



God Sent Plagues on Egypt; God Passed Over Israel

OVERVIEW

This lesson presents God's sovereignty, omniscience and omnipotence in bringing the plagues on Egypt. It shows His holiness, grace and mercy in His deliverance of Israel through the Passover.

Some points:

- God's sovereignty, omniscience and omnipotence—
He used Pharaoh's resistance to display God's sovereign power to deliver Israel.
- God's faithfulness —
He preserved Israel and the line of the Deliverer.
- Man's inability to save himself —
The Israelites could not save themselves; God had to make a way to save them.
- The Passover — a type of Jesus Christ —
You will want to teach carefully the details of the Passover which are presented in this lesson so you can use them later in presenting the Gospel.

LESSON PREPARATION

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 5:1,2; 6:1-8; 7:4,5; 11:1,4-7;
12:1-7,12-14, 22, 28-36,46

LESSON GOALS:

- To show God's sovereignty, faithfulness and omnipotence.
- To show that the penalty for sin is death.
- To show that God provides a way of escape for those who trust Him.
- To present the Passover so that it may be referred to later as a type of Christ.

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- To see God's sovereignty.
- To see the seriousness of sin.
- To see that God honors His promises and cares for those who believe Him.
- To see that they are helpless to save themselves from God's judgment.

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:

What a tremendous story this is! We live in a day when many "religious scholars" are repulsed by any emphasis on blood. God was not repulsed by it; rather, He tells us in this passage that only those protected by the blood of a lamb would be spared the loss of their firstborn. Not only was the lamb's blood spilled out, it was also applied to the top and the sides of the door frame of each house.

We who know the story of the Lamb of God realize the tremendous implications of this passage in Exodus. Indeed, we too are spared the wrath of God because, by faith, we have been placed under the protection of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But many reject this simple but eternally profound truth. Like Pharaoh, who trusted in his own power and the power of his false gods, people refuse to humble themselves to believe God.

The simplicity of God's provision is still a stumbling block for men. We live in a time of constant urging to be the "greatest" and to "do it your way." Pharaoh realized too late that he was not the greatest, nor could he do it his way. Your students will no doubt one day have to confront these very issues. The god of this world teaches children and adults to put self first and not to allow God or anyone to tell them what to do.

Trust God to open the children's eyes and hearts to believe the truth.



VISUALS:

- Chronological Picture No. 27, "Passover Blood Applied to the Doorposts"
- Chronological Picture No. 28, "Pharaoh and His Dead Son"
- Chronological Chart
- Poster 1, "Learning About God" — Use this to emphasize themes.
- Poster 11, "Israel"
- Realistic, stuffed, toy lamb

SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- Make copies for your class of the **Lesson 22 Review Sheet** and **Skit 22** (at the end of this lesson). Provide pencils for the children.
- Prepare for any activity you select from the **Suggestions for Activities** (at the end of this lesson). As you select activities, remember to allow sufficient time to teach the outlined lesson material.

ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. Each lesson builds on previous lessons, so be sure to cover each point carefully.

DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study — not an exhaustive survey of the Bible. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS
(Center Column Only)

LESSON OUTLINE:

REVIEW Lesson 21, using Lesson 22 Review Sheet.

PERFORM Skit 22. Note: "Uncle Don's" part should be read by an adult.

Note: This lesson covers some large portions of Scripture. To conserve time and keep the children's interest, the teacher may want to read the longer passages. Encourage the children to follow along in their Bibles as you read. Give them opportunity to read the shorter passages.

A. Introduction

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt by a powerful Pharaoh. But God was going to make a way for them to be delivered!

B. Pharaoh refused to obey God's command given through Moses and Aaron.



Theme: God communicates with man.



Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.



READ Exodus 5:1,2.

God used Moses and Aaron to speak to the king of Egypt, but Pharaoh refused to obey the Lord's command.

(Note: Pharaoh was the title given to all the rulers of Egypt during this time in history.)

Pharaoh did not know the only true and living God and Creator of the whole earth.

The Egyptians did not worship God; they worshiped the things that God had made.

