

# The Ten Plagues

---

Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 7–12

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 7:5

OPTIONAL VIDEO

Moses and the Exodus

<https://southside.cc/732-476>

---

*God shows his power to set his people free.*

## For the Teacher

Read this before you teach. Last week the kids learned that God goes with the people he calls. Today they see what happens when God's called man — Moses — actually walks into Pharaoh's throne room. The answer is ten plagues, an empire on its knees, and a people walking out of Egypt for the first time in four hundred years.

### KEY TRUTH

God shows his power to set his people free.

**The plagues are not random punishments.** They are revelations. Exodus 7:5 says, “The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” That verse is the engine of these chapters. Each plague targets something the Egyptians worshiped — the Nile (Hapi), the sun (Ra), Pharaoh himself — and shows it powerless next to the God of Israel. The plagues are God making himself known. They are also how he sets his people free. Both at once.

**Pharaoh's hard heart.** The text uses two phrases — “Pharaoh hardened his heart” and “the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart.” Both are true. Pharaoh chose stubbornness over and over, and God let that stubbornness run its course so his power could be on full display. You don't need to untangle this for the kids. What they need: Pharaoh kept saying no, and God kept being God anyway.

**Don't read all ten plagues out loud.** Twenty-something verses across five chapters is too much for forty-five minutes. Read the setup (Exodus 7:1-5), pick three plagues to read in the kids' Bibles (the first, one in the middle, and the ninth), then summarize the arc and land on the Passover and the exodus.

**The Passover is the climax, not a footnote.** Exodus 12 is where this story has been pointing the whole time. God's people are saved by the blood of a lamb on their doorposts. Christian kids should hear the echo to Jesus — but keep it simple: God made a way for his people to be safe.

**What we're skipping and why.** Pharaoh's magicians copying the first two plagues, the specific judgment on Egyptian gods, and the plundering of Egypt all get left for another year. Today is the big shape: God showed his power, Pharaoh kept saying no, and God set his people free.

**Repeat the bottom line all morning.** Say it at least six times.

### MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- A small handful of dominos (for the object lesson)
- Activity sheets (printed in advance from this week's activities — pick what you'll use)

## 1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them today's story is one many of them might already know — but it's bigger and more important than they think.

### ASK

*Who do you think is the most powerful person in the world? A president? A king? A really strong superhero?*

Let two or three kids answer. Then tell them: today we're going to read about a king named Pharaoh who thought he was the most powerful person in the world — and we're going to see what happens when the real most-powerful one shows up.

Write the bottom line on the board:

SAY

*God shows his power to set his people free.*

## 2. The Story

### Setting the Stage

Last week ended with God calling Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand that God's people go free. Tell the kids, in your own words: Moses went. He stood in front of the most powerful man in the world and said, "God says, let my people go." Pharaoh said no. So God told Moses there would be plagues — bad things — that would happen to Egypt until Pharaoh changed his mind. Pharaoh would hear the message not just from Moses, but from the whole country falling apart around him.

### The Reason for the Plagues

Have everyone open to Exodus 7. Pick a confident reader.

#### Exodus 7:1–5

Look at verse 5 closely.

#### DISCUSSION

1. Read verse 5 again. What does God say will happen because of the plagues?

→ *"The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD."*

2. So what are the plagues for?

→ *To show Egypt who God really is. They aren't just punishments — they're how God proves he's God.*

3. What else are they for? Look at verse 4 again.

→ *To bring God's people out of Egypt.*

Write on the board: **Two purposes — Egypt knows God; God's people go free.**

### The Ten Plagues — A Quick Tour

Tell the kids: the plagues took weeks. We can't read all of them today, but here's the list. Write or call out the ten:

1. Nile turned to blood
2. Frogs everywhere
3. Gnats everywhere
4. Flies everywhere
5. The Egyptians' livestock died
6. Boils on people and animals
7. Hailstorms that destroyed crops
8. Locusts that ate what was left
9. Three days of total darkness
10. The death of every firstborn son

Now pick three to read in the Bibles. Have a student read each.

#### Exodus 7:20–21

(The Nile turns to blood.)

### Exodus 9:23–24

(Hail like Egypt has never seen.)

### Exodus 10:21–23

(Three days of darkness — but the Israelites have light.)

#### DISCUSSION

1. Look at Exodus 10:23 again. What was different about where God's people lived during the darkness?

→ *They had light. The plague hit Egypt, but not Israel. God was already protecting his own people.*

2. After plague after plague, what did Pharaoh keep doing?

→ *Saying no. Refusing to let the people go.*

3. Why didn't God just stop after the first plague?

→ *Because both purposes had to happen — Egypt needed to know God is the LORD, and his people needed to be set free. Pharaoh's "no" kept making the demonstration bigger.*

#### The Passover

This is the climax. Slow down. Tell the kids: the tenth plague was the worst. God told Moses that on a certain night, the firstborn son in every Egyptian household would die. But God gave his people a way to be safe. He told them to kill a lamb, put its blood on the doorposts of their houses, and stay inside. When the angel of death came through Egypt, he would *pass over* every house with blood on the door. That's why we still call this night Passover.

Have a student read it:

### Exodus 12:12–13

#### ASK

*Whose people were safe?*

*The ones who were inside houses with the lamb's blood on the door.*

#### SAY

*God's people weren't safe because they were better than the Egyptians. They were safe because God provided a way — through the blood of a lamb. Hold onto that. It's a picture that's going to come back later when we read about Jesus.*

#### Pharaoh Finally Lets Them Go

### Exodus 12:31–32

#### ASK

*What did Pharaoh finally say?*

*"Go." After ten plagues, the most powerful king in the world told God's people to leave.*

### 3. The Point

#### The Object Lesson

Hold up a stack of dominos and stand them up in a line on a flat surface. Tip the first one over and let them all fall. Tell the kids: the plagues were like this. God said one thing — “let my people go” — and Egypt fell apart until Pharaoh listened. God’s power isn’t just strength. It’s the kind of power that does what it says it’s going to do.

Read again:

#### SCRIPTURE

*Exodus 7:5*

*The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.*

#### Memory Verse

Read it together three ways: all together normally, all together in a whisper, and all together with both hands raised.

Then tell the kids: Pharaoh thought he was the most powerful person in the world. He wasn’t. God showed Egypt who he was, and he set his people free. Both things at once. That’s what God’s power does.

Say the bottom line one more time, with the kids:

#### SAY

*God shows his power to set his people free.*

#### Closing Prayer

#### PRAY

*God, you are stronger than any king. You showed Egypt who you are, and you set your people free. Thank you for being a God who keeps his promises and answers his people. When we feel small or stuck, help us remember that you are the LORD, and that nothing is too big for you. Amen.*

### 4. The Work

Pick one or more activities from this week’s menu. Print enough copies for each kid in advance.

The menu for this week:

- **Ten Plagues** — coloring page laying out all ten plagues in a numbered grid.
- **God’s Power** — word search with names, places, and the plagues themselves (includes a sneak peek of next week).
- **Who Is the LORD?** — drawing prompt about a time God showed his power.
- **Remember the Plagues** — fill-in-the-blanks recall using the kids’ Bibles.

The full production specs for each activity are in this week’s activities file.

#### NOTE

While the kids work, sit with them. Reinforce the bottom line one more time before class ends.

## What Comes Next Week

God's people are out of Egypt — but Pharaoh changes his mind and sends his army after them. They end up trapped between an army and a sea, and that's where God shows that he doesn't just deliver. He fights for his people.