

October 10, 2012

The Plagues Exodus 7-11**LESSON FOCUS***"May God strengthen your heart."* (1 Thessalonians 3:13)**The Third Commandment****Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.***What does this mean?***We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.****Today's Bible Lesson:**

The Bible says that Moses was 80 years old and his brother Aaron was 83 when they go into Egypt to rescue the people from the Pharaoh.

When Moses and Aaron first approach the Pharaoh, they tell him that he is to let their people go so they can go into the wilderness to hold a feast with their God. The Pharaoh obviously refuses to even consider this first request, so God does His first miracle in front of the Pharaoh and his court.

Aaron takes the rod of Moses, throws it to the ground and it becomes a serpent. However, several of the Pharaoh's magicians threw their rods down and they also became serpents. However, God then proceeded to show them whose power was greater. God then caused the rod that Aaron had thrown down and had turned into a serpent to devour all of the other rods that had turned into serpents from the Pharaoh's magicians and sorcerers.

After seeing this display of God's power, the Pharaoh's heart starts to harden and he refuses to let the children of Israel go. It's at this point that God will start to release a full set of 10 powerful judgments against the Pharaoh in order to break him so he will let His people go from his captivity.

1. Water Turns into Blood

Moses takes his rod and strikes all of the waters in Egypt turning all of the water into pure blood. All of the fish in the waters are killed and the Egyptians are loathe to drink from the river due to its stench!

God literally strikes and turns into blood all of their streams, rivers, ponds and pools of water. This blood ran throughout all of the land of Egypt. However, several of the Pharaoh's magicians were apparently able to do the same thing with their enchantments and the Pharaoh still refuses to let the children of Israel go free.

2. Frogs

Since Pharaoh would not release them after the first plague hits them, God then hits the Pharaoh and Egypt with the second plague – frogs! God says He will smite the land with frogs. God then causes frogs to come up abundantly from the river and these frogs then enter the people's houses, their bedchambers, on the people themselves, into their ovens, into their kneading bowls, etc. Just imagine such a scene!

After Pharaoh sees this display of power, he initially tells Moses and Aaron to call off this plague and that he will let his people go. God then causes all of the frogs to die out of the houses and the courtyards. They were all then gathered together and the Bible says that the land stank with all of the dead frogs now in one big heap. However, after seeing all of this take place, the Pharaoh changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go.

3. Lice

God then tells Moses to have Aaron stretch out his rod and strike the dust of the land so that it may become lice throughout the land. The lice then falls on both man and beast.

Then the Pharaoh's magicians tried to do the same thing with their enchantments – but this time they could not do it. The magicians told Pharaoh that this work was the finger of God since they could not duplicate this miracle themselves. However, Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go.

4. Flies

A swarm of flies that will come upon all of the Egyptians and into their houses! These flies come into all of the Pharaoh's houses, into his servant's houses and over all of the land. The Bible says that the land became corrupted because of the huge swarm of flies that attacked the land, the people and all of their living quarters.

Once again the Pharaoh relents, tells Moses to have God call off the flies, and that he will let his people go. Moses does so, God pulls back the flies and Pharaoh once more changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go.

5. Pestilence on the Livestock

In this next judgment, God causes all of the Egyptians livestock – all of their cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen and sheep to be stricken with a pestilence that kills all of them dead on the spot. Still, the Pharaoh refuses to give in and let God's people go.

6. Boils

In this next judgment, God tells Moses to tell Aaron to take a handful of ashes from a furnace and to scatter it toward all of Egypt causing boils and sores to break out on all the men and beasts. These boils also hit the Pharaoh's magicians and they could not even stand before Moses due to the effect that the boils were having on them. But once again, the Pharaoh still refuses to give in.

7. Hail

In this next judgment, God causes heavy hail to rain down on every man and every beast that is not brought inside. In addition to the hail, God also causes fire to mingle with the hail. The Bible says that when this hail and fire were released, it struck the entire land of Egypt – both man and beast who were in the fields and every herb, along with breaking every tree in the fields.

Again, just imagine such a catastrophic scene taking place! Once again, this judgment causes Pharaoh to relent. Moses then asks God to pull off this plague. And no sooner does God pull this plague off of them, the Pharaoh once more changes his mind and still refuses to let the Israelites go!

8. Locusts

In this next plague, God causes locusts to swarm the face of the earth so that no man can see the earth. The land of Egypt was completely darkened. Again, God pulls back the plague after Pharaoh says that he will let His people go, but then changes his mind once again after this plague is pulled off.

