



# THE TEN PLAGUES

EXODUS 1-11

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand that God shows mercy to Israel, but judges Pharaoh and the Egyptians
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## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Moses:** God chose Moses to deliver his people from Egypt.

**Aaron:** Moses' brother accompanied Moses on his task of deliverance.

**Pharaoh:** He was the ruler of Egypt. He tried to keep his Israelite slaves against all odds.

**Israelites:** They were held in slavery for 400 years, yearning for relief.

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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Exodus 3:14:** God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I Am has sent me to you.'"
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## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Exodus 1-11:** Israel had been in captivity for 400 years. God chose to deliver them, and He would use Moses to accomplish this. God designed every aspect of Moses' birth, training, and career to prepare him for the task. After unleashing 10 terrible plagues on Egypt, God delivers Israel.



## SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ In freeing His people from slavery in Egypt, God was able to demonstrate to His people that He was very much real and that He cared for them. It also presented an opportunity for God to display His supremacy over the false gods the Egyptians worshiped.
- For several of the plagues, God specifically spared the Israelites from any harm, which proved that God protected and provided for those who loved and obeyed Him.
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## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Take Off Your Sandals!**
- Divide children into two teams. Instruct the students to remove their shoes and put them in a large collective pile at one end of the room, and then line up at the opposite end. On "go," each student must run to the pile, find his or her shoes, put them back on, and make it back to the starting point. The team with all members back first wins.
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## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **Exodus 3:14:** As a name, "I Am Who I Am" is a bit hard to understand. God's name signifies His existence as a being that was not created by another. It also means that He is today exactly as He was before and always shall be. God has always existed and always will, and His nature is unchanging.
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## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Burning Bush | Supplies:** paper, markers, dry erase markers, and a laminator or clear contact paper.

Have students draw a picture of a bush and color it. Laminate each student's picture or cover it with clear contact paper. Give students dry erase markers to draw flames over their bush drawings. When the flame drawings are erased, the bushes remain unchanged, just like the burning bush Moses saw in the desert.



TAKE  
HOME

- ▶ The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. They had prayed for deliverance for a very long time. The fact that it took 400 years for God to come to their rescue doesn't mean that God didn't care before, just that the time was not right yet. Everything God does is perfect. He blesses us with the exact right thing at the exact right moment. Like He did for the Israelites, God will protect and provide for us.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What did Pharaoh order regarding Israelite babies?

**A1:** Pharaoh ordered the death of every baby boy born to an Israelite.

**Q1b:** Can a person own another person?

**TN:** While slavery is illegal in every country on the planet, it is still in practice in some places. The Bible contains many stories about people being slaves. This often happened when a person sold their children or themselves to pay off debts or to ensure survival when they were not able to provide for themselves. The Bible provides rules for proper treatment of people in such situations. Just as it was in biblical times, it is unacceptable to claim ownership over another person because of their race. God created man in His image, making all people equal. The Israelites were made slaves because they were foreigners in Egypt.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Who found the basket with baby Moses inside?

**A2:** Pharaoh's daughter found the basket.

**Q2b:** Have you ever seen a basketball player throw a last second shot from the other side of the court and make it?

**TN:** This usually is a last ditch effort to put some points on the board. The player figures, "If this works, awesome. If it doesn't work, at least I gave it a shot." This is what Moses' mother figured when she put her baby in a basket and let him float down the Nile River. If the baby lived, awesome. If the baby died, well, at least she gave it a try. What a sad and horrible choice to have to make!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Why did Moses run away from Egypt?

**A3:** Moses killed a man, and Pharaoh wanted to have Moses killed.

**Q3b:** If you saw someone bullying your best friend, what would you do?

**TN:** The idea of someone being mean to people we care about can make us very upset. But it is important to remember that repaying violence or anger with violence or anger makes us just as bad as the bully. When Moses saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite, he was right to be upset, but his response to his anger caused him to sin. We must be careful to not let anger get the best of us. We should pray about how to respond to anger.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Where did Moses go when he fled Egypt?

**A4:** Moses went into the desert.

**Q4b:** Do you have family members who live in a different city or state?

**TN:** If we ever found ourselves in need of a place to stay, we could probably go to these out-of-town relatives. Moses didn't have that. Moses needed to leave Egypt immediately, but he had nowhere to go, so he just ran into the desert. God led him to a group of people who would help him and care for him in his time of need.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did Moses see while he was caring for his flock?

