

# MOSES CONFRONTED PHARAOH

EXODUS 5-12



**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 34:17

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Because of Pharaoh's hard heart, Egypt suffered but God's people were saved. Because of Jesus' loving heart, He willingly suffered on the cross so we could be saved from sin. His blood saves us from our sin just as the Passover lamb's blood saved the firstborn of the Israelites.

**STORY POINT:** Pharaoh's hard heart caused the Egyptians to suffer, but God's people were delivered.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

The confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh revealed the stark contrast between the powerful compassion of God toward His people and the heart-hardened pride of the Egyptian ruler. While challenging Pharaoh seemed an impossible task, God used Moses to showcase His glory through Moses' willingness to obey. Though Pharaoh's pride led to the demise of his people, we see in this story a picture of God's mercy to the Israelites. This serves as a foreshadow of the mercy Christ displayed on the cross by taking on Himself the punishment sinners deserved so that they might enjoy eternal life with Him.

Why was Pharaoh's heart so hardened against God? How did Moses and the Israelites trust God despite their circumstances?

Pharaoh's first response to Moses was to question God: "Who is the LORD that I should obey him by letting Israel go?" (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh did not recognize God's power, nor did he wish to submit himself under any other authority. Pharaoh's disobedience was already leading him on a path of destruction, so God saw fit to further harden the ruler's heart as a means of displaying His own power over Pharaoh and the fake gods of Egypt.

Moses, despite communing with God so closely, still doubted His faithfulness amid the Israelites' suffering. Moses even accused God of causing trouble and making a mistake by choosing him as leader. Yet, God declared that the Egyptians would see His power, and in the end, surrender to His will. God repeated His covenant promises and reminded His people that He would be faithful to deliver them from Egypt and bring them to the land of promise. Through the suffering of slavery and desolation of the plagues, God's people waited. And upon hearing God's Passover instructions, they did as He commanded.

Consider Moses' difficulties in confronting Pharaoh, a man of great prestige. Then, reflect on the grace and mercy of God who reigns in sovereign power. Though it appeared impossible, God made good on His promises. Help kids see that Christ's sacrifice was the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to redeem people from the bondage of sin. Just as the blood of the lamb saved the firstborn sons at Passover, Christ's blood now and forever frees us from sin.



## PREPARE

### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



## WELCOME

### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



## LEARN

### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



## LOVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



## LIVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Plague Placement" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ rocks, 1 per kid
- ☐ aluminum foil sheets, 1 per kid
- ☐ play dough balls, 1 per kid
- ☐ sugar cubes, 1 per kid

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ inflated balloon
- ☐ empty sports drink bottle with lid



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ sticky notes, 5 different colors per kid

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ "Plagues Cube" printable, 1 per kid

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Moses Confronted Pharaoh" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ dry erase board and marker (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 4, Session 2" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ chopsticks, 4 sets
- ☐ marshmallows, 4 per group
- ☐ bowls, 1 per group

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ beanbag



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Is there a rule in your home that is hard to obey? What is it? Why do you think it is important to obey?

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Introduce the 10 plagues God sent to Egypt. Invite kids to complete “Plague Placement” activity page, offering help as needed.

**SAY** Today, we will learn how God sent 10 plagues to Egypt because Pharaoh would not obey God’s command to let the Israelites go.

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: CAN YOU SHAPE IT?



Before the session, gather rocks, aluminum foil sheets, play dough, and sugar cubes for each kid. Distribute one of each item to each kid. Invite kids to touch and observe the items. Then challenge kids to shape each item into a heart. Tell kids they can bend the items or try to twist them or press down on them. Invite kids to tell you which items could be shaped into a heart and which could not.

**SAY** The rocks and sugar cubes could not be bent, could they? They were hard and unable to change their shape. But the aluminum foil and play dough could change. Did you know that people’s hearts can become hard? Sin causes people to harden their hearts because they refuse to obey God and turn away from their sin. Today, we will see how **PHARAOH’S HARD HEART CAUSED THE EGYPTIANS TO SUFFER, BUT GOD’S PEOPLE WERE DELIVERED.**

#### ☐ OPTION 2: WHO’S GOT THE POWER?



Gather an inflated balloon, an empty sports drink bottle with the lid, and a pencil. Tell kids you are going to perform a demonstration to see if the balloon can move the pencil around without touching the pencil.

Lay and balance a pencil on top of the bottle’s lid. Then rub the balloon on your head (or a kid’s head) to create static electricity. Bring the charged balloon close to the pencil, and without touching the pencil, move the balloon in a circle over the pencil. The pencil should move in a circle, following the motion of the balloon. (Tip: This experiment could also be performed in small groups for the kids to do with your guidance.)