9. Darkness

In this next judgment, God tells Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven and this then causes complete darkness to cover the entire land of Egypt. This thick darkness lasts for 3 days. People could not even see one another nor could anyone rise from their place because they could not see even one inch in front of their faces.

Again, just imagine complete and total pitch darkness where no one could see anything – even to the point that you could not even get up and walk because you could not even see one inch in front of your face! Again, the Pharaoh only partially gives in. So this now sets the stage for the last and final judgment.

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 3-4

Read from your Bible. Ask students to find it in a Bible too. Those that can read can follow along. Choose the passages you would like to read aloud. Use visuals to help tell the story.

“May God strengthen your heart.” (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Moses and Aaron (Moses’ brother) went to the king pharaoh to ask him to let God’s people go. The king was very stubborn. Moses had a stick that became a snake when he threw it down. The king’s magicians did the same thing with their tricks. (Exodus 7:8-13)

God told Moses to meet the king at the river in the morning. He talked to the king again, but the king would not let God’s people go. So, God told Moses to dip his stick into the river. When he did, the water turned to blood. The king had the magicians do the same thing. So, the king would not listen to Moses. (Exodus 7:14-24)

Next, Moses met the king and asked him to let God’s people go. This time the land was flooded with frogs. There were frogs everywhere! But the magicians did the same thing, so the king would not let God’s people go. However, the king asked Moses to take the frogs away. With God’s help, the frogs died, but the king did not change his mind. (Exodus 8:1-15)

Next, God sent gnats because the king would not listen. They flew around everywhere. This time the magicians could not make gnats, but the king still would not let the people go. (Exodus 8:16-19)

The fourth plague was flies. They swarmed over all the Egyptian people, but were nowhere around God’s people. The king told Moses that they could go and worship God, if God would take the flies away. The flies left, but the king changed his mind and would not let the people go. (Exodus 8:20-30)

Then, Moses told the king that there would be a disease on the farm animals if he did not let them go. Sure enough, the disease killed all the animals but the king was still stubborn. (Exodus 9:1-7)

God told Moses and Aaron to scoop up ashes from a furnace. He told them to throw them into the air in front of the king. When they did this, the Egyptian people broke out in sores called boils. Even the magicians had them! (Exodus 9:8-12)

Next, Moses told the king that a thunderous hail storm would come. It came and ruined the crops in the fields. The king told Moses that the people could go. But when the hail stopped, the king changed his mind again. (Exodus 9:13-35)

Moses and Aaron went to the king again. They asked to worship God or swarms of locusts would come. At first, the king agreed until he realized that even the children were going. Then, he told Moses, “No.” The locusts came. In fact, there were so many that the sky was black with them. They ate all the plants and made life miserable. When the king asked for mercy, the plague stopped, but then he told Moses, “No!” (Exodus 10:1-20)

For the next plague, God caused darkness in the Egyptian city for 3 days. However, where God's people lived, it was both night and day as usual. The king still would not change his mind. He would not let God's people go. (Exodus 10:21-29)

God cared for His people and helped them get out of slavery. It was not as quick as the people thought it should be. God could have done it differently, but He chose to do things in His way for important reasons.

Review

1. How did Pharaoh respond to Moses' request? (He said he would not let Israel go free.)
2. What did Moses do? (turned the serpent into a snake)
3. What did God do? (sent ten plague)
4. What Pharaoh do? (let the people go)

Think about it — Aaron and Moses went before Pharaoh. They told him what God said, but God hardened Pharaoh's heart. When he saw the Egyptian magicians performed some of the same miracles, he refused to let the people go. But God delivered Israel from slavery with mighty miracles. We can trust God to care for us, too.

Lesson Extenders: Use coloring page, maze, word search, etc to help students understand lesson.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

“May God strengthen your heart.” (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

Read this passage from your Bible. Ask students to locate it in a Bible too. Help them learn this verse.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

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Prince of Egypt Video Clip

Quick Draw

You will need a dry erase board and dry erase markers.

Make cards with subjects you want students to draw.

Divide into two groups.

Have one child from Group 1 select a card and draw the picture.

As the child draws the picture, Group 1 tries to guess what the picture is portraying.

You may want to set a time limit for drawing the picture and guessing what it is.

If Group 1 cannot guess what the drawing is before time expires, the other group can guess.

Rotate so each child in each group has an opportunity to draw.

GAMES

Game 1: Get Rid of the Locusts

Materials

White paper - LOTS

Masking Tape

Preparation

Divide your playing space in half with a strip of masking tape.

Give each student 1 sheet of paper to wad up

Lead the Game

At go students throw their wad of paper over the line.

