

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

LESSON #8

DATE: October 27, 2019 and November 3, 2019

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: Plagues Upon Egypt (2 of 2)

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 8:20-32; 9:1-35; 10:1-29

AIM: To see how terrible it is to be a stubborn and hard-hearted person, and that we should be good listeners.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Proverbs 8:33 (Hear instruction, and be wise; And do not neglect it.); John 15:14 (You are My friends if you do what I command you.); 2 Corinthians 6:14a, 17 (Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers....Therefore “come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you”);

SUGGESTED SONGS: 5223 *BSS Moses Vol. 1* (Our God Doesn't Give Up); 1614 (Cooperation); 3418 (I Wanna Be Good Ground); 3722 (Jesus, I Am Listening); 65 (God's Word); 173 (To the Foe My Word is Always “No”); 174 (When “Ugly Satan” Knocks at My Heart's Door); 4607 (Moses and God); 2807 (Go Down Moses); 1314 (Brave Moses)

CRAFT IDEAS: Make a memory card game: on cardstock, have the children draw the plagues they have learned so far (#1-9) and a label for each (e.g. “frogs”, “water turned to blood”). Cut into separate pieces and match each image with the associated word. As an extra challenge, match each plague to its sequential number.

BACKGROUND/REVIEW: In the previous lesson we learned that Pharaoh had a hard heart and did not listen to Moses, even though terrible plagues came to the Egyptians. The Lord had caused the river to turn to blood, covered the land with frogs, and caused the dust of the earth to become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. Still, Pharaoh did not listen. This week, we will continue to see how Jehovah sent more plagues because Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

CONTENT: The Fourth Plague—Flies (Exodus 8:20-32). Jehovah told Moses to tell Pharaoh that Jehovah said to let His people go that they may serve Him. If he didn't, He would at once send swarms of flies against him, his servants, his people and his houses. The houses of the Egyptians would be full of flies as well as the ground they would stand on! But He would set apart the land of Goshen, where His people lived, so that no swarms of flies would be there. Pharaoh wouldn't listen, so heavy swarms of flies came into Pharaoh's house and throughout Egypt, and the land was ruined. At Pharaoh's request, Moses prayed to Jehovah and the swarms of flies were removed. But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

The Fifth Plague—Pestilence (Exodus 9:1-7). Jehovah told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go that they may serve Him. If not, His hand would be on Pharaoh's livestock in the field: horses, donkeys, camels, herds and the flocks. He would strike them with a severe pestilence (a contagious sickness that is devastating). But He would make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt. Nothing would die of all that belonged to the children of Israel. The next day, as Jehovah had said, all the livestock of Egypt died! None of the children of Israel's livestock died. But Pharaoh's heart was stubborn, and he did not let the people go.

The Sixth Plague—Boils (9:8-12). Jehovah told Moses and Aaron to take handfuls of ashes from a furnace and have Moses sprinkle it toward heaven in Pharaoh's sight. It would become fine dust over all the land of Egypt and become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast throughout Egypt! But Pharaoh wouldn't listen.

The Seventh Plague—Hail (Exodus 9:13-35). Jehovah told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go that they may serve Him. Jehovah warned that he would cause very heavy hail to fall, which would kill every man and beast that was outside. Indeed, when Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven as Jehovah instructed, Jehovah sent thunder and hail, and fire came down on the earth. The very heavy hail came with fire flashing

continually in the midst of the hail! The hail struck everything that was in the field, both man and beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. It struck all the vegetation of the field and shattered every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. Again, Pharaoh asked Moses to entreat Jehovah; he had enough of God's thunder and hail. Moses prayed and the hail and thunder and rain ceased, but Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he still did not let the children of Israel go.

The Eighth Plague—Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20). Jehovah told Moses to go to Pharaoh again. If Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, He would bring swarming locusts. But Pharaoh was stubborn and wouldn't listen. So Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand over the land of Egypt, and Jehovah drove an east wind upon the land all that day and all night, and in the morning the wind brought the swarming locusts. There had never been so many locusts in Egypt! They covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened. They ate all the vegetation and whatever fruit of the trees that the hail had left; nothing green remained. Pharaoh asked Moses to entreat Jehovah. And Jehovah changed the direction of the wind and all the locusts were driven into the Red Sea. But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he didn't let God's people go.

The Ninth Plague—Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29). Jehovah told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness that could be felt. So there was thick darkness throughout Egypt for three days. They could not see one another, nor did anyone rise up from his place—for three whole days! But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh should have listened for we will see next week that the next plague was the worst of all!

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Note to serving ones: It is not intended that we cover all the suggested applications, but based on prayer and fellowship and the children's response, allow the Lord to lead and consider which applications to cover.*

- **We should be good listeners like Moses and Aaron.** Moses was God's representative, and Aaron his brother was helping Moses. It was very important for Moses to listen carefully to what God was telling him to say and do, and for Moses and Aaron to follow God's instructions. What if they had told Pharaoh the wrong thing, or inaccurately told Pharaoh about what would happen? They would have misrepresented God, and Pharaoh might not have believed them. When our parents ask us to tell our siblings (or anyone else) something, we should listen carefully and convey it accurately. If our teachers tell us to do something, we should listen carefully and do it properly.
- **We should not be stubborn like Pharaoh.** As we heard in this story, Pharaoh was stubborn and refused to give in. Each plague was terrible, yet he did not want to listen. When we get in trouble, we should feel sorry and try not to repeat the same mistake. Otherwise, next time we might get into worse trouble.
- **We should live differently from people who do not know God.** The plagues came upon the land of Egypt, but in the land where the children of Israel were living, they were okay. What if someone from the children of Israel was in the wrong place at the wrong time? We should be in the proper place at the proper time, and stick with friends who do and say proper things. If we see that others in school are fighting, cheating, making fun of others and misbehaving, we should not participate in what they're doing, and even physically separate ourselves so that we don't get into trouble too.

Note to Serving Ones: For additional Lesson Resources for applications and Scripture references, please read: God's Calling in the Old Testament - God Called Moses (3 of 3)—Plagues upon Egypt (March 2017)

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God's Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lesson 2, and from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 5/22/88; 5/29/88; 10/15/95; 10/26/03; 4/9/06; 11/1/09; 11/02/14