

Story Time: Read the story to the children:

Lesson 37: THE TEN PLAGUES

Exodus 7:14-11:10, 12:29-30

After Moses told Pharaoh that he should let God's people go, the Lord told Moses to take the stick that turned into a snake and wait at the Nile River for Pharaoh to come by. He wanted Moses to tell Pharaoh that the Lord God of the Hebrews wants him to let His people go and worship Him in the desert. This time the Lord was going to do something to show the king that He really was the Lord. Moses told the king that God was going to turn all the water in Egypt into blood, and no one would be able to drink it! So, Moses had Aaron take his stick and hold it over the water and hit the water. At that very moment, all the water in Egypt turned into blood! But the Egyptian magicians used their secret magic tricks to do the same thing. Then Pharaoh didn't want to listen and obey God. Seven days later, the Lord told Moses to go tell Pharaoh again to let His people go, and if he refused this time, the Lord was going to cover Egypt with frogs! They would be everywhere - in the palace, and even in Pharaoh's own bed! So Moses went, and Aaron obeyed, and suddenly there were frogs everywhere in Egypt. But the Egyptian magicians used their secret magic tricks to do the same thing again! This time Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron, "If you ask the Lord to take these frogs away from me and my people, I will let your people go and offer sacrifices to Him." "All right," said Moses. "You choose the time when I should pray for the frogs to stop bothering you and your people." "Do it tomorrow!" Pharaoh replied. "As you wish," said Moses. "Then everyone will see that there is no God like the Lord." Moses prayed and asked the Lord to do something about the frogs. The Lord listened to Moses, and all the frogs died. When the Pharaoh saw that things were better now, he STILL didn't want to obey God! So the Lord told Moses and Aaron to go back to Pharaoh and tell him that Aaron was going to hit the ground with his walking stick, and turn all the dust in Egypt into lice! They obeyed, and when Aaron hit the ground with the stick, lice started covering all the people and the animals. Every speck of dust in Egypt turned into lice! This time when the magicians tried to use their secret tricks to do the same thing as Moses and Aaron did, it didn't work, and the lice stayed on all the people and the animals. The magicians tried to tell Pharaoh that God has done this, but, just like the Lord said, the Pharaoh was too stubborn to listen. The Lord told Moses to go again the next day and tell Pharaoh to let His people go so they can worship Him. The Lord told Moses to warn the king that if he didn't listen, God was going to send swarms of flies to attack everyone in Egypt, but the Israelites in Goshen weren't going to be bothered by the flies. Maybe this time Pharaoh will know that the Lord was there in Egypt. The Lord kept His promise and the next day flies were everywhere in the whole land of Egypt! The Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Go ahead and sacrifice to your God, but you have to stay here in Egypt." "That's impossible!" said Moses. "When we sacrifice to our God, the Egyptians get mad, and if they get mad they will stone us to death. No indeed! The Lord has commanded us to walk into the desert for