As locusts (wads of paper) come back to their side, teams must try to throw back as many as they can.

After 2 minutes call time – count the number of locusts on each side.

Repeat game as you have time.

Discussion Questions

What was it like to have so many locusts (wads of paper) coming back to your side?

Was it difficult to keep them out of your side?

How do you think the Egyptians felt as the locusts came and destroyed everything?

Game 2: All in Knots

Play the Game:

When you say GO students should come together to form a huddle. Then instruct them to close their eyes and hold up their arms. With their eyes still closed they randomly join hands with other kids.

Then tell the children to open their eyes and attempt to unravel the "knot" without letting go of anybody's hands.

Talk about it:

Perhaps the Israelites felt they were in knots as they watched what was happening to the Egyptians. They knew God, they trusted God, but was that enough? Of course it was! God was in charge of all of the plagues, and kept careful watch and care over His children, the chosen ones. God is that way with us today too!

Game 3: Red Light, Green Light Obstacle Course

Materials:

Items to be used as obstacles



Duration:

10 minutes

What you will do:

This is an interesting variation of the classic children's game "Red Light, Green Light" which is played with obstacles. Before starting the game place obstacles within the field of play. For example there may be a rope stretched across the room that the player must step over, a row of chairs to run around or boxes to crawl through.

Have children line up in a horizontal line facing you. You will stand at the opposite side of the room and call out "Green Light" or "Red Light". When you say green light the children move towards you, when you call red light they must stop. The first child to reach you wins. A child must go back to the starting line if they continue to move forward once you've called red light.

What you will say:

Once the game is finished, ask the kids if the game would have been as interesting without rules? What would happen if we tried to play the game, but everyone used their own set of rules? Explain that it is much the same in real life, rules and laws make life much better. Review today's commandment and Bible verse.

Review today's Bible verse and The Third Commandment:

"May God strengthen your heart." (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

The Third Commandment

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What does this mean?

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SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Experiment 1: God Can!



Materials You Need:

Ping pong ball (Resource Room)
A hair-dryer with a round nozzle

Experiment:

Switch the hair-dryer on (high, cold setting) and direct the air blast upwards.
Hold the ball above the air stream and release it, and it will remain suspended in the air flow.

Talk about it:

God did some pretty amazing things in the plagues to prove He is God Almighty, not one of the Egyptian gods that Pharaoh and his people believed. While this science experiment is pretty amazing, it's simply an experiment, the plagues were not! They were real, and everyone who did not believe in God was affected by them.

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God cares for us just like He cared for the people long ago. (1 Peter 5:7) just as the ball rests in this current of air.

Science Experiment Explanation:

The ball floated in the air current because the pull of gravity on the ball was balanced by the upward flow of the air flow. The faster the air moves, the lower it's pressure and so the pressure of the air from the hair-dryer was lower than that of the surrounding air. Whenever the ball moved out of the air flow, the pressure from the surrounding air pushed it back and so it floated above the hair-dryer.

Science Experiment 2: Just an Illusion or the Real Thing?

Here is an interesting optical illusion that you can make!

Fold an index card (or a small piece of heavy paper) in half both ways.

With a heavy marker, draw 4 lines starting at the top center of the index card, as shown in the picture.



Carefully poke a thumb tack through the center of the index card from the bottom.

What will you see if you spin the index card on the thumb tack?

Try it and see!

Somehow the straight lines turn into a circle within a circle when you spin the card!

This optical illusion is fun to day! Unfortunately the plagues that God sent on the Egyptians were not simply an illusion, they were the real thing! YUCK!



Experiment 3: Listen Up! Make a Straw Kazoo!

Use a drinking straw and your noodle to make a musical kazoo-dle.

Supplies:

drinking straws
scissors



Instructions

First, flatten out one end of a straw. The easiest way to do this is to bite on it. With a pair of scissors, cut the flattened end of the straw in an upside-down "V" shape. This will act as a reed just like in a clarinet.

Place the "V" end of the straw in your mouth so that the "V" end is just past the inside of you lips.

Press on the "V" with your lips while blowing. This might take some practice. You may have to separate the "V" a bit.

Here's another cool thing that you can do. Cut the straw and then blow on it. Hear how the pitch is higher?

Now it's time to experiment. See if you can make a musical instrument that uses vibrations in other ways.

Aaron and Moses went before Pharaoh. They told him what God said, but God hardened Pharaoh's heart. When he saw the Egyptian magicians performed some of the same miracles, he refused to let the people go. But God delivered Israel from slavery with mighty miracles. We can trust God to care for us, too. Pharaoh needed to Listen Up!