

The BIBLE Story

The Plagues and the Passover

Exodus 5–12

God had a plan to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt. He told Moses to be the leader, and Moses' brother, Aaron, would help. So Moses and Aaron went to talk to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

They said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go."

But Pharaoh did not let the people go. "Who is the LORD?" he asked. "I will not obey him!"

So God punished the Egyptians. First, God turned the water in the Nile River into blood. No one could drink the water. Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!"

So God sent frogs into Egypt. Frogs were everywhere! Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!"

God sent gnats into Egypt. Then he sent flies. Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!"

God caused all the livestock—animals like horses, donkeys, and sheep—to die. Then God sent boils, or sore spots, all over the people in Egypt. But Pharaoh said, "No!"

God sent a hailstorm. He sent locusts. Pharaoh said, "Go!" But then he changed his mind.



Then God sent darkness to cover the land. Moses said, "Let My people go!" Still Pharaoh said, "No!"

God told Moses, "I will bring one more punishment. After that, Pharaoh will let you go."

Moses warned Pharaoh about what would happen: "Around midnight, the firstborn son in every family in Egypt will die." But the Israelites would be safe. Pharaoh did not listen.

So God told the Israelites to sprinkle the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see, and He would "pass over" the house.

At midnight, every oldest son in Egypt died. The people cried, and Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh said, "Go!"

The Israelites left quickly. They took bread and their animals with them. They asked the Egyptians for gold, silver, and clothing. The Egyptians gave them what they wanted.

God told Moses and Aaron that He was going to bring His people into a land called Canaan (KAY nuhn). Everyone would remember what happened on this special night. God led His people out of Egypt. **The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. They were finally free!**

Christ Connection: God kept the Israelites safe from punishment when they put the blood of a lamb over their doors. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross, and everyone who trusts in Jesus is kept safe from the punishment for sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use an electronic device:** Search for images of different animals mentioned in the plagues. Show pictures of a gnat, fly, locust, and swarms of insects or show the images from the "Plague Insects" printable. Lead boys and girls to imagine how horrible the plagues were.

- **Use a map:** Use the Old Testament Mediterranean Sea Map from the Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970) to show Egypt. Point out the Nile River. Note the Nile River is not labeled, but it is the only river shown on the map in Egypt. You may also use a world map or globe.