- They worshiped the Nile, the largest river in their country.
- They also worshiped the sun, moon, and many different kinds of animals.
- They had many, many gods.
- They also worshiped Pharaoh, their king, as a god.

Most of the people of the world had deliberately turned away from the true knowledge of God.

God had called Abraham and had made him the father of the nation of Israel.

SHOW POSTER, "ISRAEL."

- God did this so that, through Israel, He could preserve the true knowledge of God.
- Through Israel, God planned to make known the truth about Himself to everyone in the world.
- The truth about God is in the Bible, which God gave through the Israelites.

God would have taught the truth about Himself to the king of Egypt, but Pharaoh did not want to listen.

C. Through Pharaoh's rebellion, the Lord purposed to show Israel that He was their God.



Theme: God communicates with man.

The Israelites living in Egypt at this time had not seen the Lord's greatness and power.

- They had only heard about the Lord and what He had done for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
- Now the Lord was going to use this evil Pharaoh to show God's power and wisdom to these Israelites.



READ Exodus 6:1-8.

D. Through Pharaoh's rebellion, the Lord planned to show the Egyptians that He alone is the true and living God.



Theme: God communicates with man.

God also planned to show the Egyptians that:

Only He is the true and living God with power over the whole earth.

The gods whom they trusted and worshiped were unable to protect them from the true God — the God of Israel.

— Consider:

The Egyptians were very intelligent, skilled people: some were writers, mathematicians, chemists, military and government leaders, architects, artists, craftsmen, etc. But they were totally blind in their view of God. Even though they held Israel in slavery, the Egyptians themselves were the ones enslaved — they were enslaved to Satan.



Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

Pharaoh was determined to fight against God.

Therefore, God planned to use this wicked king to display His mighty power and terrible judgment on all who rebel against Him.



READ Exodus 7:4,5.

No one who fights against God can win or escape punishment.

E. The Lord sent nine plagues on Egypt.



Theme: God is all-powerful.

Because the king of Egypt refused to release the Israelites, the Lord began to show His great power.¹

Because of time, we will not read all the details of what happened.

But if you want to take the time on your own, you will find the story in Exodus 7:14-10:29.

- First, the Lord turned the water in the Nile River (and all the streams, lakes and canals) into blood.
- Next, He sent plagues of frogs, lice (gnats) and flies.
- Then God caused the Egyptians' horses, cattle, sheep, camels and donkeys to become sick.
- Next, the Lord caused all the Egyptians to have terrible boils.
- This was followed by a terrible hailstorm, a plague of locusts, and three days of thick darkness in all the places where the Egyptians were living.

Pharaoh and the Egyptian people could not save themselves from these terrible plagues sent by the Lord.

¹ We want to devote the class time to the major themes of this lesson, so we will not read the biblical account of the plagues. Be sure to state that this is a true story, as recorded for us in the Bible. □

Neither could their false gods save them.

— Note:

Each of the plagues pointed to one of the false gods of the Egyptians: for example, their frog god, their sun god, and their storm god. God was showing the Egyptians that He is the only true God.



Theme: God is loving, merciful and gracious.

If God had not been merciful and loving to the Israelites, they, too, would have suffered the plagues.

But He protected the Israelites so that none of these terrible things happened to any of them, even though they were living nearby in the same country.

— The Lord didn't protect the Israelites because they were without sin or because they deserved His care.

— He protected them because of His love, mercy and grace.



Theme: God is faithful; He always does what He says; He never changes.

— Another reason God protected the Israelites was that God had not forgotten His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



Theme: God is greater than all and more important than all; He is the highest authority.

— God also protected Israel from the plagues so that the king of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was the only true and living God in the whole earth.



Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

With each of the plagues, Pharaoh responded the same way:

— Each time the Lord sent a plague on Egypt, Pharaoh called for Moses and asked him to remove the plague.

— Pharaoh claimed that he would then let Israel go.

— When Pharaoh said that he would allow the Israelites to go free, the Lord removed the plague.

— But as soon as the Lord removed the plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt.

— Every time Pharaoh did this, he became more hard-hearted and proud of himself.