**A5:** Moses saw a bush engulfed in flame, but the bush did not burn.

**Q5b:** Why did it take God so long to answer the prayers of the Israelites who were enslaved in Israel?

**TN:** There is always a purpose to everything God does. In Genesis 15:13, God told Abraham that this would happen to his descendants. God didn't leave them in this horrible situation for 400 years just to make His prediction come true, but because it was always part of the plan. It took 400 years for human history to play out to just the right moment for God to judge the Egyptians and bring the Israelites into the Promised Land. God heard all of their prayers and answered them when the time was right.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** How did Pharaoh respond to Moses' request to free the Israelites?

**A6:** Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites.

**Q6b:** If a police officer tells you to do something and you don't do it, what will happen?

**TN:** We'd get in trouble. Police officers are authority figures who work to keep us safe. When they ask us to do something, we should recognize their authority and do as we are told. When Moses and Aaron come before Pharaoh, they tell him that they are there on behalf of God. Pharaoh tells them that he does not know God, does not recognize His authority over him, and rejects their request. Before long, Pharaoh would know who God is, he would recognize his authority over him and all things, and would accept their request to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What happened to the Nile River when Aaron touched it with his staff?

**A7:** The Nile River turned to blood.

**Q7b:** What would you do if there was no running water in your house?

**TN:** We rarely think about the basic conveniences of life and what our lives would be like without them. Without running water, our lives would be much harder. Now consider what we would do without running water in our homes or any clean water nearby. What would we do? Every source of water in Egypt—the Nile, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, pools, and even filled pitchers—was turned to blood. Water wasn't just necessary for the people to survive, but for all of their livestock, too. This plague lasted for seven whole days. This truly was a desperate situation!

### SLIDE 8



**Q8a:** What did God send when Pharaoh again refused to let the Israelites go?

**A8:** God sent a plague of frogs.

**Q8b:** At lunch, you decide to trade your pudding for an apple, but your classmate decides to keep both. What do you do?

**TN:** Well, that wasn't the deal! This classmate should give back the pudding or hand over the apple! That's only fair; that was the agreement. God sent a plague of frogs to Egypt, and they were everywhere. Pharaoh spoke to Moses and asked him to pray to God to stop the plague, and in return, he would let the Israelites go. Moses prayed, and God stopped the plague. Relieved to be rid of the frog nuisance, Pharaoh decided to go back on his promise to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh was not a man of his word.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 9



**Q9a:** What plague did God send next?

**A9:** God covered all of Egypt with gnats.

**Q9b:** Gnats? Why was a plague of gnats considered a horrible plague?

**TN:** Exodus 8:17 says, "All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt." Being in the desert, Egypt had quite a lot of dust. Turning all of the dust into gnats made this plague pretty awful. There would have been so many, it would have been impossible not to breathe them in!

### SLIDE 10



**Q10a:** The plague of flies covered all of Egypt except what area?

**A10:** The plague of flies did not affect the area where the Israelites lived.

**Q10b:** The classmate who tried to take your pudding and keep her apple wants to trade again at lunch. Do you give her another chance?

**TN:** This is tricky. We've already been burned on a deal with her before, so this is a tough call. After God sent the plague of flies, Pharaoh bargained with Moses again to send the flies away in exchange for the Israelites' freedom. Just like the first time, once the plague was over, Pharaoh changed his mind and wouldn't let the Israelites leave Egypt. Pharaoh couldn't be trusted.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 11



**Q11a:** How did God punish Egypt next?

**A11:** God killed the Egyptians' livestock.

**Q11b:** Your siblings were playing catch in the house and broke a lamp. Should you be punished, too?

**TN:** No, we weren't participating in the rule breaking, so we shouldn't be punished. God spared the Israelites not only because they hadn't done anything wrong, but also as a way to show the Egyptians that God had the power to inflict these plagues on specific people. Sparing the Israelites also showed that God is merciful to those who love and obey Him.

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### SLIDE 12



**Q12a:** Did the plague of painful sores change Pharaoh's heart?

**A12:** No, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go.

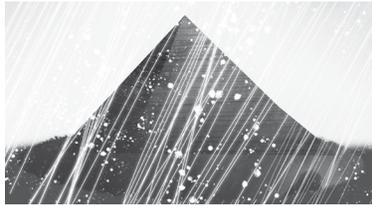
**Q12b:** Have you ever had a sunburn?

