with the most points the winner. Have one adult act as a judge to determine whose hand goes up first. Once a contestant is acknowledged, they have 20 seconds to give the answer. They may discuss their answer among the rest of the team. Use the tiebreaker question if necessary.

▲ UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON 30

No.	Question	Answer	Reference
1	What did Aaron's staff do to the staffs of the wise men?	Aaron's staff transformed into a snake that swallowed up the wise men's staffs, which had also changed into snakes.	Exodus 7:12
2	What did God do to Pharaoh's heart?	God hardened Pharaoh's heart.	Exodus 9:12
3	What was the first plague?	The first plague turned the water of the Nile River into blood.	Exodus 7:17
4	Which of the following was not a plague that God brought to Egypt: plague of flies, plague of gnats, or plague of wasps?	Plague of wasps.	
5	Which plague could the magicians not reproduce by their trickery?	The magicians could not produce gnats by their secret arts.	Exodus 8:18
6	What happened to the livestock of the Israelites during the plague of the livestock?	God made a distinction between the livestock of Egypt and the livestock of Israel; the livestock of Israel did not die during this plague.	Exodus 9:4
7	What was God's purpose in raising up Pharaoh and hardening his heart?	God raised Pharaoh up to his position as ruler of Egypt so that God's name would be proclaimed in all the earth.	Exodus 9:16
8	What plague involved disease?	The plague of boils.	Exodus 9:9
9	Who was appointed to help Moses communicate?	Aaron	
10	Which plague came after the hail and finished off the Egyptian's crops?	The plague of locusts.	Exodus 10:4-5
Tie-breaker	After the plague of darkness, who did Pharaoh say could leave and who had to remain?	All of the people could go, but the livestock needed to be left behind.	Exodus 10:24

Then ask the class the following questions:

■ What was the Lord accomplishing through the plagues?

(God was judging the Egyptians for their harsh treatment of his people. God was demonstrating his wonders before his people. God was delivering his people from the bondage of slavery. And, God was pointing forward to the salvation that would later come in Christ.)

■ What plague points most to Christ and how?

(The last plague, the angel of death at the Passover, most points to Christ. The shed blood of the lamb placed on the doorposts is a foreshadowing of God's sacrifice on the cross.)

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 15 MIN

Draw a Plague

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ crayons, colored pencils, paper

Have the children draw one of the plagues on Egypt.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Plague Contest?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ roll of freezer or butcher paper (available at a grocery store)
- ✓ markers and crayons

Roll out the paper, paper side up, on the classroom floor or in the hallways. (Make sure the floor is swept clean.) Divide the class into ten teams, with each team assigned one of the plagues to draw. Tell the teams you are going to judge which team draws the best representation of the plague they were assigned. Give them ten to fifteen minutes to complete their section. When they are finished, affix the mural to the wall with tacks or tape for parents to see after class

is over. Use this to talk about what it would have been like for the Egyptians to endure the plagues.