



OLD TESTAMENT: TEN PLAGUES

Lesson 15

BIG IDEA

Moses and Aaron confront Pharaoh and demand that the Israelites be allowed to leave Egypt to worship God. Pharaoh is stubborn and will not let them go. God shows his power and authority by sending plagues on Egypt

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Exodus 7:5

KEY VERSES

Exodus 4:18-12:51

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE SKIT

- Cast: TL wearing baseball cap. Bear wearing bear ears
- Large sign that says "NO!"
- *EM provides baseball cap and bear ears*

GAME - WORD ON THE BACK

- Small pieces of paper with the name of a plague written on each one (enough for each child to have one paper)
- Tape

CRAFT - PAPER PLATE FROG

- Paper plates, 3 per child
- Green pipe cleaners, 2 per child
- Crayons
- Glue
- Optional - extra staplers and staple
- Optional – large googly eyes, two per child

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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CAST & PROPS

T.L. – wearing baseball cap
Bear – wearing bear ears
Props – Large sign that says “No!”

THE SKIT

TL and Bear enter stage

Bear Hi TL.

TL Hello Bear. Yesterday you were pretty upset because you wanted to be perfect so that life would be easy, bears would respect you and God would use you for big things. Do you still feel sad about this?

Bear Well I've been thinking about Moses and how scared he was and how he wasn't good at speaking. He wasn't very perfect but God used him anyway, right?

TL Right! Today I need some help telling the story. Bear, will you be Pharaoh as I tell the story? You hold this sign, it says “NO!” Whenever you hear me say, “Let my people go!” you need to hold up the sign and (speak to the kids) all you kids need to say “NO!” Are you ready?

Bear You bet!

TL Yesterday, when I ended the story, Moses and Aaron were in a sticky situation. They had obeyed God and asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go to worship in the wilderness. Pharaoh got very angry and instead of letting the Israelites worship, he punished them and made their work harder.

Bear Oh ya. They had to find their own straw to make bricks.

TL It was very hard work and the Israelites started complaining to Moses and Aaron because their situation got worse.

Bear Poor Moses. Pharaoh was angry at him and the Israelites were angry at him.

TL Well the next thing that happened is God sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh and Aaron turned his staff into a snake. But Pharaoh was not impressed because his magicians were able to do the same thing. Let my people go!

Bear & Kids NO!

TL So, the Lord told Moses and Aaron to meet Pharaoh at the Nile River in the morning. “You have refused to let the Israelites go,” Moses said, “so now you will find out who the Lord is by what he is going to do.” Aaron raised his staff and struck the river. All the water turned into blood! The fish in the river died and the smell was so bad that the people could not drink the water.

Bear Ha! That'll show him!

TL But again Pharaoh was not impressed because his magicians used their magic and were able to do the same thing! Let my people go!



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Bear & Kids No!

TL A week passed and then the Lord told Moses to go to Pharaoh again and tell him to, "Let my people go!"

Bear & Kids No!

TL So, Aaron held his staff over the river and God caused frogs to come up out of it! There were so many frogs that they covered the land. They came into the palace and into the homes of all the people. Frogs were in the beds and in the ovens and in the baking pans in the kitchens.

Bear That is SO cool. That means king will definitely listen to them now, right?

TL Well, Pharaoh couldn't stand the frogs so he told Moses and Aaron to ask the Lord to take away the frogs. He promised that when the frogs were gone, he would let the Israelites go. So, Moses prayed and the frogs died. The Egyptians had a big clean up job and they made big piles of dead frogs and the land was very stinky. But Pharaoh changed his mind. "Let my people go!"

Bear & Kids No!

Bear What? He's asking for trouble because he's not listening to God!

TL That's right bear. He's asking for trouble. Next God told Moses to tell Aaron to strike the ground with his staff. That made the dust all over Egypt turn into little flying bugs called gnats. They covered all the people and all the animals in Egypt. The magicians tried to make the gnats also, but they couldn't and they had to admit, "God has done this!" Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

TL Next God sent great swarms of flies into Pharaoh's palace and the houses of his officials. But the flies did not enter Goshen where the Israelites lived. Pharaoh wanted the flies to go away so he tried to make a compromise with Moses. "Go ahead, worship God and make your sacrifices, but do it here in this land."

"That wouldn't be right," Moses replied. "The Egyptians might try to kill us because they have different beliefs. We want to go to the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, exactly as he commands us."

"Fine, I will let you and your people go for a few days, but you must not go far. And pray for me." So Moses left and prayed to the Lord and the flies left. Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

Bear Golly. That Pharaoh is either really brave or absolutely crazy.

TL He was certainly very stubborn and so the Lord sent a fifth plague to prove his power. This time he sent a terrible disease on all the animals. The Egyptians' horses, donkeys, camels and cattle died. The animals of the Israelites remained healthy. Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

TL Next God told Moses to throw ashes into the air. All through the land the people and animals got terrible boils which became open sores, and do you think Pharaoh listened this time?



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Bear Somehow I doubt it.