F. The Lord's last judgment on the Egyptians



Theme: God is greater than all and more important than all; He is the highest authority.



Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

Although the Lord had already sent nine terrible plagues on the rebellious Egyptians, Pharaoh still refused to obey the Lord and let the Israelites go free.

God knew all along that Pharaoh would be stubborn and would refuse to release the Israelites.

- Even before He sent Moses back to Egypt, God had told Moses that this would happen.
- God is never surprised by what people do or by what happens.
- He knows everything before it happens, and He always wins, no matter what people say or do.
- This wicked king could not stop God from delivering the descendants of Abraham.

The Lord knew that, after this final plague, Pharaoh would release the Israelites.



READ Exodus 11:1,4-7.

G. The Lord's instructions to Moses



Theme: God communicates with man.

God told Moses how the Israelites must prepare for the final and most terrible plague of all.



Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.

The Israelites were also sinners and deserved to die for their sins.



Theme: God is loving, merciful and gracious.

They also would have suffered through this last terrible judgment if it had not been for the Lord's mercy and grace.



Theme: God is faithful; He always does what He says: He never changes.

God remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- God had promised to take Abraham's descendants back to the land which God had given to them.
- It was now God's chosen time to do this.

This is what the Lord told Moses that the Israelites must do in order to save their firstborn children from death.

1. They must choose a lamb without blemish.



Theme: God is holy and righteous.



READ Exodus 12:1-5.

- The head of each home had to choose a lamb or goat. The lamb or goat had to be perfect.

SHOW THE STUFFED, TOY LAMB.

- Recall:

Do you remember the ram that was to be offered instead of Isaac? It was caught by the horns in a thorny bush. Why

Genesis
15:13-16

was it caught by the horns? God is perfect, and everything that He says and does is perfect. He would never accept as an offering an animal that was sick or hurt.

2. They must kill the lamb and catch its blood in a basin.

Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

READ Exodus 12:6.

The chosen lamb was to be kept until the fourteenth day of the month.

They were to kill the lamb in the evening of that day.

The lamb must die. Its blood, on which its life depended, must be allowed to flow out. This was to remind the Israelites that the punishment for sin is death.

— Recall:

Until Adam and Eve sinned, there was no death in the world. But when Adam and Eve were separated from God because of their disobedience, God said that their bodies must also die. All of Adam and Eve's descendants were born sinners, separated from God. That is why all people must also die physically, including you and me.

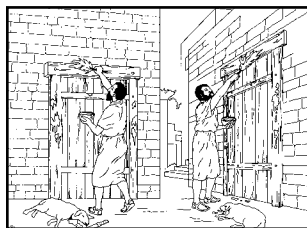
— Explain:

When the Israelites killed the lambs and the blood flowed out, the people were reminded that the punishment for sin is death. Just as the ram died instead of Isaac, the perfect lambs which were chosen and killed by the Israelites died instead of their firstborn children.

3. They must place the blood on both of the doorposts and above the door.

Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.

Suggested Visual:



CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE NO. 27,
"PASSOVER BLOOD APPLIED TO
THE DOORPOSTS"

READ Exodus 12:7.

God told the Israelites to catch the blood in a basin.

Then they were to take a small branch of a certain bush and dip it into the blood.

With this branch they were to put the blood on the doorposts and over the door of the house where they were going to be eating the lamb that night.

It was the blood of the lamb on the doorpost that would save the firstborn from God's judgment.

4. They must stay inside the house on which they had placed the blood.

They must not go out of the house until the morning.



READ Exodus 12:22.

— Explain:

The Israelites were to stay inside their houses on which they had placed the blood. It was just as if they were to hide behind the death and blood of the lamb which God said they must kill in place of the firstborn.

5. They must not break any of the lamb's bones.

They were not to break the bones of the lamb.



READ Exodus 12:46.



Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.

These were God's instructions to Israel.

They had to do everything exactly as the Lord had told Moses.