**TN:** It is unknown what kind of painful sores the Egyptians received in this plague, but it was certainly unpleasant to endure. Like having a really bad sunburn, it was probably painful to do anything but lie still, with as little touching the skin as possible.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 13



**Q13a:** What did Moses warn the people to do before the next plague struck?

**A13:** Moses warned people to take cover.

**Q13b:** How could the plague of hail kill livestock if an earlier plague had already killed them?

**TN:** Honestly, the answer to this question is unknown. There are a number of probable answers, but because the Bible doesn't explain it, there is no undisputed answer. What we do know is that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, and as such, it contains no errors. The writer of this book may have failed to provide us with each and every detail of the story that would explain how the Egyptians' livestock was effected in at least three of the ten plagues, but he did give details on the most important factor of this story: God's immense power. There are many instances in the Bible in which contradictory information seems to be present. These contradictions are about insignificant details and do not offer any proof that God does not exist or that events did not happen as described.

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### SLIDE 14



**Q14a:** What did the swarm of locusts do?

**A14:** They ate all of the crops and trees.

**Q14b:** Why did God choose to plague Egypt with bugs and killing off their livestock?

**TN:** God does everything with a purpose in mind. First, the plagues God sent crippled Egypt's ability to prosper and care for its people. Turning the water to blood, killing the livestock, and all of the bugs and frogs ruined their crops, and, therefore, their food supply. Second, the plagues were a judgment against the many gods the Egyptians worshiped. The Egyptians thought their gods were responsible for many things that occur in nature, such as the flow of the Nile River and the success of their farming efforts. Each of God's plagues was meant to show the Israelites that their God was with them as well as show the Egyptians that their gods were false and powerless.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 15



**Q15a:** Why were the Israelites supposed to paint their doorposts with lamb's blood?

**A15:** Lamb's blood on the doorposts was a way to indicate that the angel of the Lord should spare their household from the coming plague.

**Q15b:** What does it mean to have a hard heart?

**TN:** When we love God, our hearts are open to Him. This openness allows us to see His love, mercy, grace, and power. To have a hard heart means that no matter what is seen or experienced, the person's heart remains closed, or hard toward God. So even though Pharaoh had seen God's mighty power displayed through all of these plagues, his hardened heart made it impossible for him to recognize God's power and authority.

### SLIDE 16



**Q16a:** What happened after the tenth plague hit Egypt.

**A16:** The firstborn in every house was dead.

**Q16b:** Do you think it was mean for God to harden Pharaoh's heart?

**TN:** It's easy to read this story and think that God kind of set up Pharaoh for tragedy. Maybe if God hadn't hardened Pharaoh's heart, he would have let the Israelites go sooner and it would have spared the Egyptians some of the loss they experienced with the plagues. We should consider a few facts before taking sides on this issue. The Israelites had been enslaved for 400 years. The Egyptians were not kind to them; in fact, when the Israelites became too large in number, Pharaoh ordered the death of all male babies born to Israelite women. Pharaoh was an evil idol worshiper who rejected God. Also, God wasn't responsible for hardening Pharaoh's heart throughout the plagues; Pharaoh hardened his heart all on his own following many of the plagues. Another factor to consider is this: God is our judge. He knows everything. Our understanding of the situation is extremely limited. If we can trust anything, it's that God would never unjustly harm anyone.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▶ **Exodus 3:14:** God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I Am has sent me to you.'"

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**BIG IDEA**

▶ God's power is absolute, and He wields it in favor of those who love and obey Him.

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▶ God, we love You. Thank You for delivering the Israelites from slavery. Thank You for protecting us and delivering us from sin. Help us to keep our minds and hearts focused on You. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



Pharaoh was the king of Egypt, a powerful and cruel king. He had forgotten all that Joseph had done. Pharaoh owned the entire nation of Israel as his slaves. When he was afraid that the Israelites were becoming too many, he ordered the death of every baby boy born to any Israelite woman.

