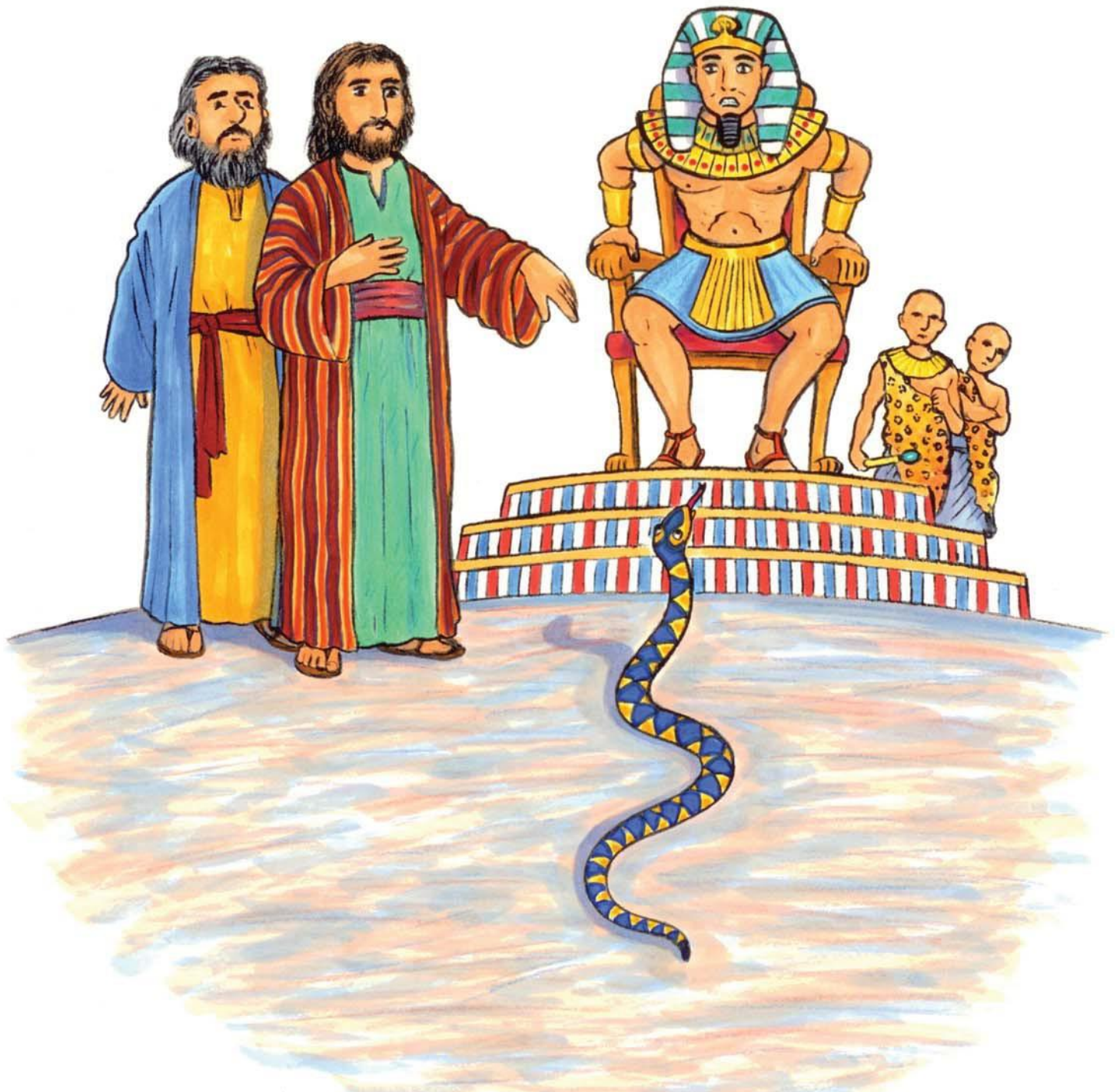


THE TEN PLAGUES

Exodus 5–12



Contents

Message	God has a plan of salvation and fulfils it.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ God wanted the Israelites to be free from the slavery of the Egyptians.■ Moses did what God asked of him and finally the Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt.
Bible Text	Exodus 5-12

The Ten Plagues



Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "The Lord God of Israel says, 'Let My people go'."