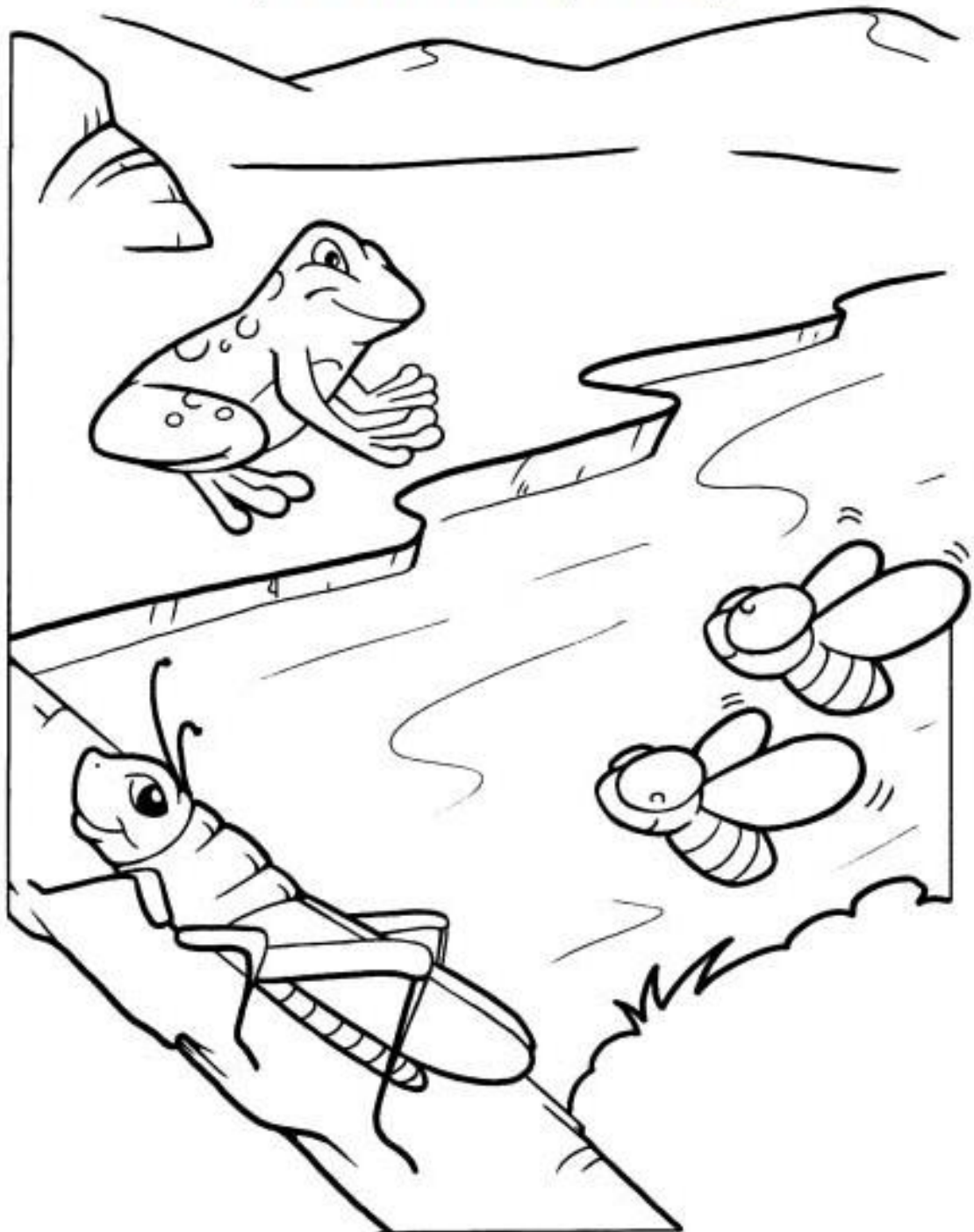
3 days before offering sacrifices to Him, so that's what we have to do." Then Pharaoh told Moses, "I'll let you go into the desert to offer your sacrifices, but only if you don't go very far. In the meantime, pray for me." "Your Majesty," Moses replied, "I'll pray for you as soon as I leave, and by tomorrow the flies will stop bothering you and all your people. Just make sure that you're telling the truth this time and that you really are going to let our people offer sacrifices to the Lord."

