

guiding Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses in the basket. Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses as her son, which made Moses the grandson of the man who wanted to kill all of the Israelite boys! **God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.** Each time you use your place mat, remember God's plan to rescue us from sin.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to write down or draw a picture about a time they had to be courageous. As they draw or write, talk about how Moses responded to God's calling.

SAY • Moses wasn't sure he could handle the job and made excuses why he could not, which eventually made God angry. But God graciously helped Moses, such as by allowing his brother Aaron to help him speak to Pharaoh. What is something that God is calling you to do? It could be inviting a friend to church, telling someone at school about Jesus, or talking to a family member about trusting in Jesus.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for sending Moses to rescue His people. Pray for each child by name. Ask God to help the kids recognize their need for Jesus to rescue them from sin.

Make sure to give kids the big picture cards to take home to reinforce the Bible story with their families.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- Big Picture Cards for Families; Kids

The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 5–14

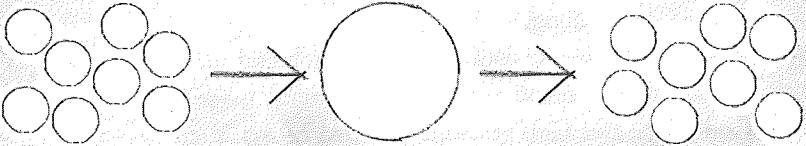
MAIN POINT: God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

2

SMALL GROUP OPENING (10–15 MINUTES) **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (25–30 MINUTES) **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 26 **PAGE 28** **PAGE 34**



Leader BIBLE STUDY

God had a plan to rescue the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. He chose and called Moses for the task and allowed Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

Moses and Aaron faced a huge obstacle to leading the Israelites out of Egypt, and his name was Pharaoh. Pharaoh did not recognize the Lord's authority: "Who is Yahweh that I should obey Him by letting Israel go?" (Ex. 5:2) Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord, but all of this fit into God's plan to reveal to Pharaoh—and all of Egypt—who He is.

First, God sent a series of plagues that wrecked Egypt. The plagues were acts of judgment designed to show the Egyptians who God is—and the Egyptians learned their lesson. Read Exodus 8:19; 9:20,27; and 10:7.

The tenth plague was the most severe and had the greatest impact on the Egyptian people. God told Moses that around midnight, every firstborn male in Egypt would die. But God gave specific instructions to the Israelites. They were to slaughter a lamb or goat and put its blood on their doorposts. The blood on the doorpost would be a distinguishing mark. When God saw the blood, He “passed over” the house.

The Israelite people were sinful, and they deserved death just as much as the Egyptians did. But God graciously provided a way out. By marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb, they were spared from the judgment and death they deserved. The lamb was killed instead. The heart of the gospel is found in the story of the Passover: Jesus never sinned, but He was crucified for our sins. We deserve death, but He died instead.

As you teach kids this week, highlight the Passover and help them look ahead to the true spotless lamb—Jesus, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).



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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

Exodus 5–14

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. They had cried out to God, and **God planned to use Moses to rescue them from slavery.** So Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh. **“This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says,” they said. “Let My people go.”**

But Pharaoh responded, **“Who is this Yahweh? Why should I obey Him? Israel may not go!”**

So God sent a set of plagues to punish the Egyptians.

First, **God turned the water in the Nile River into blood.** But Pharaoh would not let the people go. Second, **God sent frogs into Egypt.** Pharaoh said, **“Ask your God to take away the frogs. Then I will let the people go.”** But when God removed the frogs, **Pharaoh refused to let the people go.** Third, **God sent gnats into Egypt.** They bit the people and animals. **But Pharaoh would not let the people go.** Fourth, **God sent flies into Egypt.** Flies were everywhere! **“Go,” Pharaoh said.** Then he changed his mind. **He did not let the people go.**

Fifth, **God caused all the livestock to die.** Pharaoh still did not let the people go. Sixth, **God sent boils** that covered the people in Egypt. **But Pharaoh’s heart was hard.** Seventh, **God sent a terrible hailstorm to Egypt.** **“Go,” Pharaoh said.** But when the hail stopped, Pharaoh would not let the people go. Eighth, **God sent locusts to eat the plants.** **“Go,” Pharaoh said.** **But when the locusts left, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go.**

Next, God sent darkness to cover the land for three days. But Pharaoh still said no.