— Recall:

God has always been the same. He will not let people save themselves in their own way. Do you remember that He refused to accept the clothing that Adam and Eve made for themselves in the garden of Eden? God also refused the offering that Cain brought because it was not according to His instructions. God told Noah to make the ark exactly as He had instructed him. In the same way, everything had to be done by the Israelites exactly as God had instructed Moses.

H. The Lord's promise to the Israelites



READ Exodus 12:12-14.

God promised the Israelites that when He saw the blood on their houses, He would not allow the plague to enter and kill their firstborn.

I. Israel's faith and obedience



Theme: Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved.

— Consider:

How would you feel if this was going to happen here? You can imagine the tremendous fear of God that swept through the Israelites! They knew God meant what He said. They believed and obeyed the Lord.



READ Exodus 12:28.



Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.

— Consider:

What do you think would have happened if an Israelite had said, "It's a shame to kill this good lamb. I won't kill it. I will just tie it up at the door. God will see the living lamb, and He will not kill my child by the plague." Do you think God would have passed by the firstborn of that house?

No! The lamb had to die. The blood must be shed. They must not forget that the punishment for sin is death. It all had to be done the way God had told Moses.

The Israelites were to **trust in God.**

He told them that when He saw the blood on the doorposts of their houses, their firstborn children and the firstborn of their livestock would not die.

J. All the Egyptians' firstborn died.



Theme: Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself.



Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.



READ Exodus 12:29,30.

Suggested Visual:



CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE NO. 28,
"PHARAOH AND HIS DEAD SON"

Every firstborn Egyptian child and the firstborn of all the Egyptians' livestock died.



Theme: God is faithful; He always does what He says: He never changes.

The Lord passed through Egypt just as He said He would.

- He always does what He says.
- When God decides to punish sinners, there is no way to escape.

Because the Israelites had put the blood on their houses in obedience to the Lord, not one of their firstborn children or livestock died.

— God said He would destroy the firstborn in the Egyptian homes, and He did.

— He said He would pass over every house where He saw the blood, and He did.

— God always does what He says.

— Consider:

Had Pharaoh been warned? Yes! He had! All of the other nine plagues that the Lord had promised to send had come.

Hebrews
2:2, 3

Deuteronomy
7:9, 10

K. Pharaoh told the Israelites to go.



Theme: God is greater than all and more important than all; He is the highest authority.



READ Exodus 12:31-36.

Pharaoh called Moses that very night and told him to take the Israelites out of Egypt.

Pharaoh thought that he could fight against God, but no one can fight against the Lord and win.

Do you remember God's promises to Abraham?

SHOW POSTER, "SOME OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM."

Four hundred years had passed, and now the Egyptians were actually giving gold and silver to their slaves, the Israelites.

And the Egyptians were telling them to leave at once!

God never forgets His promises.

L. Conclusion

The Lord delivered His people just as He had promised He would.

God will punish those who fight against Him, but He will show His mercy to those who trust Him.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did God plan to use the wicked Pharaoh? *God planned to use this proud king to show everyone that the God of Israel is the only true and living God and that He is almighty.*

2. How did the Lord show His power? *The Lord sent great and terrible plagues on the Egyptians.*
3. Why didn't these plagues also come on the Israelites?
 - a. *Because of the Lord's love and grace.*
 - b. *Because God had not forgotten His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that He would make their descendants into a great nation and that He would be their God.*
 - c. *So that the king of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was the only true and living God in the whole earth.*
4. Did the Israelites deserve to be protected like this? *No, they, too, were sinners and deserved God's judgment.*
5. What was the last judgment which God sent on the Egyptians? *God sent a plague which killed the firstborn in every Egyptian family and the firstborn of all their livestock.*
6. What did God tell the Israelites to do so their firstborn children would not die?
 - a. *They must choose a lamb without blemish.*
 - b. *They must kill the lamb and catch its blood in a basin.*
 - c. *They must place the blood on both doorposts and above the door.*
 - d. *They must stay inside the house on which they had placed the blood.*
 - e. *They must not break any of the lamb's bones.*
7. What would have happened if the Israelites had not done everything exactly as God instructed Moses? *Their firstborn children would also have been killed.*
8. Who is the only One who can tell us how we can come to God and be accepted by Him? *God.*
9. What happened in the Egyptian homes on that night when God said that He would kill the firstborn of every family? *God killed them just as He said He would.*
10. What was God's promise to the Israelites? *God promised them that when He saw the blood on the doorposts and over their doors, He would pass over them.*
11. What happened to the Israelites? *All of their children were safe. None of them died.*
12. What did Pharaoh, the king, tell Moses after the Egyptians' firstborn children died? *Pharaoh told Moses to take all the Israelites out of Egypt.*