After leaving the palace, Moses prayed and the Lord answered his prayer again. Not one single fly was left to bother the Pharaoh, or anyone else in Egypt. But the king became stubborn again and would not let the people go. Then the Lord sent Moses to the Pharaoh with a warning to let His people go into the desert so they could worship Him, and if he didn't, the Lord was going to cause a terrible disease to come upon all the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats the next day, but nothing was going to happen to the Israelite animals. So the next day all of the animals belonging to the Egyptians died, but the Israelites did not lose even one of their animals. When Pharaoh found out, he STILL did not obey the Lord. The Lord told Moses and Aaron to take a few handfuls of ashes from a stove and throw them into the air while the king was watching. The ashes blew across Egypt and made sores appear on all the people and animals. This time the magicians were suffering so much from the sores that they could not even come to Moses. Everything happened just like the Lord told Moses it would--He made the Pharaoh too stubborn to listen to Moses and Aaron. The Lord told Moses to get up early the next morning and tell the king to let His people go, so they can worship Him! They told him if he didn't, He was going to send His worst plagues to come to the Pharaoh and all the people of Egypt. Maybe now the king would see that no one can disobey the Lord. You see, the Lord could have already sent a terrible disease and killed everyone, but He kept them all alive just to show them His power and to bring honor to Himself everywhere in the world. The king still didn't want to let the Lord's people go, so the next day the Lord brought the worst hailstorm in history upon Egypt. Moses stretched his arm up toward the sky and it made hailstones fall on all the people, the animals, and the crops in Egypt. The hailstones killed many animals and trees and crops, but in the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived, everything was safe from the storm. The Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Now I have really sinned! My people and I are guilty, and the Lord is right. We can't stand any more of this thunder and hail. Please ask the Lord to make it stop. Your people can go--you don't have to stay in Egypt any more." Moses said, "As soon as I leave the city, I will lift up my arms in prayer. When the thunder and hail stop, you will know that the earth belongs to the Lord. But I am sure that you and your officials don't really fear the Lord God." After Moses left the royal palace and the city, he lifted his arms and prayed to the Lord, and the thunder, the hail, and everything stopped. When the Pharaoh realized that the storm was over, he disobeyed God AGAIN. They STILL refused to let the Israelites go. This was exactly what the Lord said would happen. The Lord sent Moses back to Pharaoh and ask him how long he was going to disobey and not let God's people go. Moses told the king that God wanted him to release His people so they could go and worship Him. Moses told Pharaoh that if he didn't let the

people go before the next day, the Lord was going to send swarms of locusts to Egypt! Moses and Aaron left, but the king had them brought back to him, and he said, "All right, you may go and worship the Lord your God. But first tell me who will be going." "Everyone, young and old," Moses answered. "We will even take our sheep, our goats, and our cattle, because we want to have a celebration to honor the Lord." The king said, "You're up to no good. Do you want to worship the Lord? All right, then take only the men and go." Then the Egyptians chased Moses and Aaron out of the palace. So the Lord told Moses to stretch his arm out toward Egypt and when he did, swarms of locusts came and ate everything that wasn't destroyed by the hail! Suddenly the Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. He told them, "I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. Forgive me one more time and ask the Lord to stop these insects from killing every plant in Egypt." So Moses left the palace and prayed, then the Lord sent a wind that swept all the locusts into the Red Sea. Then guess what happened? The king changed his mind again and STILL refused to let the Israelites go. The Lord told Moses again to stretch his arm up toward the sky so that a great darkness would fall over all of Egypt for three days. During that time, the Egyptians could not see each other or go anywhere, but there was light where the Israelites lived in Goshen. The Pharaoh sent for Moses again and told him, "Go worship the Lord! And take your families with you. Just leave your sheep, goats, and cattle." "No!" Moses said. "You must let us offer sacrifices to the Lord, and we won't know which animals we will need until we get there. That's why we can't leave even one of them here." This time the Lord made the king so stubborn that he told Moses, "Get out and stay out! If you ever come back, you're dead!" "Have it your way," Moses said. "You won't see me again." The Lord told Moses that he was going to punish Pharaoh the king of Egypt and his people one more time. After that, he would be happy to let the Israelites leave his land so that the Lord would stop punishing them. The Lord told Moses that the king would even chase them all out of Egypt! Then the Lord told Moses to tell the Israelites to ask the Egyptians for gold and silver jewelry because the Lord made the Egyptians greatly respect the Israelites. Moses went to the king and said: I have come to let you know what the Lord is going to do. At about midnight He is going to pass through Egypt, and wherever He goes, the first-born son in every family will die. Your own son will die, and so will the son of the lowest slave woman. Even the first-born males of cattle will die. Everywhere in Egypt there will be loud crying. Nothing like this has ever happened before or will ever happen again. But the Israelites won't be crying. Things will be so quiet that not even a dog will be heard barking. Then you Egyptians will know that the Lord is good to the Israelites, even while He punishes the Egyptians. Your leaders will come and beg me to take my people and leave your country. Then we will leave. Moses was very angry; he turned around and left the king. What the Lord told Moses earlier came true. At midnight the Lord passed through all of Egypt and killed the first-born son of every Egyptian family, from the son of the king to the son of every prisoner in jail. He also killed the first-born male of every animal that belonged to the Egyptians. That night the Pharaoh and everyone in Egypt got up and started crying really loudly. In every Egyptian house someone had died.