God told Moses, **“I will bring one more plague. After**

that, Pharaoh will let you go.”

Moses warned Pharaoh. God would go through Egypt. Every firstborn male in Egypt would die, but the Israelites would be safe. Pharaoh ignored Moses. So the tenth plague happened as God planned.

God told every Israelite family to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see and “pass over.” No one in the Israelites’ families would die.

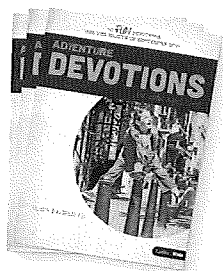
At midnight, God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt. There was a great cry in the land of Egypt because there wasn’t a house without someone dead. **Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. “Go!” he said.**

The Israelites quickly left Egypt. God told Moses to camp near the Red Sea. Pharaoh was going to change his mind and come after the Israelites. God wanted to show the Israelites that He is God.

Pharaoh and his officials came after the Israelites and caught up with them near the sea. God told Moses to stretch out his hand and divide the sea so that the Israelites could go through on dry ground. The Israelites walked through with walls of water on both sides.

The Egyptians chased them! When the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, **Moses stretched out his hand again and the waters returned. None of Pharaoh’s army survived.** The Israelites feared God and believed in Him. They believed that He had sent Moses to lead them.

Christ Connection: At Passover, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Moses and Aaron obeyed what God told them to do. (Ex. 7:6) Through them, God performed signs and wonders. God proved that He is the one true God. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 5–14

MAIN POINT: God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5–6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask about a time they disobeyed someone at home, at school, at church, or at an after school activity. Did they get in trouble? What consequence did they face for their disobedience? Mention a time when you made a wrong choice and disobeyed someone and the consequences you faced.

SAY • Remember how God told Moses that Pharaoh wasn't going to listen to him? In today's Bible story, we're going to see that God was right! We'll also learn about the consequences for Pharaoh's stubbornness.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "Match the Plague" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "Match the Plague" activity page. Kids will draw lines from the black and white plague picture to the colored plague picture.

SAY • Today we are going to learn about what happened when Pharaoh refused to obey God. God sent 10 plagues, or troubles, on Egypt. Through these plagues, **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Gnat tag

Select one kid to be *It*. *It* will chase the other kids and try to tag them. When *It* tags a kid, the kid will swat at “gnats” swarming around his head. Two kids must surround him, waving their hands up and down as they say, “Bug spray!” Then the kid who was tagged will be able to continue playing. After a few minutes, choose a new kid to be *It*. Play as time allows.

SAY • Egypt probably didn’t have bug spray like we do, but even bug spray could not keep away the pests and plagues God sent upon Egypt. God used the plagues to punish Pharaoh for refusing to let God’s people go. **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**

OPTION 2: Plague drawing game

Divide the class into two teams. One member of each team will race to the board or chart paper to draw the assigned plague. You will whisper what plague they both must draw when you give the signal. Their teammates must say “Let My People Go!” when they know the plague. The team that guesses correctly gets a point. Then the next members of each team will draw the next plague. Assign the plagues in random order. Kids cannot write words or numbers.

SAY • Moses said to Pharaoh “The Lord God says, ‘Let My People Go!’” Pharaoh did not listen to Moses. God sent 10 plagues before Pharaoh let God’s people leave Egypt. **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**



- dry erase board, chart paper, or large sheet of paper
- markers
- timer (optional)

Ten Plagues: water to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of firstborn son

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 5:1–14:31

MAIN POINT: God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5–6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• jug of water

[Large Group Leader enters carrying a jug of water.]

LEADER • Hello, everybody! Thanks for joining me on another leg of the great race. This week, I’m in Alexandria, Egypt in the Nile River delta.

A *delta* is the place where a river empties into the ocean. The Nile River delta is a very rich, fertile area. It is 99 miles [*160 kilometers*] long and 150 miles [*240 kilometers*] wide. If you were a bird looking down on Egypt, the delta would be a bunch of lush green land in the middle of a bunch of sand and rock!

