

Let My People Go!

The Plagues and the Passover
Exodus 7:14-12:32

Character Trait: Responsibility

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will explain the meaning of Passover.
- Children will describe specific tasks for which they are personally responsible.
- Children will discuss how they can help someone in their life with one of their responsibilities.

Supplies:

- *Let My People Go* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Colored construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- White construction paper *(a piece for each child)*
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children to raise their hand if they have ever seen a gnat or a fly. *(Raise your hand also.)* Next, tell the children to cover their eyes with their hands.

SAY: Imagine that the sky all around you is so filled with gnats and flies that you cannot see!

Tell the children to uncover their eyes.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about the time this happened in Egypt—all because Pharaoh would not listen.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who found and named baby Moses?** *(Pharaoh's daughter)*
- **After Moses grew up, what did he do that caused him to flee from Egypt?** *(He killed an Egyptian after he saw the man beating an Israelite.)*
- **How did God speak to Moses?** *(From a burning bush)*
- **What did God tell Moses to do?** *(Go to Egypt and free His people, the Israelites, from slavery)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Let My People Go* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Moses and Aaron told Pharaoh, "The God of the Israelites says you must let His people go free. Otherwise, bad things will happen to you."
- But Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God turned the water in Egypt into blood. No one could drink it.
- Then He filled the Egyptian houses with frogs. Frogs were everywhere!
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God filled the skies of Egypt with gnats. They covered the people like dust.
- Then He struck the land of Egypt with flies.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God killed the animals of Egypt. Horses, donkeys, camels, sheep, cows, and goats all died.
- Then He covered the Egyptian people with sores.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- God sent hail to crush the crops of Egypt. Their barley and flax were destroyed.
- Then He sent locusts to eat what fruit remained.
- Still Pharaoh would not listen.
- So God sent darkness over the land.
- But again, Pharaoh would not listen.
- God said, "I will kill every firstborn son in Egypt, and all the firstborn of the animals."
- "My people must kill a lamb, eat it, and put its blood on their doorposts. I will see the blood and pass over their houses. Those children will not die.
- "You will call this Passover and always remember it."
- The Israelites obeyed God, but the Egyptian firstborn sons died—even Pharaoh's son.
- Finally Pharaoh listened. He let the Israelites go.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh would happen if he did not let God's people go? *(Bad things would happen to Pharaoh.)*

What kinds of things happened when Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go? *(God turned the water into blood, filled the Egyptian houses with frogs, and filled the skies with gnats and flies. God killed the animals of Egypt, covered the Egyptian people with sores, and sent hail to crush their crops. God sent locusts to eat what fruit remained. Then, God killed every firstborn son in Egypt where there was not blood from a lamb on the doorpost.)*

God told the Israelites to call, and always remember, this event,the Passover. Why? *(The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of His people's houses told Him to pass over and not kill the firstborn sons inside.)*

When did Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go? *(After his own son died)*

SAY: God had not forgotten His people, or their suffering, for even one minute. Even while punishing Pharaoh, God made a way to protect the Israelites. He used the blood of a lamb to help identify and protect them. The lamb was a sacrifice.

SAY: A sacrifice is something that is given up (or, in this case, killed) for something more important. Many, many years later, God would provide the ultimate sacrifice to save us all: His Son, Jesus, the lamb of God, who died on the cross to pay the price for our sins.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: A lamb was sacrificed, and its blood protected every Israelite, firstborn son from death. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God. But God provided a sacrifice for us, too: His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross so that we could live forever with God.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews *(point up with both hands)*, **says:**
Let my people go *(cross arms at wrists, then release)*,
so they can worship me *(lift arms up into the air)*.

Exodus 9:1b (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Divide the children into two teams. Have each team hold hands and form a line. Teams should be facing each other with some space between them. Select a child from one team to begin. That child calls out, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send [insert another child's name] right over." Then, that child from the other team must try to break through the other team's line. If successful, the child gets to select one person from the opposing team to join their team. If unsuccessful, the child must join the opposing team. Teams alternate calling people over until one team has all of the children and is declared the winner.

SAY: During the game, each team sent over their players when they were asked to do so. But Pharaoh did the opposite. He refused to let the Israelites go.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Tell the children to silently imagine that they were one of the Israelites that Pharaoh had just freed.

SAY: How do you think the Israelites felt? (Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)

SAY: Great job! The Israelites probably started out frustrated when Pharaoh would not listen to God's order to set His people free. But when Pharaoh finally said they could go, the Israelites likely felt relief and thankfulness. Then, they probably began to think about their new life ahead.

Provide each child with a piece of colored construction paper. Instruct them to rip it into smaller pieces. Share that this process represents all the frustration the Israelites must have felt. Then, provide each child with a white piece of construction paper and glue. Instruct them to create a collage by arranging and gluing down the torn pieces of paper into the form of a picture. Point out that the children took their torn up paper and created something new from it. Share that God had a plan for the Israelites' new life, too.

Character Trait: Responsibility

(10 minutes)

SAY: God made Pharaoh release His people so that they could worship Him. God wants us to release all our fears and worries so that we can worship Him, too.

SAY: Responsibility means taking ownership of or accountability for something. Pharaoh was responsible for keeping the Israelites in slavery. God held him accountable for their suffering, and so he paid the price for not letting them go.

Encourage the children to think more about responsibility by asking the following:

- **Have you been given responsibility at home or at school? What is it?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why is it important to act responsibly?** *(Being responsible is part of having integrity. It is a commitment. Acting responsibly is important because others depend upon you.)*
- **What kinds of responsibilities would you like to have in the future? How can you work towards them?** *(Answers will vary.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a specific person who cares for you *(in your family or in your community)*. What kind of responsibilities does this person have? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

How can you help this person with one of their responsibilities? Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include helping with inside chores such as cleaning, cooking, and childcare. Helping with outdoor chores may include tasks such as gardening, lawn care, and animal care.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Following God does not mean that we will never suffer or go through hardships. It means we are never forgotten and are always cared for, no matter what happens or how we feel. Through Moses, God told Pharaoh to let His people go. By remembering that God always cares for us, we can be responsible for the things God has given us and let go of the worries and things we cannot control.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for never forgetting Your people. Help us to follow through on all our responsibilities so that we may honor You with our actions.
Amen.

Notes