LESSON 22 — Suggestions for Activities

Be sure to allow time to teach the lesson first!

Listed below are carefully designed activities which will help reinforce and focus on the themes you have taught in the lesson. Choose from this list whatever best suits your students and prepare ahead accordingly. The children may participate in these activities during the time remaining after the lesson has been taught.

1. Memory Verse — Nahum 1:7

As the children memorize this verse, reinforce God's goodness, His love and mercy, and the need for us to trust in Him alone for deliverance.

2. Worship the Creator

Discuss: What did the people of Egypt worship? (Created things, such as the sun, moon, animals, their pharaoh, the Nile River.)

Who does the Bible say is the only One we should worship? (God, the Creator.)

Provide art supplies and have the children make a poster, dividing it into two columns. On one side write the words: Egypt worshiped created things, and have them draw pictures of the created things that Egypt worshiped. On the other side, have them write the words: Worship God, the Creator of all things!

3. Plague Report

(This activity would work well with children who are good readers. It could be done as an assignment for longer classes or home school.)

Assign each child to read the account of one (or more) of the plagues and report briefly to the class on that plague.

Tell them their report should follow this form:

What did God say He would do?

What happened?

Who suffered this plague?

Who did not suffer this plague?

How did the plague stop?

When the reports are given, reinforce God's power, His sovereignty (the plagues only came on the Egyptians), and His faithfulness to do exactly what He says He will do.

4. Whose Side?

On a sheet of poster paper make two columns. At the top of one column, write: God. At the top of the other column, write: Satan.

On separate strips of paper, write the following: (to go under the word Satan) Pharaoh, Egypt, worshiped idols, stubborn, refused God, suffered

plagues, all firstborn died; (to go under God) Israel, Moses, worshiped God, obeyed God, not harmed by plagues, all firstborn lived.

Put these strips of paper in a basket and mix them up. Have the children take turns reaching into the basket and pulling out a strip and reading it to the class. Have the child tell which side the strip should go on and glue it on the poster.

Reinforce that the Israelites could not save themselves from the powerful Pharaoh. Man is a sinner. He needs God and is unable to help himself. God is loving and merciful. God is greater than all. He helps those who trust in Him.

5. The Passover Story

This is a simple way for small children to tell the Passover story. You will need: a toy stuffed lamb, a bowl, a small sprig from a bush (could be artificial), a large drawing of a doorway (might be done on poster or wrapping paper. If you wish, you might have "robes" for the children so they can dress like "Israelites." (Older children could do the same activity with more discussion. Following the skit, the class could read in Exodus 12 the verses portrayed in the skit.)

Ahead of time, put the poster of the doorway on the wall at a height where the children can reach the top of it.

Select six children to play the parts. Assemble the class in front of the "doorway." Tell each child what he is to say, and have them go to the spot in front of this doorway to say their part to the class.

First child (holding the toy stuffed lamb): "God told us to take a perfect lamb for each family."

Second child (holding bowl): "God told us to kill the lamb and catch the lamb's blood in a basin."

Third child (holding sprig of leaves): "God told us to put some of the blood on the doorposts and above the door." (This child will pretend to apply blood to sides and top of the "doorway.")

Fourth child (Standing next to the doorway): "God told us to stay inside the house where we put the blood on the doorway."

Fifth child (Standing next to the doorway): "God told us not to break any of the lamb's bones."

Sixth child (Standing next to the doorway) "We trusted God and did as He said and He passed over all our houses! None of our children died!"

Reinforce that everything must be done God's way. God demands death as the payment for sin.