**SAY** It seemed like the balloon had power to move the pencil without even touching it. Today, we will learn about the One who truly holds all power. We’ll see how God alone is all-powerful and can perform miracles. As we hear our story, we can be reminded that God alone deserves our worship; He is to be praised for who He is and what He can do.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### INTRODUCE the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad we get to study the Bible together. When we read the Bible, we learn about true stories and how awesome God is. Today, we will continue to read from the book of Exodus as we learn more about how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. As we hear our story today, we'll see that **PHARAOH'S HARD HEART CAUSED THE EGYPTIANS TO SUFFER, BUT GOD'S PEOPLE WERE DELIVERED.** [Display the Story Point Poster.]

If you have your Bible with you, please hold it up. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let's prepare our hearts today for what God is going to teach us in His Word. Pray with me: 'Dear God, please open our ears to listen and our eyes to see the truth from your Word. Give us hearts to believe. Amen.'

worship

\* Good Good Father  
\* Holy Forever

\* offering

#### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** Last week, we learned a new big picture question, Why does sin separate us from God? What is the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

Even though we are separated from God because of our sin, we don't have to remain separated from Him. God always had a plan to rescue us through His Son, Jesus. Jesus has power over sin because He defeated death when He rose from the dead. Anyone who trusts in Him no longer has to live under the power of sin. We can come to God and find forgiveness. God is powerful to save us from our sin! In our story today, we will see just how powerful God is as He rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

#### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** The book of Exodus begins with God's chosen people, Israel, enslaved in Egypt. Remember how God promised Abraham that He would give Abraham's family the Promised Land? God did not forget His promise, and He called Moses to rescue His people so they could go to the land God was going to give them. Last week, we saw how God called Moses from the burning bush and promised to help him lead the people out of Egypt. Today, we will learn how Moses told Pharaoh that God said to let His people go and how God performed miracles to show His great power.



## LEARN the Bible Story



### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 5:1–6:13, 28–12:42. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Moses Confronted Pharaoh.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### MOSES CONFRONTED PHARAOH

“After God appeared to Moses at the burning bush, **Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.”**

**Pharaoh replied, “Who is the LORD that I should obey him? I will not let Israel go.”** Pharaoh did not want the Israelites to stop the work they were doing as Egypt’s slaves. **To punish them for what Moses and Aaron had requested, Pharaoh made the Israelites work even harder.**

**Moses said to God, “Why did you send me? You have not rescued Your people at all!”**

**God replied, “Now see. I will rescue you from slavery. I will give you the land I promised to you. The Egyptians will know I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against them and bring you out from among them.”**

**Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh again to ask him to let Israel go. Aaron threw down a staff and it became a snake! But Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and he did not listen to them. So God sent ten plagues to Egypt.**

First, **the Nile River turned to blood.** No one could drink the water. Then, **frogs came and covered the land** of Egypt. For the third plague, **the dust became gnats.** After that, **swarms of flies came to the Egyptians’ houses and land.** In the fifth plague, **the Egyptians’ horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks died.** For the next plague, **painful boils appeared on the Egyptian people and animals.** In the seventh plague, **hail and thunderstorms ruined many crops.** After that, **locusts came and ate up all the remaining plants** in Egypt. For the ninth plague, **deep darkness covered the land.**

**Each time these terrible things happened, Pharaoh refused to let the people go. Before the tenth and final plague, God commanded His people to kill a spotless animal and to put the blood over the doors of their houses.** He told them to get dressed and to eat their meal of meat and unleavened bread with their sandals on, ready to go. **That night, God passed through Egypt and the firstborn son of each family died. If there was blood over the door, then God passed over and the firstborn did not die.**

**There was loud wailing in Egypt from those who woke up to find their firstborn son dead. Pharaoh finally told Moses and Aaron that God’s people**

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Draw it:** Use a dry erase board to draw pictures of the plagues as you tell them in the story. Remind kids that God is all-powerful.

**Define it:** Tell kids that the tenth plague was symbolized as a part of Israel’s festivals and was called the Passover. Share how Jesus is the Passover Lamb because He shed His blood to forgive people’s sin.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**could go. God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt.**

Christ Connection: Because of Pharaoh's hard heart, Egypt suffered but God's people were saved. Because of Jesus' loving heart, He willingly suffered on the cross so we could be saved from sin. His blood saves us from our sin just as the Passover lamb's blood saved the firstborn of the Israelites. ”

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God was with Moses in Egypt, and Moses obeyed God's command to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. Did Pharaoh listen? Why not? [Allow responses.] Pharaoh was stubborn and refused to listen to God. He made his heart hard by not obeying God, and he sinned when he didn't believe that God alone is the one true God.

What happened to the Egyptians because Pharaoh refused to obey God? [Allow responses.] God sent ten plagues to Egypt. **PHARAOH'S HARD HEART CAUSED THE EGYPTIANS TO SUFFER, BUT GOD'S PEOPLE WERE DELIVERED.** These plagues showed both the people of Israel and Egypt that He alone is God. The Egyptians worshiped lots of false gods like a sun god, a god of the Nile River, a cow, and even a frog goddess. But none of the false gods had any power. Only God is the one true God, and He is powerful to rescue His people.

