

GOD SENDS PLAGUES AGAINST EGYPT

The Word of the Lord is sure.

THE STORY: EXODUS 7:14-24

MONDAY

**God means
what He says**

God means what He says – In Exodus 6:1 God told Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh.” God did not simply levy plagues against Pharaoh. Pharaoh is given every opportunity to allow all God’s people to go. In Exodus 7:13 we learn that even after the transformation of Aaron’s staff into a snake, Pharaoh “would not listen to them.” Clearly the confrontation on the Nile River was Moses rebuking Pharaoh for his disobedience (7:16). Before each plague Pharaoh is given an opportunity to obey, yet he refused to obey Moses as the voice of the Lord, a prophet of God. Pharaoh will learn that God means what He says.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should reading this story put the fear of God in our lives? (*This story teaches us that we need to obey God and not think we can live lives of disobedience without punishment. Though God will warn us, his judgments become more frightening the longer we harden our hearts*)

What commands does God require we obey? (*As one example, the command to obey father and mother comes with a positive consequence; the person who does so will live a long prosperous life. See Ephesians 6:2-3. Draw out your children to help them understand that just as Pharaoh was commanded to obey, so are we all.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for His commands. Ask that He help you obey by softening your heart to believe in Jesus and the Gospel.





Pharaoh hardens his heart

Pharaoh hardens his heart – In Exodus 8:15 and 8:32 we read that Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go. It is interesting though in Exodus 9:12, 10:1, 10:20,10:27, and 11:10 we read that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Clearly Pharaoh was responsible for his own willing disobedience to God; and none of us deserve anything more from God than what Pharaoh received. Without grace none of us would obey God's commands.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who receives the blame for Pharaoh's disobedience, Pharaoh or God? (*Pharaoh willingly disobeyed God and therefore Pharaoh is fully responsible for his own actions. God also hardened Pharaoh's heart. As sinners, each of us deserves to be hardened in our hearts as well.*)

Do we deserve God's grace? (*No, like Pharaoh, we deserve judgment for our rebellion against God. It is only because of Jesus and what He did on the cross that grace can be made available to us. Rather than wondering why God did not give Pharaoh grace to repent we should wonder why God extends grace to us.*)

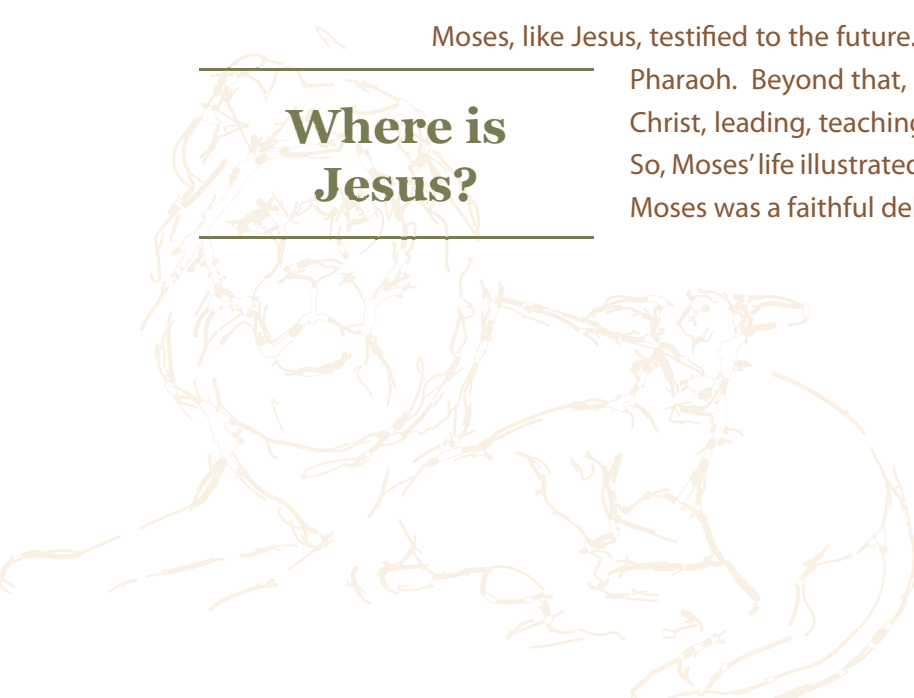
PRAY:

Thank God for His amazing grace which enables us to repent of our sin and trust in Jesus.



Where is Jesus?

Moses, like Jesus, testified to the future. Moses proclaimed what God would do to Pharaoh. Beyond that, his very life is a picture of the servant Jesus Christ, leading, teaching, and delivering his people from bondage. So, Moses' life illustrated and proclaimed the coming Savior. Just as Moses was a faithful deliverer so Christ is a faithful redeemer.



TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Christ's faithfulness greater than that of Moses? (*Moses was faithful to God, but Jesus is God. Moses' faithfulness pointed to the salvation of Israel; Jesus is that salvation. Moses, though one of the greatest heroes of the Bible, is only a shadow of Christ.*)

When we look at the story of Moses, to whom should we compare ourselves? Are we like Moses, the Hebrews, or Pharaoh? (*We are like Pharaoh until God pours his Spirit into us and transforms us. Once we are a part of the people of God we are like the Hebrews who were quick to doubt. It is only after we realize our similarities with the others that we should compare ourselves to Moses; chosen by God to do the will of God.*)

PRAY:

Ask God to touch your life and use you as He did Moses, to accomplish His plan.



THE STORY: EXODUS 10

THURSDAY

When God makes a promise, God keeps His promise.

When God makes a promise, God keeps His promise. The warnings to Pharaoh were not empty words.. When God said through Moses that He would bring frogs (8:2), He brought frogs. When He said he would bring darkness, He brought darkness (10:22). The same is true for all the plagues. When the Bible tells us "A man reaps what he sows, we need to listen. The Bible also tells us that "the one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction" and that "God will not be mocked." (Galatians 6:7-8). It is also true that when God says that He is going to save or deliver, He will save and deliver. Just as God was able to deliver Israel from the hand of the Egyptian slave masters, so is He able to deliver us from the slavery of sin. It was by His Son's death on the cross that He both kept His promise to punish sin and bring salvation. God's Word is true.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did God's word come to pass for all the plagues? (*Yes God's word did come to pass for all the plagues.*)

Does God's word always come true? (*Yes, God's word always comes true. God may relent from bringing a promised judgment but His word is never wrong.*)

PRAY:

Thank God that His Word is always true and trustworthy.



On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the light for the Gentiles and the one who gives sight to the blind. Matthew 11:5 records Jesus saying that the blind receive sight. Jesus is also the creator of all things.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does this passage relate to Jesus? (*Jesus brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. Jesus is the one who opened blinded eyes.*)

What is the dungeon and darkness that God releases us from? (*When God saves us, He releases us from the bondage and the prison of sin. In John 8:36, the Bible says it like this: "If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed." The freedom John speaks of is the freedom from the power of sin. We are also freed from God's judgment and wrath as a result of Christ's death on the cross to forgive our sin.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for his power over blindness and sin. Though we are not all blind, we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