THE TEN PLAGUES

(EXODUS 7:14-11:10; 12:29-30)



"And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land."

EXODUS 11:10

37. THE TEN PLAGUES

(EXODUS 7:14 – 11:10, 12:29-30)

MEMORY VERSE:

“My God delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.” DANIEL 6:27

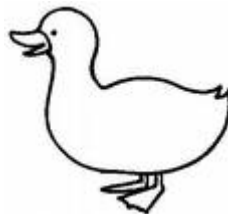
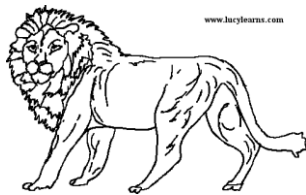
TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Lord told Moses to have Aaron hold his stick out over the waters of Egypt to turn it into oil. TRUE or FALSE
2. The Lord told Moses to have Aaron to hold the stick over the rivers and streams to make frogs come upon Egypt. TRUE or FALSE
3. The Lord told Moses to make Aaron hit the dust with his walking stick so that it would blow away and make Egypt clean. TRUE or FALSE
4. The Lord told Moses to tell Pharaoh that the Israelites could stay in Egypt and worship Him there. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did the Lord want Pharaoh to do?
2. Did Pharaoh obey the Lord?
3. Did Moses and Aaron obey the Lord?
4. What did Pharaoh's magicians keep doing?
5. When the Lord made darkness come on Egypt, was it also dark in Goshen where the Israelites lived?
6. What was the last plague the Lord brought upon Egypt? Were the Egyptians sad?

WHICH ONE WAS A PLAGUE?



Lesson 37 Activity and Craft

Cheerio Rodeo / Separating God's people

You will need a table, plain cheerios, fruit loops, drinking straws, and a stopwatch or watch with a second hand. Divide your class into teams of three or four and give each child a straw. Place one cup of cheerios and one cup of fruit loops on a tabletop and mix them up. Have one team play at a time. When you say, "GO!" the chosen team will try to separate the cheerios from the fruit loops. Time each team and write it on the chalkboard. The team with the shortest time wins. You will need to wipe the table and start with new cereal each time. Remind your class that throughout all the plagues, God made a distinction between His people and the Egyptians; He never made any mistakes. In the same way, we are a separate people in the world today. The Bible says that we are to be in the world, but not of it. God's hand of protection is upon His people despite the circumstances and condition of the world around them. How important that, as a separate people, we not adopt the ways and ideas of the world.

Pass Over My Play-doh

You will need play-doh and red paper. Give each child a piece of play-doh or home-made clay and a quarter of a sheet of red paper. Let them work on their own creations. Appoint one child (or teacher) to be the "angel of the Lord" who can go around taking away play-doh creations unless the child holds the red paper over the play-doh. The "angel" may wander around while the kids work and probably shouldn't be the most aggressive kid in class. But explain to the children that as long as they hold up the red paper then the angel will "pass over" them. Use this as an illustration of how the Angel of the Lord passed over the Israelites who had the blood applied over their doorposts. Also explain how that this is a picture of the blood of Jesus that protects us from God's judgment and allows us to have a relationship with God. Supply small baggies at the end of class for the children to take their play-doh creations home.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's amazing power to save us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.