### SLIDE 2



One family had a sweet baby boy, and they were not going to let Pharaoh kill their child. They made a basket, placed their son into it, and gently lowered him into the river. The baby floated down the river in the basket. It just so happened that the basket floated down the river right to the spot where Pharaoh's daughter was taking a bath. She took the basket and peeked inside. It was a baby! She was shocked, but delighted. She wanted to keep the baby as her own. The baby's older sister, Miriam, had watched the basket to make sure her brother was safe. Miriam offered to find a nurse to care for the baby for Pharaoh's daughter. Once she agreed, Miriam took the baby to her mother to take care of him. Pharaoh's daughter named the baby Moses.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 3



Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace. He saw how hard the Israelites worked and how badly the Egyptians treated them. His own countrymen were suffering at the hands of these cruel slave drivers. One day, Moses saw a mean Egyptian beating an Israelite. This was more than Moses could handle. He stood up, rushed to the Egyptian, and killed him. Moses had avenged his fellow Israelite, but he had also broken the law. When Pharaoh learned of this, he wanted to kill Moses, so Moses ran away as far as he could. He was no longer a prince, and his fellow Israelites were still in captivity.



### SLIDE 4



Moses went into the desert where he met a group of people who welcomed him. There, in the desert, Moses took up his residence. He married, raised sheep, and passed many years of his life. All the while, God was preparing Moses for an important task.



### SLIDE 5



One day, while he was taking care of his flock, Moses saw a strange sight—a bush engulfed in flame, but the bush did not burn. This was quite a sight, so Moses came closer to investigate. Then, God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. He told Moses to go back to Egypt to help rescue the Israelites. God was going to perform many miraculous signs.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 6



Moses was afraid of what would happen to him, but he had to obey God. He went with his brother, Aaron, and they went straight to the new Pharaoh. "Let my people go!" Moses said. Obviously, Pharaoh was not going to let his entire slave population just leave. Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused.

### SLIDE 7



God was going to punish Pharaoh and show the Egyptians many signs and wonders. God then told Moses to have Aaron to touch the water of the Nile River with his staff. Immediately, it turned into blood. Soon, all the water in Egypt turned into blood. Pharaoh's magicians said they could do that trick as well. Still, Pharaoh was not impressed and refused to let the Israelites go.

### SLIDE 8



Again, Moses pleaded with Pharaoh, but Pharaoh hardened his heart, and he refused to let the Israelites go. Then God sent a plague of frogs that covered the land. Still Pharaoh refused.

### SLIDE 9



Again, Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh and demanded that he let the Israelites go to worship God. Again, Pharaoh refused. This time, God did an even bigger sign to punish stubborn Pharaoh. God sent gnats to cover all of Egypt. It was horrible. Still, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 10



Every time Pharaoh refused, God's punishment became worse. This time, God sent a swarm of flies that covered the land, but not the area where the Israelites lived. The Egyptians were in misery.

### SLIDE 11



Then, God punished Egypt by killing their livestock. The plague affected only the Egyptians animals, as God spared the animals owned by the Israelites. Not even this made Pharaoh repent. His heart was as stubborn as ever. God's punishment grew more intense and more severe.

### SLIDE 12



Again, Moses came before Pharaoh, but nothing changed. Even after painful sores appeared on all the Egyptians and animals, it did not change Pharaoh's heart.

### SLIDE 13



Then God sent hail. It was the worst hailstorm the land had ever seen. Moses warned the people to take cover, but many did not listen. They and their livestock were killed. Still, Pharaoh refused.

### SLIDE 14



Then God sent a plague of locusts to cover the entire land. The locusts ate everything that was not destroyed by the previous plague. No crops or trees remained alive once the locusts swept the land. It was horrible, but not enough to make Pharaoh change his mind. Then, the Lord brought darkness over the land. For three days, no light from the sun, moon, or stars shone—it was pitch black. The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he refused to free the Israelites.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 15



Then came God's final punishment, and it was worse than any of the other plagues. This time, God was going to take the life of every firstborn Egyptian, human and animal. God told the Israelites to take a lamb, slaughter it, and paint some of its blood on the doorposts of their houses. That night, when the angel of the Lord would pass by their house and see the blood, it would spare their firstborn. Any house that did not have this marking would lose their firstborn.

### SLIDE 16



And so it happened. That night, the angel of the Lord came, and all the firstborn of Egypt died. There was loud weeping and crying everywhere. Even Pharaoh's son was dead. The Egyptians became very afraid of the Israelites because God was on their side. Finally, it happened:



Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave. The Israelites packed their belongings, gathered their livestock, and walked away from Egypt.