TL Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

TL So the Lord performed a seventh powerful sign. He sent thunder and hail and lightning. It was the worst storm in Egypt's history. It killed all the people and animals in the fields and ruined the plants and trees. There was no hail at all in Goshen where the Israelites lived. Pharaoh once again asked Moses to pray for the hail to stop. Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

Bear I can't believe it. What is it going to take to get this guy to listen? He should have just obeyed God right at the beginning when Aaron turned his staff into a snake.

TL It's hard to imagine, isn't it? God sent Moses to Pharaoh with another warning about a locust plague.

Bear Locust? What's that?

TL Locust are like grasshoppers. When the official heard Moses' warning they were very afraid and they begged Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh tried to make another compromise. He told Moses that the Israelite men could go worship their God, but he women and children had to stay behind. Then he drove Moses and Aaron out of his presence. Let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

TL So, God sent a big wind from the east and it blew in great swarms of locusts, just as he had predicted. They covered he ground until it was black. They ate everything the hail had not destroyed. Not a green thing was left in all of Egypt! Pharaoh hurriedly called Moses and Aaron and admitted he had sinned against God.

Bear Now were getting somewhere! Now Pharaoh recognizes that he is nothing compared to God! Ha!

TL Well, he is certainly desperate. So again, Moses prayed to God and God caused a west wind to blow the locusts into the sea. But....let my people go!

Bear & Kids No!

TL After eight plagues, Pharaoh remained stubborn. So the Lord told Moses to raise his hand toward the sky. There was total darkness throughout Egypt for three days. The Egyptians could not see each other, and no one left his house during that time. In the area where the Israelites lived there was still light. Pharaoh tried to make another compromise. "You may go worship the Lord. The men, women and children can all go, too. But your animals must stay here."

Moses answered, "No, we must take our animals with us. We have to use some of them to worship the Lord our God. Let my people go!"

Bear & Kids No!



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TL The Lord had told Moses “I will send only one more punishment on Egypt. After that, the Pharaoh will let you leave. So Moses delivered God’s final message. “At midnight I will go through Egypt, and every firstborn son will die. Then you will know that I, the Lord, make distinction between my people and the Egyptians. All you officials will come to me and bow down and beg me to take my people and go away. After that I will leave.” Then in great anger Moses left.”

Bear Oh boy, that’s pretty serious. Surely Moses listens this time, right? I mean God proved himself over, and over, and over. Pharaoh wouldn’t risk having so many people die...would he?

TL Bear, I sure wish I could tell you that Pharaoh’s heart changed and he listened to the Lord. But the bible tells us that he remained stubborn. And at midnight the Lord passed through the land and killed the first born son of every Egyptian family. Pharaoh and his officials were awakened by loud crying. There was not a home in Egypt in which a son had not died.

Bear, I hate to end the story on such a sad note, but that is all I am going to tell today. Next time we meet I’ll tell you about what happened to the Israelites on that night when God passed through the land. I’ll tell you how the people were finally able to leave Egypt and what happened when Pharaoh tried to chase them.

Bear (Soberly) It boggles the mind, doesn’t it? All those signs that God did to prove himself to Pharaoh. Blood and bugs and hail and darkness. He is super, duper powerful, isn’t he?

TL Yes, God is super, duper powerful. And do you see that even though Moses was not a perfect man, even though he had fear and weaknesses, God chose to use him in a very powerful way.

• DISCUSSION QUESTIONS •

- Can anybody list all 10 plagues?
- Why did Pharaoh want to keep the Israelites under his control?
- Why were the Israelites angry with Moses?
- What does stubborn mean?
- Have you ever been stubborn?
- Can a person have a stubborn heart and still obey God?
- What kind of a heart should a person have?

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: PAPER PLATE FROG

Kids will guess make a frog out of paper plates

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Paper plates, 3 per child
- Green pipe cleaners, 2 per child
- Crayons
- Glue
- Optional - extra staplers and staple
- Optional – large googly eyes, two per child

DIRECTIONS

- Color the paper plates green
- Cut a V shape out of one of the plates
- Fold one plate in half
- Staple or glue folded plate to the bottom of the plate with the cut out
- Staple or glue full plate beneath the other two plates
- Staple pipe cleaners to either side of full plate
- Color eyes, nose and tongue
- Optional: glue googly eyes to frog face

EXAMPLE





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GAME

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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: WORD ON THE BACK

Kids will guess which plague is taped on their back from hints given by other players.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Small pieces of paper with the name of a plague written on each one (enough for each child to have one paper)
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

- Tape a paper with the name of a plague to the back of each player
- The players give each other hints so they can guess which plague is on their back
- Switch plagues and play another round with one of the options below
 - Options 1: use words only but not the name of the actual plague
 - Option 2: use actions only, no speaking
 - Option 3: draw a picture of the plague, no speaking or writing words
 - Option 4: after the plagues are guessed have the kids get in order according to when the plagues occurred

Note: this is a relatively short game. You may want to add a few more action games such as tag, relays or kick ball.



