

The 10 Plagues- Exodus 6&7

THE POINT

Focus:

- God uses his power to achieve his good purposes
- God works through normal people to do extraordinary things

Application:

- We can trust that God is all-powerful.
- .We seek to follow God even when we are anxious.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Bible story book with pictures marked* of stories covered over the previous weeks. If you have not been studying the Old Testament, mark pictures of Abraham and the Stars, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Joseph, and Moses.
- Black or blue paper (individual or a group paper, at your discretion)
- Star stickers (foil stars are available from many office supply stores)
- Optional: If you have print-outs of illustrations of each of these characters, you can have the children try to line themselves up in the order of the story.

*Consider using pictures or illustrations from diverse cultural backgrounds. These images are often available on Pinterest by searching the title of the story and the term "global art" or a specific culture, i.e. "Moses, global art" or "Abraham, Korean art".

Content: Begin the class by putting this story in context with the other Old Testament stories. Begin with God's promise to Abraham that he will have as many descendants as the number of stars in the sky. Pass out star stickers to each child and have them place one on the dark paper for each person you mention: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Invite them to continue to place their stickers on while you read the first part of the story and they listen carefully.

STORY CONNECTION (10-12 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- A tray or mat, and a box with the following inside of it (keeping the materials hidden until they are seen by everyone is key to keeping the attention of the children!):
 - a jar of water dyed red
 - a plastic frog
 - an image of a swarm of gnats
 - a plastic fly or a kazoo to make the sounds of a buzzing fly
 - a plastic cow or other farm animal
 - a band-aid
 - a rock (or a chunk of ice!) to represent hail
 - a clipping of a green plant
 - a candle
 - a rock or strip of cloth to represent burial
- Optional: Optional: There are many print-outs available for the plagues online. You can find them by searching Google Images. You might use these to help the kids match the object with the image. They can take the handout home with them.

Instructions:

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

When talking about difficult topics like the plagues, it's sometimes difficult to share honestly and age-appropriately. As people who follow God, we can remember that God is displaying power and authority as well as protection. God never destroys people who seek to follow him, but God uses power to advance God's kingdom and the ultimate good of human beings.

Exodus 6:1-5, 7:14-18

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. Because of my powerful hand, he will let the people of Israel go. Because of my mighty hand, he will drive them out of his country."
2 God continued, "I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the Mighty God. But I did not show them the full meaning of my name, The Lord. 4 I also made my covenant with them. I promised to give them the land of Canaan. That is where they lived as outsiders. 5 Also, I have heard the groans of the Israelites. The Egyptians are keeping them as slaves. But I have remembered my covenant.

At this point, most children should be finished with their star sheets. Draw a connection between the starry sky they have just created and God saying "I have remembered my covenant." Transition to your box with illustrations of the plagues here.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and shared what God had told them to say. He was stubborn and refused. Then God said to Moses:

(Exodus 7:14-18) "Pharaoh is very stubborn. He refuses to let the people go. 15 In the morning Pharaoh will go down to the Nile River. Go and meet him on the bank of the river. Take in your hand the walking stick that turned into a snake. 16 Say to Pharaoh, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you. He says, "Let my people go. Then they will be able to worship me in the desert. But up to now you have not listened.'" 17 The Lord says, "Here is how you will know that I am the Lord. I will strike the water of the Nile River with the walking stick that is in my hand. The river will turn into blood. 18 The fish in the river will die. The river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink its water." ' "

Moses and Aaron did this, and God turned the water in the Nile to blood. It was disgusting! But still, Pharaoh wouldn't let the people of Israel go. Over the following weeks, God sent 9 more plagues- or 9 types of trouble- to Egypt to convince them to obey God's voice. The Bible talks about each of these, but with lots of detail. Right now, we're going to look at a list of them and imagine what it would have been like to see God do these mighty acts.

Use the prepared props to talk about each of the 10 plagues. Allow the children a moment to draw a doodle on their page to remember what the plague was. Place each of the symbols in the middle of the circle so everyone can see it.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like for Moses and Aaron to go before Pharaoh.

I wonder how God felt when he saw Moses obey him.

I wonder what it was like to live with all those plagues!

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.