

the passover

Session 10: Sunday, February 28

BASED ON: Exodus 5-15



Moses and his brother Aaron met with Pharaoh and pleaded with him, *“Let the Israelites leave Egypt for just three days to worship God. If you choose not to do this, God will punish the Egyptians severely.”*

But Pharaoh was stubborn and would not listen. He said, *“Who is this God that I should listen to him? I don’t know your God, and I am not letting you leave. You are just trying to create a distraction. Now, get back to work!”*

After their meeting with Pharaoh things got worse for the Israelites. Pharaoh forced them to work faster and longer hours. Cruel slave masters pushed them harder and harder as they worked in the fields and made bricks from mud and straw.

So God sent a series of horrible plagues on the Egyptians and their land. But these plagues did not have any effect on the Israelites.

The **first plague** turned the Nile River into blood. All of the fish died and the water smelled terrible and was undrinkable.

The **second plague** brought a mob of frogs that covered the entire country. These frogs were everywhere- in their bedrooms, kitchens and even their pots and pans!

The **third and fourth plagues** brought gnats and flies. They covered all of the people and animals. Pharaoh’s magicians tried to copy each of these plagues, but couldn’t create gnats. They cried Pharaoh, *“God must be doing this to us!”*

The **fifth plague** brought severe disease to Egypt’s livestock, but none of the Israelites’ cattle became sick!

The **sixth plague** caused the Egyptians to break out with horrible sores all over their bodies- so bad they couldn’t sit or lay down!

Pharaoh would say *“Enough! If you stop the plagues, I will let you leave...”*

But after God stopped the plagues, Pharaoh still would not let them go.

God had made Pharaoh even more stubborn, and he refused to listen.

The **seventh and eighth plagues** brought hail and locusts that destroyed every tree and plant in the land. The locusts swept down and ate everything that wasn’t wiped out by the hail.

The **ninth plague** brought complete darkness over the land for three days. No one could see anything except for the Israelites who still had light in their homes.

Despite all of these horrific events, Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites leave! God told Moses, *“Pharaoh’s stubbornness will give me the opportunity to do even greater miracles in Egypt.”*

So God would send one final plague...

Moses warned Pharaoh about this final plague saying, *“This is what God says to you: ‘About midnight, I will pass through Egypt. Every firstborn son will die- rich or poor- from Pharaoh’s son on down. And the Egyptians will weep loudly, but the Israelites will not be touched. Then, you will beg the people of Israel to leave.’”*

As Moses left his meeting with Pharaoh, Pharaoh burned with anger. In spite of this warning, Pharaoh still refused to let them go.

Then Moses gave the Israelites instructions from God on how they could be saved from the plague. He told the people, *“Each family is to select a sacrifice- a year-old male lamb that is pure and without any defects, and be careful not to break any of its bones. Then, take the blood from this sacrifice and put it on the doorframes of your home. This will be a sign for God to pass over your homes and spare your firstborn.”*

So the people of Israel did exactly what God told them to do.

At midnight God came through Egypt and took the life of every firstborn son, but he passed over the homes that had blood on their doorframes. All of Egypt woke during the night because of the loud weeping. Someone had died in nearly every Egyptian home, including Pharaoh’s own son. The Egyptians begged the Israelites to leave right away.

That night, the Israelites, now numbering over two million, set out to return to their Promised Land of Canaan. God guided them through the wilderness with a pillar of clouds during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

Meanwhile, Pharaoh changed his mind again and sent his armies after the Israelites to catch them. When the people of Israel arrived at the bank of a wide sea, they saw Pharaoh and his armies approaching from a distance and began to panic. They turned against Moses complaining, *“Our slavery in Egypt was better than dying out here in the wilderness!”*

But Moses told the people, *“Don’t be afraid- God will rescue you today- he will fight for you!”*

Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. As he did this, God brought a huge wind that opened up a dry path for them to walk across! Pharaoh and his armies began to follow behind the Israelites. God told Moses to stretch out his hand again. This brought another huge wind that blew the sea back over Pharaoh’s armies, destroying them!

The people of Israel were in awe of God’s amazing power. They put their trust in God and also in his servant Moses. They sang songs, danced, and celebrated how God had saved them!

Session 10: Passover

Make up work from February 28, 2010

Work with a parent or other adult on this make up work. Please return completed work at the next confirmation session. If you have questions please call Renee at 752-7434 x 16 or Pastor Naomi at 752-7434 x 15.



Name: _____ Grade: _____

NARRATE the Story

Together with a parent or guardian read the story as written on the hand-out. Listen to the words. Don't think ahead to what you've heard before. Rather, listen closely.

RETELL the Story

In 8-10 sentences retell the story that you just heard or read.

DIALOGUE about the Story

With a parent or guardian **DISCUSS** the following questions (you don't have to write your answers):

Name of parent or guardian working with: _____

What images came to mind when you were listening to this story?

...what did you see, hear, and smell?

What stood out to you from this story? What did you notice for the first time?

What questions did the story bring up? What did you wonder about?

Who were the characters in the story?

What were the major events in the story?

How many plagues can you remember?

Name: _____ **(page 2)**

Read Exodus 7:2-4a. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart? Was it fair of God to do this?

Where is water mentioned in this story? How is it significant?

Did you hear anything else that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you make?

Please write two ways this story is connected to previous stories.

What was the "Passover"? Did you catch it in the story?

Why do you think God required blood to be put on the Israelites door posts in order to be saved? What does the blood represent?

How might you have felt that Passover night as a Hebrew? Would you have doubted that God would save you?

What does this story teach us about God?

Signature of parent or guardian working with: _____

CONNECT the Story to your life

How did this story challenge or encourage you?

Do we do anything that reminds you of the Passover?

Why do you think that the Jewish people still regard the Passover as a very important story?
