

MOSES/PLAGUES



THINK ABOUT IT:

How is God in control?

Introduction

Explain to the children that God gave Pharaoh ten chances to let His people go. God kept showing His power in the forms of plagues, but Pharaoh refused to listen and free the Israelites. Each of the plagues affected the Egyptians, while the Israelites were increasingly protected from the plagues. God was in control and protected them! We are going to explore the plagues in some fun games.

Message

1. Divide the class into their small groups. ***Each small group can designate who will compete in each challenge.***
2. ***Challenge #1 Frogs.*** Show the visual of the frogs. Say, “God sent so many frogs, they covered the ground. You couldn’t move without stepping on one.”
3. Have the children doing challenge #1 stand up. Have them do as many frog jumps as they can in 30 seconds.
4. ***Challenge #2 Gnats, Flies, and Locusts.*** Show the visual of the flies. Say, “God sent gnats and flies and locusts. They covered the surfaces and ate the crops.”
5. Have the small group leaders give the children doing challenge #2 a small plate with rice, a tweezers, and an empty plate. Have them move one grain of rice at a time from one plate to the other. Time for 30 seconds.
6. ***Challenge #3 Dead Livestock.*** Show the visual of the animals/boils. Say, “God killed all of the livestock: cows, goats, horses, pigs, and sheep.”
7. Have the small group leaders give the children doing challenge #3 a set of animal memory cards and have them place the cards face down. Have the children make as many matches as they can in 30 seconds.
8. ***Challenge #4 Boils.*** Say, “God covered the Egyptians with painful sores called boils.”



SCRIPTURE

Exodus 7 - 12

Exodus 14



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Box of plague materials for each small group: two small plates, tweezers, animal memory cards *, red dot stickers, six cotton balls, rice
- Visuals - Nile turned to blood, Plague of frogs, Flies, Animals/boils, Hail, Locusts/darkness, Death of firstborn *
- Pie pan for each small group
- Pepper
- Water
- Paper towels
- Dish soap

* Available in the Member Toolbox



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Fill pie pans half full of water and sprinkle a coating of pepper on top.
- Place a drop of dish soap on each paper towel.
- Review the parting of the Red Sea story and science experiment.

9. Have the small group leaders give the children doing challenge #4 a sheet of red dots. Have them put all the red dots on their small group leader in under 30 seconds.
10. *Challenge #5 Hail.* Show the visual of the hail. Say, “God sent hail to cover the land and destroy any living plant in Egypt.”
11. Have the small group leaders give the children doing challenge #5 six cotton balls. Have them stand about the same distance from the container the supplies were in. Have them try to get all the cotton balls into container in under 30 seconds.
12. Tell the children there are three plagues we won’t be playing a game with. Show the visuals of the Nile turned to blood, the darkness, and the death of the firstborn and briefly describe each plague.
13. Reinforce that, with each plague, God showed He was in control by increasingly protecting the Israelites.
14. Say, “After the death of Pharaoh’s first born son, Pharaoh let the Israelites go.”

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Say, “The next part of our story comes from Exodus 14. Because of the water on the table, I’m going to tell it instead of reading it directly from the Bible.”
2. Say, “After Pharaoh let the Israelites go, they faced another obstacle—the Red Sea. The water was deep and they didn’t have boats to cross. To top it off, Pharaoh had changed his mind and sent his army to hunt down the Israelites. What were they to do? Moses prayed to God for help. God told Moses to hold up his staff. Then God did something miraculous—He parted the water so the Israelites could cross through the sea bed on dry ground! Pharaoh’s army was following close behind. Guess what happened next? (Let children make some guesses). God let the water go and all of Pharaoh’s army drowned in the sea. God’s people were safe and dry on the other side.”
3. Say, “I’m going to do an experiment to help us remember that God is in control. Let’s pretend the pepper is the Red Sea. See if you can part it.”
4. Let the children try to part the pepper by drawing a line through it. The pepper will always return to the middle.
5. After all the children have tried, add a little dish soap to your finger. Say, “Let’s pretend my finger is God.” Run your finger through the pepper. The soap will change the surface tension of the water and the pepper will stay parted.
6. Say, “When God set His people free and parted the Red Sea so they could safely cross, the Israelites learned that God is in control. He still is.”
7. Say, “Give me an example of how God was in control in our stories today.”
8. Ask, “How is God in control today? Do you trust that God is still in control?”