

Bible Story 10:

MOSES - PART 2: FREEDOM FOR THE ISRAELITES

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 4:27-31; 5:1-2; 7:10-13,20-21; 8:1-4,16-17,20-21;
9:1-4,8-9,22-23; 10:12, 21; 12:3-8, 23, 29-31, 37, 50-51

MEMORY VERSE: "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, AN EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE."
PSALM 46:1 **NIV**

BIBLE STORY:

God called Moses to lead the Israelite slaves away from Egypt. God had Aaron to help his brother Moses. He gave them instructions on what to say and do. They obeyed God.

Arriving in Egypt, Moses and Aaron reunited with all the elders of the people of Israel. They told them all that God had said. Next, Moses and Aaron went to speak to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and asked him to let the people of God leave Egypt. In front of the king, Moses had Aaron throw his staff down and, through God's power, it turned into a snake. The Egyptian magicians did the same thing, but Aaron's staff swallowed up the others. God was more powerful! The king hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites leave. He became even more cruel to the slaves.

Therefore, God sent the following plagues (disasters) to Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but not to the people of Israel:

THE PLAGUES

- 1ST *Plague of transforming water to blood*
- 2ND *Plague of the frogs*
- 3RD *Plague of the gnats (lice)*
- 4TH *Plague of the flies*
- 5TH *Plague of the livestock dying*
- 6TH *Plague of the boils*

- 7TH *Plague of the hail*
- 8TH *Plague of the locusts*
- 9TH *Plague of the darkness*
- 10TH...

The king had a hard heart. Even after these nine plagues he still would not let the Israelite people leave. With sadness, God prepared a tenth plague. God told Moses to tell each Israelite family to kill a lamb without any defects, then take its blood and put it on the tops and sides of the door frames of their houses. They were to roast the meat and eat it, being prepared to leave immediately. The Israelites obeyed God.

At midnight, the Lord struck down the firstborn, the oldest child, in each family and livestock in Egypt, but passed over the houses that had the blood of the lamb on the doorframes. King Pharaoh cried when his son died and, finally, he gave permission for the Israelite slaves to leave. Trusting in God, Moses quickly led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Through God's power, the Israelites would no longer be cruelly treated as slaves by the Egyptians. God set them free! After living in Egypt for 430 years, they were able to leave for the Promised Land.

LIFE-LESSONS:

1. Pharaoh and the Egyptians did not let the Israelites leave Egypt. Only after the last plague did they let them leave. They fought against God's will, but could not win. Do not fight against God. Seek to do his will in your life. God will always win.
2. Moses and the Israelites trusted God to help them have victory. Obeying and trusting God, they left Egypt for the Promised Land. Obey and trust God. Pray and ask God for his help when facing problems. God will help you.
3. The New Testament presents Jesus as the Lamb of God. As the blood on each doorframe saved the Israelites, Jesus dying on the cross saves those who believe in him as their Lord and Savior. Believe and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are plagues? What are some of the plagues that God sent to the people in Egypt?
2. Why did God send the plagues?
3. Do you think it took courage for Moses to go to the king of Egypt to ask him to let the Israelites leave and then to tell him about the plagues God was sending? Why? Who did Moses trust to help him?
4. What are some problems and/or natural disasters that you, your family and friends have had or are facing?
5. Who are some people that can help you face and resolve these problems?
6. How can God help you face and overcome your problems?
7. Did the king of Egypt want to let the Israelite people leave Egypt? Was he fighting against God's will? Why did Pharaoh finally let them go? Who was more powerful: the king of Egypt or God?
8. Can you fight against God's will? Why? What are some things we can do to follow God's will?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Talk about different insects, explaining how insects can help or destroy crops. If possible, show a book, illustrating different kind of insects and their characteristics. Then explain that today's story is about God sending some insects in order to get a king to let some slaves free.
- Then tell the Bible story about Moses and the Ten Plagues.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

VIDEO / DVD:

- Option 1: Show a video or DVD on insects, their characteristics and habitat. Discuss the film. Explain how each insect may be helpful or harmful. Discuss ways to protect oneself from different kinds of insects and what to do if bitten.
- Option 2: Show clips of a video or DVD for a catastrophe. Then discuss ways of safety, what to do if this should ever occur where you live. (Such as flooding, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, fire, etc.) Discuss where to go and whom to contact in case your family members are separated during a natural disaster. Practice what to do and where to go in case of a fire, etc.

BOTTLE GAME: "WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?"

- Cut out several pictures from magazines or newspapers that illustrate problems that people face. (Examples: natural disasters, such as a flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake and/or fire; personal crisis, such as an illness, an accident, abuse, bullying, a riot; etc.) Glue these to sheets of paper. Place these pictures face down.
- Sit in a circle. In the middle of the circle, put a bottle, such as a disposable coke bottle. Spin the bottle. When the bottle stops, it will be pointing in the direction of someone in the circle. The person will pick up one of the pictures and explain what the problem seems to be. That person may either tell how the problem might be resolved or ask someone to volunteer, sharing some ways on how the problem may be overcome. Then he/she spins the bottle and the game continues. If the person that the bottle points to has had a turn, let him choose another individual to take his/her place.

EXCURSION:

- Go outside and observe the different kinds of insects. Talk about how to control the multiplication of insects where they do not belong, such as the red ant.

HELPING SOMEONE IN NEED:

- Plan and execute a project to help those in need. (Example: help families who lost their home in a fire, flood, tornado, hurricane or earthquake; war victims; etc.

GAME: "WHO'S THE WINNER?"

- Form a circle, holding hands. One person is selected to be the leader. Walking inside the circle, he/she must stop in front of two people, tapping them on the shoulders. Those two people run on the outside of the circle in opposite directions. Whoever returns first to the same place in the circle, wins. He becomes the leader and the game continues. Be sure to let everyone play.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Exodus 4:27-31; 5:1-2; 7:10-13,20-21; 8:1-4, 16,17,20-21; 9:1-4, 8-9, 22-23; 10:12, 21; 12:3-8, 23, 29-31, 37, 50-51

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Exodus 4:27-31	Exodus 5:1-2; 7:10-13	Exodus 7:20-21; 8:1-4	Exodus 8:16-17, 20-21	Exodus 9:1-4, 8-9	Exodus 9:22-23; 10:12,21	Exodus 12:3-8,23, 29-31, 37,50-51