The Nile River is believed to be the longest river in the world. [*Hold up your jug.*] I got permission from my tour guide to scoop some of the Nile River water into this jug for me to take home as a souvenir. I sure hope I don’t get thirsty between now and the time I get home!

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Last week we learned that God rescued Moses to deliver God’s people from captivity. Pharaoh’s daughter found baby Moses in a basket on the banks of the Nile River—the same Nile River where Pharaoh had ordered all baby boys to be drowned.

In today’s Bible story, we’re going to see that Moses went to Pharaoh and told him to let God’s people go, just as God commanded Moses. Pharaoh said, “Okie-dokie, that sounds like a great idea!” Everyone was happy, right? [*Invite kids to respond.*] Nope! That’s not how it went down at all. Pharaoh refused to listen to God. God sent 10 plagues to show Pharaoh who was really in charge.

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Before we listen to our Bible story, we need to remember God’s plan. Does anyone remember our big picture question and answer from last week? [*Invite a kid to respond.*] That’s right! ***What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.***

God told Moses before he even returned to Egypt that his task would not be easy. God knew Pharaoh wouldn’t let His people go without a show of power, so **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**

• Bibles
• “The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea” video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 5–14. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video “The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea.” For

a shorter version of the Bible story, read only the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LEADER • Wow! Can you imagine experiencing the plagues that God sent on Egypt? With each plague, God proved to Egypt that He is the one true God. But still Pharaoh refused to obey Him. It took losing his own son before Pharaoh would allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea when Pharaoh changed his mind again.

God didn't spare the Israelites' firstborn sons because they were good. The Bible is clear that all people are sinners and all people deserve to be punished for their sin. At Passover, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world and rescues His people from death. People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.

Ask kids the following review questions:

1. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt? (*Moses*)
2. What did Pharaoh say when Moses told him that the Lord said to let His people go? ("*Who is Yahweh that I should obey Him?*" Ex. 5:2)
3. How many plagues did God send to Egypt? (*10, Ex. 7:14–12:30*)
4. Why did God send the plagues? (**God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**)
5. ***What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.***

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Hebrews 3:5-6. Divide the room into three or four teams. Break up the key passage into three or four parts and assign a part to each team. When you point to the first team, they will say their part from memory. Then point to the second, third, and fourth teams. Repeat, going a little faster until the kids can say the key passage smoothly.

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- "Confidence of Our Hope" song

LEADER • Moses rescued the Israelites from slavery, but Jesus saved people from sin! Moses' life and faithfulness points us to the life of Jesus. Jesus was even more faithful to God than Moses was. Jesus is the true Rescuer. Anyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus will have life with God forever.

Sing the key passage song.

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Has someone ever offered to help you, but you didn't think they could help? Check out this video. Show the "Unit 4, Session 2" discussion starter video.

- "Unit 4, Session 2" discussion starter video

LEADER • Why didn't the gang believe Cocoa? Do you think they believed her after she opened the door? Why don't people believe God? What does God do to help people believe and trust Him? [*Invite kids to*

respond to each question.]

Remember when the Israelites reached the Red Sea and discovered Pharaoh was chasing them down? They were terrified and accused Moses of bringing them into the desert to kill them!

Sometimes when we're stuck in hard times, it's easy to forget God's plan. The Israelites learned by walking through the sea with a wall of water on either side of them that God is powerful enough to deliver them from captivity. God also delivered us from captivity to sin by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again.

Sing (4 minutes)

• "Freedom" song

LEADER • When God led His people through the Red Sea, they sang and danced to praise Him. Let's do the same thing!

Sing together "Freedom." Invite kids to move joyfully to the music as they sing.

Pray (2 minutes)

Before transitioning to small groups, make any announcements for your kids ministry. Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Dear God, thank You for showing the Egyptians that You are the one true God. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins and giving us life with You forever. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 5–14

MAIN POINT: God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

- Key Passage Poster
- paper
- markers
- bucket or bowl
- tape

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Write Hebrews 3:5 on one piece of paper and write Hebrews 3:6 on another sheet of paper. Write statements about Jesus on individual strips of paper. Write statements about Moses on individual strips of paper. Mix up the strips and place them in the bucket or bowl. Ask the kids to take turns pulling out strips of paper and reading them aloud. Help the kids determine if the truth is about Jesus or about Moses, say that part of the key passage, and then tape the strip under it. When all the strips have been sorted, say the key passage together.

