

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Moses - The 10 Plagues

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 1 WEEK 6

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- A sponge (any kind)
- A rock (any size and colour)
- A glass/jug of water
- A deep bowl/basin

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- Exodus 11:1-7
- Exodus 12:1-36

2

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Gather your supplies. Pass the sponge around so everyone can feel it. It bends and squeezes because it is soft. Now pass around the rock. Talk about how hard the rock is.

Place the sponge and rock in the bowl/basin. Hold up the glass/jug of water and say, "This water is like God's Word. God wants to pour His Word into people's hearts." Slowly pour the water over the sponge and rock. Compare how the soft heart (sponge) soaks up God's Word while His Word just slides off of the hard heart (rock). Talk about which heart lets the Word of God inside.

Say, "In Moses' time, the people heard God's Word being spoken through people God chose, like Moses. Today, we have the Bible - God's Word - and we need to decide if we are going to allow God's Word to come into our hearts and change us (like the water went inside the sponge and soaked it), or if we're just going to ignore God's Word and not allow it to come into our hearts (like the water that slid off of the rock). When we soften our hearts and allow God's Word to come into our hearts, it changes us into the kind of people He wants us to be."

3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The "wonders" God performed in Egypt (the 10 plagues) are still awe-inspiring to read about even today (*Exodus 7-12*). For 400 years God's people had been slaves in Egypt. Being slaves meant that even though they had to work hard and do everything that the Egyptians said, the Egyptians never had to pay them any money. Even though they had been born in Egypt, God's people were not called Egyptians. They were called "Israelites". The Israelites did not follow the gods of the Egyptians. They followed the one and only true God. In Egypt (in those times) a king was called a Pharaoh. The Pharaoh was a harsh leader. He had a very hard heart, and he was mean to the Israelites. The Egyptians treated the Israelites so badly that God had had enough.

So, God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and he patiently worked his plan through Moses' birth and adoption into Pharaoh's own household. Remember that at the time that Moses was born, Pharaoh had made a law that all Israelite boys had to be thrown in the Nile River, but Moses' mom saved his life by putting him in a waterproof basket in the Nile River and Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him. So, Moses grew up in the palace of the very man that had tried to kill him!

Moses grew into a young man. He knew he was an Israelite and not an Egyptian. One day he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave and he got so angry that he killed the Egyptian. Moses knew that he couldn't stay in Egypt, so he fled into the desert. There he met and started living with a group of people and later he married one of their women and had children. Moses was quite happy living his new life.

After years, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him to go back to Egypt and tell the new Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. After a long conversation with God in which Moses made many excuses, Moses finally went to Egypt and did what God had told him to do. But Pharaoh did not take this well. He did not want to let go of this massive group of workers that he didn't even have to pay.

The Bible says that Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he refused to let the people go. Pharaoh did not believe in the Israelites' God. But God knew Pharaoh's heart more than even Pharaoh himself did. So, God simply allowed Pharaoh's choices to run their course, and this cost the Egyptians dearly. God sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians:

4

4

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. The water of the Nile River was turned to blood.
2. Thousands of frogs came out of the Nile River
3. Gnats (small flying insects) appeared and got all over the people and the animals
4. Thousands of flies appeared all over Egypt but there were no flies in Goshen where the Israelites lived.
5. All the horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats belonging to the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.
6. They Egyptians and their animals all broke out in big sores called “boils”. People could not even stand up because of the sores on the soles of their feet.
7. Egypt had the worst hailstorm it ever had. Many people and their animals died when the hail hit them and most of the food crops were destroyed. No hail fell in Goshen.
8. Next Egypt was invaded by a huge number of locusts that ate all the food crops that had not been destroyed by the hailstorm.
9. Three days of complete darkness fell on Egypt but in Goshen, there was light.
10. Death of all the Egyptian first-born sons.

Every plague had caused pain and suffering, but the tenth (and last plague) was the most devastating of all. The Egyptians would find out that, without God’s protection, even their own children would not be safe from death. God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb and to paint its blood on the door posts of their houses. The angel of death would pass over their homes, and they would be safe.

Finally, Pharaoh gave in and ordered Moses and the Israelites to leave Egypt. Pharaoh had a hard heart toward God. He thought he was the most powerful, but he was not. Pharaoh, the magicians and sorcerers and the Egyptian people thought that their gods would protect them. But they did not. Through the 10 plagues God showed that he was the most powerful and only he could protect and save His people. God loved his people then and God loves us now.

5

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What was Pharaoh's heart like?
- How many plagues did God send?
- How many plagues can you name? (*Without looking at your Bible*)
- What was the tenth plague?
- Why did the Israelites' first-born sons not die?

6

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- Why did these terrible things happen to Pharaoh and the Egyptians?
- What is your heart like? Is it hard like Pharaoh's or are you open to hearing God's word and allowing it to change your heart?
- How can we make sure that our hearts don't become hard? (*Reading the Bible and obeying what it says; talking to God every day (prayer); allowing God to change our hearts and lives*)

7

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank God that He never stops working on us.
- Thank God that He loves His people and that we can be part of His people because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- Pray that God would help your family's hearts to always be open to God's word.