

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 14**  
**The Ten Plagues; The Passover (Exodus 5-12)**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. We have to "go down into Egypt" many times during our lives, but we must always keep in mind the purpose for which we have gone there and the fact that our proper home is the Holy Land of spiritual living.
- B. The story of how the Pharaohs gradually forgot Joseph and came to make slaves of the Hebrews is the story of how, even in a life which has recognized the Lord and been set in outward order according to the Lord's truth, worldliness can creep in and take possession, enslaving the higher nature.
- C. In the spiritual sense each plague teaches us a particular lesson about what happens when we persist in disobeying the Lord. Everything good in us is gradually destroyed until nothing can save us from spiritual death.
- D. No one is regenerated through punishments. However, punishments are the inevitable results of wrong doing.
- E. The journey from Egypt to Canaan was to be long and difficult although the people weren't aware of this. This Journey is the symbol of our spiritual Journey from natural to spiritual living.

**II. Story Circle**

A. Introduction

1. We've learned several stories so far this year about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Do you remember what book of the Word tells these stories? (Genesis, the first book)
2. What happened to the Israelites in Egypt after Joseph died? (Became slaves)
3. Last week we learned about the baby Moses being left in an ark in the river by his mother. The Lord made sure that Moses was safe. He saved Moses' life by sending Pharaoh's daughter to the river at just the right time. Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses and raised him in Pharaoh's palace.
4. Do you remember what special job the Lord had in mind for Moses? (To lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and back to the land of Canaan)
5. The story of baby Moses is in the book called Exodus. Do you know what "Exodus" means? ("Going out") Why is it called "going out"? (It is the story of how the children of Israel went out of Egypt and about the first part of their Journey through the wilderness on their way back to Canaan.)

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6. Last week we learned that the Lord wanted Moses and his brother, Aaron, to go to Pharaoh and ask him to let the children of Israel go. Let's find out what happened when Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh.

### B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read Exodus 5:1-4
2. Retelling of Exodus 7-12:

Because Pharaoh wouldn't let the children of Israel go, the Lord sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians. Before each plague, though, the Lord sent Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh, and each time Moses asked Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. But each time Pharaoh refused, no matter how awful the plague was.

The first plague made all the water in the whole land of Egypt turn into blood. All the fish died, and there was no water to drink anywhere. But Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go.

So the Lord sent a second plague, a plague of frogs. There were frogs everywhere— in the houses, in the bedrooms, in the beds, in the ovens, in the bowls, and on all the people. But Pharaoh wouldn't let the children of Israel go.

The third plague was lice, on all the people and animals. The fourth plague was flies— swarms and swarms of them, filling the houses of the Egyptians and covering the ground. The fifth plague was a pestilence, or disease, on all the Egyptians' livestock (the cows, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep). All their livestock died, so there was no milk or meat for the Egyptians.

The sixth plague was boils, or sores, on all the Egyptians. The seventh plague was heavy hail that killed anyone out in the fields and destroyed every herb and tree. And the eighth plague was locusts that covered the ground so thickly that no one could even see the ground. The locusts ate every herb and fruit that the hail hadn't destroyed, so nothing green remained in all Egypt. But after all these things, Pharaoh still wouldn't let the people go.

So the Lord sent the ninth plague, a plague of darkness that lasted three days. The Egyptians couldn't see each other or leave their homes. But even this didn't change Pharaoh's mind.

Just as He had done before all the other plagues, the Lord sent Moses to warn Pharaoh before the tenth plague. But Pharaoh didn't listen this time either.

Now, the Lord didn't want the firstborn of the children of Israel to die. So before the tenth plague, He explained to Moses and Aaron just what the people should do so their firstborn would be safe and would not be killed. Let's read in the Word what Moses told the children of Israel to do, and what happened afterward.

3. Read Exodus 12:21-31, 37, 51.

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### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who was raised up by the Lord to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt? (Moses)
2. The Lord gave Moses power to bring ten plagues upon the Egyptians. What was the reason for the plagues? (To convince Pharaoh to let the people go into the wilderness to hold a feast to the Lord)
3. Can you name the ten plagues? (Water into blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence [disease] on livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of firstborn)
4. What did the Lord say the children of Israel should do to save their own firstborn from the tenth plague? (Sprinkle the doorposts and lintel of their houses with the blood of a lamb as a sign that these houses were to be passed over when the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed.)
5. What is the name of the feast that the Lord commanded the children of Israel to have on the night the tenth plague struck? (Passover)
6. The Passover feast not only marked the Hebrews' deliverance from the tenth plague, but it also marked the end of their slavery in Egypt. Do you remember how many children of Israel there were when Jacob moved his household from Canaan to Egypt during the famine? (70) And how many men left Egypt, led by Moses, just a couple hundred years later? (600,000, and children)

### D. Further Ideas

1. If the children of Israel had gone back to the Holy Land after the famine was over as they should have, they would never have become slaves in Egypt, and they wouldn't have spent so many years in hardship and suffering.
2. Does it seem like Pharaoh was awfully slow to learn his lesson before he finally let the children of Israel go? It took ten awful plagues to convince him he was wrong to keep them in Egypt! Don't you think, if you'd been Pharaoh, you'd have let the people go much sooner instead of going through so much misery first? But think--when we get in trouble because we've done something wrong, don't we usually decide to be good and not do it again? And then, when the trouble is over, somehow we forget about our plans to be good, and we do the same bad thing again and again— just like Pharaoh!
3. The Jews still celebrate the Passover every year, but Christians don't. Do you know why? Because, when the Lord was on earth, He gave us a new feast to take the place of the Passover. That feast is called the Holy Supper. The Jews celebrate the Passover to remind them that the Lord delivered them from slavery in Egypt. We celebrate the Holy Supper to remind us that the Lord delivered us from the hells by His life on earth.

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### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "Go Down, Moses" (A spiritual - text loosely from Exodus)
2. "I pray Thee, Lord, to guide my ways," Hymnal #169

#### B. Activities

#### C. Project: BOOK OF THE TEN PLAGUES

1. Before Class: Cut white 9 X 12 construction or drawing paper in half widthwise (6 X 9 sheets). You'll need 11 sheets per child. If you plan to use paper fasteners to bind the pages, punch the holes now (2 will do).
2. In Class: List the 10 plagues in order on the chalkboard (or, lacking that, on a poster board). Provide felt markers, colored pencils, or crayons. One frog or locust on a page is fine for the younger or less artistically inclined students; others may enjoy graphically illustrating how the beds and bowls were filled with frogs, etc.! The 11<sup>th</sup> page is a cover for the book, which could be entitled, THE TEN PLAGUES and perhaps could include a portion of text also, such as, "And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the Lord had said." (Ex. 7:22) (Text slips could be photocopies for the children to glue onto their title pages, or they can copy the text from the teacher's sample.)

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of Moses and Aaron confronting Pharaoh, and of any/all of the plagues.
- B. A picture of a louse and a locust (dictionary, encyclopedia, books on insects) so children will have an idea what it is they are being asked to draw.

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 2, "The Ten Plagues," (Ex. 7-10), pp. 51-45 (especially "Notes for Parents" and the Junior level).
- B. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 2, "The Passover," (Ex. 12), pp. 46-61 (especially "Notes for Parents" and the Junior level).