The Pharaoh replied, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." After Moses and Aaron left, the Pharaoh demanded even more from the people of Israel. He expected the Israelites to make the same number of bricks per day, but they now also had to collect the straw needed to make the bricks themselves.

The workers were very tired. It was impossible to do as the king wished. When they failed, the Israelites were beaten and punished. Angrily, they blamed Moses for their hardship. Moses was very sad. His heart went out to his people.

Moses turned to God in prayer, who answered him. "I am your God. I will rescue My people from the Egyptians cruelty. Go now to Pharaoh again and speak to him."

Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh once again. Moses explained that it is God's will that the Israelites be released. Aaron threw the staff at the king's feet and the staff turned into a snake. Pharaoh immediately called his own magicians. They also changed their staffs into snakes. Even when Aaron's snake swallowed the snakes of the magicians, Pharaoh's heart was not moved.

Moses and Aaron met the Pharaoh for a third time at the Nile River. Moses said, "King of Egypt, my God has once again sent me to speak to you. Allow my people to leave this land." Pharaoh was very angry and wanted to send Moses and Aaron away. Moses continued speaking, "God is mightier than you." Aaron hit the water with his staff and it turned red. All the water in Egypt turned red. However, Pharaoh still did not obey the word of Moses. God sent nine more plagues. After the water turned red, the fish died, and the people dug desperately for fresh water to drink.

Next, thousands of frogs appeared everywhere. Afterwards lice covered both man and animal and then huge swarms of flies covered the land. The livestock became sick across the entire land. Many of the Egyptians' cattle died. But not one of the cattle that belonged to the Israelites was affected. Suddenly the people of Egypt were affected with blisters and sores appeared all over their bodies, followed by a furious hailstorm that damaged their fields. Soon afterwards, the trees and plants that survived were eaten by big swarms of locusts. Then, total darkness followed that lasted for three days.

Finally, Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go. But the animals stay here." Moses replied, "But what shall we live on then? What shall we use to offer as sacrifices to God? We will take our animals with us!"

Angrily Pharaoh shouted, "The Israelites may not leave Egypt. Get out of my palace and do not let me see you again otherwise I will have you killed!"

God revealed to Moses and Aaron what they must do. Every Hebrew family was asked to slaughter a lamb and smear some of the blood on the door. Everyone was instructed to be ready for a journey, with belts on, sandals on their feet, and staffs in their hands. Then the Israelites were to celebrate with roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and herbs.

That night all firstborn children in Egypt died. The night was called Passover because the Israelites who followed God's instructions to smear blood on their doorposts were spared—the plague of death passed over their homes.

Finally, after the last plague, the Pharaoh told Moses that the Israelites and their flocks could leave Egypt.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel.... Let some of the children play the change of water to blood in a role-play. Instruct them before. Provide disguise / fancy dress and a bowl of water, red juice, drinking glass. Sing with the children an appropriate song. (E.g. "When Israel was in Egypt's land...")

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What happens when Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh to ask for the Israelites to leave? (Pharaoh becomes very angry, refuses to let them go, makes them work even harder.)
- What does God send as an answer to this? (Nine terrible plagues over Egypt)
- Are the Israelites also afflicted from the plagues? (No. They are spared from them.)
- How do you think the Pharaoh feels when Aaron's rod turns into a snake?
- What is the last plague? (That night all firstborn children in Egypt die.)
- How do you think the Israelites feel during the last plague? (Thankful to God, strengthened)

Have the children repeat...

- God wanted the Israelites to be free from the slavery of the Egyptians.
- Moses did what God asked him to do.
- Finally, the Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites leave Egypt.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- God protected the Israelites from the plagues.
- When we trust and obey God we will be helped through difficulties.
- God had a plan that began when Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden when He promised a Redeemer. Nothing stopped Him from fulfilling this.
- What is His plan with us? (To save us till the day His Son returns. Nothing will stop Him.)

<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat the Message God has a plan of salvation and fulfils it.</p>
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