SAY • While Moses was a faithful servant of God, Jesus is much better. Jesus is faithful to God the Father as God the Son. Because of Jesus' obedience to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins that we deserved, we can have forgiveness of sin and life with God forever.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- paper
- pencils or markers

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 5–14. Assist younger kids as they open their Bibles to those verses. Briefly review the Bible story.

Place the kids in pairs. If you have an odd number of

kids, form one team of three. Give each team a sheet of paper and a writing utensil. Instruct the kids to use their Bibles to find each plague and the corresponding verses and list each. Guide adult helpers to assist kids who may need help reading or writing. Kids may also draw pictures if they cannot write.

For the last plague, focus on God's protection during the Passover instead of the death of the firstborn sons. For an added challenge, invite older kids to tell you which plagues only happened to the Egyptians.

- Water to blood (*Ex. 7:19-21*)
- Frogs (*Ex. 8:5-6*)
- Gnats or lice (*Ex. 8:16-19*)
- Flies (*Ex. 8:20-24, Egyptians only*)
- Livestock died. (*Ex. 9:1-7, Egyptians only*)
- Boils (*Ex. 9:8-11, Egyptians only*)
- Hail (*Ex. 9:18-26, Egyptians only*)
- Locusts (*Ex. 10:12-15*)
- Three days of darkness (*Ex. 10:21-23, Egyptians only*)
- Death of firstborn (*Ex. 12:21-30, God protected those with the lamb's blood on the door*)

SAY • Through these plagues, **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.** God also proved to the Israelites that He is powerful, and nothing can stop Him from keeping His promise. God led His people out of Egypt with power!

Later, Jesus proved that He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world when He died on the cross and rose again to rescue us from sin and death.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Let My people go!

This is a version of “Red Light, Green Light.” Pick one kid to be Pharaoh and another to be Moses. Moses and Pharaoh will stand against one wall. The rest of the class will be the Israelites and they will stand at the opposite wall. When Moses says, “Let My people go!” the children will walk toward Moses. When Pharaoh says, “no!” everyone must stop. The first person to reach Pharaoh and Moses wins the game.

SAY • Over and over again, Moses said to Pharaoh, “Let My people go!” Over and over again, Pharaoh said “No!” We know that God sent 10 plagues to the land of Egypt before Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. Through the plagues, **God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.**

Do you sometimes require “proof” that God is who He says He is before you will trust Him? The Bible says that God proved His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Jesus died on the cross for us. [See *Rom. 5:8*.] Jesus took our punishment so that when we trust in Him, we will have His blessing: life forever with God!

OPTION 2: Crossing the sea craft

Instruct the kids to fold the blue construction paper into a tri-fold. Cut the tan paper so that it fits in the center of the tri-fold and glue it onto the blue construction paper. Kids may also use a little glue and water mixture to paint the center of the tri-fold and sprinkle it with clean sand. Place the fish stickers in the “sea.” When the two blue flaps are folded down, the art is like the Red Sea before it was parted.

- blue construction paper
- tan construction paper
- crayons and markers
- glue
- clean sand (optional)
- fish stickers (optional)

Once kids have parted the sea, they can see the dry ground upon which the Israelites crossed.

SAY • In the middle of the night, the people of God left Egypt. Pharaoh changed his mind and went after the people of God to bring them back to Egypt. God told Moses to hold out his staff over the Red Sea. When Moses did so, the Red Sea parted and God rescued His people again. ***God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.*** God sent Jesus to rescue anyone who trusts in Him from captivity to sin.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of God's people rejoicing as they walked through the Red Sea. Talk about what the Israelites might have seen on the dry sea bed.

SAY • God proved that He is the one true God. God rescued His people with His powerful deeds. God rescues us from sin and death through Jesus' death and the power of His resurrection.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for sending His Son as the perfect Lamb of God. Pray for each child by name. Ask God to help the kids trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Make sure to give kids the big picture cards to take home to reinforce the Bible story with their families.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*