The tenth plague caused so much sadness for the Egyptians, but God's people didn't suffer. What did the Israelites do to keep themselves safe from the last plague? [Allow responses.] God told His people to cover their door posts with the blood of a spotless lamb. When they did, God kept their firstborn sons safe from death. Jesus' blood keeps anyone who trusts in Him safe from the death sin brings. Jesus is the Passover Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Because of Pharaoh's hard heart, Egypt suffered but God's people were saved. Because of Jesus' loving heart, He willingly suffered on the cross so we could be saved from sin. His blood saves us from our sin just as the Passover lamb's blood saved the firstborn of the Israelites. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Just as the firstborn sons of Egypt died, our sin leads to death as well. Yet, God wants to save us! He made the way to be saved from sin through His Son, Jesus. We cannot take away our sin or live a perfect life. Jesus did that for us. When we turn away from our sin and trust in Jesus, God saves us and promises us eternal life! ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 4, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How did God get His powers?
2. Why does Jesus have power over sin and death?



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Optional: No video

**SAY** 🗣️ Lottie Moon was a missionary to China for almost 40 years. She boldly told the Chinese people about Jesus. She also wanted kids to hear the good news of Jesus. She taught in a girls' school and had opportunities to share the gospel with the girls she taught. Lottie also went to thousands of homes to teach the Bible, and she shared the gospel with people as she walked from village to village. Lottie loved the people of China, and to better share the good news of Jesus, she learned China's language and customs. She learned how to use chopsticks and also dressed in traditional Chinese clothing. 🗣️

Invite kids to learn a custom of Chinese culture by practicing how to use chopsticks. Tell kids that chopsticks are an eating utensil. Form kids into groups of four and distribute a set of chopsticks to each group. Provide each group with a bowl of four marshmallows. **[Display an Allergy Poster for the marshmallows.]** Challenge kids in each group to pick up the marshmallows using the chopsticks and place them outside the bowl. The first group to transfer all the marshmallows outside the bowl wins. Close the missions moment in prayer for the people of China. Ask God to send more missionaries to tell the people about how Jesus saves people from sin.

#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on individual sheets of paper. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 34:17 together.

**SAY** 🗣️ God is our Rescuer, and He rescues us from all our troubles. God is always with us, and He takes care of us. Let's practice our key passage together. 🗣️

Spread the papers on the floor. Gather kids in one group and direct them to line up. Provide the first kid with a beanbag and challenge him to toss the beanbag on the paper that has the first word of the key passage written on it and then go to the back of the line. Direct kids to continue tossing the beanbags to the correct words until every kid has had a turn. For larger groups, consider creating two sets of papers and form kids into two groups.

Lead kids to sing "He Rescues Them (Psalm 34:17)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 🗣️ God, thank You for being our Rescuer. You are all-powerful and willing to help us through our troubles. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen. 🗣️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Explain that in Genesis, we learned how God created the world, how sin entered the world, and how God chose Abraham's family to be the way He would bring the Rescuer into the world. Tell kids that in Exodus, we see God's rescuing power as He saved Israel from slavery in Egypt. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 12 and practice finding verses 31-33.

Consider pointing out the location of Egypt (H7) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 12:31-33 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** 🗨️ After the tenth plague, Pharaoh wanted the people out of Egypt immediately. God judged Pharaoh for his sin, and the Egyptian people suffered. The Egyptians had experienced God's great power and were afraid!

Did you know that if we trust in Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of God's punishment of sin? God wants to save us, and He is powerful to save us from sin. When we trust in Jesus, God looks at us as if we never sinned because Jesus took the punishment we deserve. His blood washes away all our sin. 🙏

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 🗨️ Which of the plagues do you think would be the worst to experience? Why? 🙏

Answers will vary. Discuss how the plagues were God's judgment against Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Tell kids that the worst thing we could ever endure is to be separated from God forever because of our sin. Remind kids that faith in Jesus saves us from this punishment.

**SAY** 🗨️ Did the Israelites need to trust God and have faith in Him when they put the blood on their doors? Why? 🙏

Share how God gave a command and a promise to His people and that it required faith to believe that God would keep them safe from death. Tell kids that when we place our faith in Jesus, we are also trusting in God's promise to save us from the death sin brings. Remind kids that God is faithful to His promises and He can always be trusted.

**SAY** 🗨️ Did Pharaoh have any power against God? Why not? 🙏

Tell kids that even though Pharaoh acted like he was in charge, he was not. God alone holds all power, and He showed how great He is through the plagues. Discuss how God gave Pharaoh many opportunities to turn away from his sin and obey God. Remind kids that God gives us opportunities to turn away from our sin and know that God alone should be worshiped.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: GET TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

Provide each kid with a Bible and five different colors of sticky notes. Tell kids that you will call out a book of the Bible such as “Ruth” and kids will need to find the book in their Bible and place the correct color of sticky note on a page of the book. Invite kids to use the Table of Contents if needed. Eventually, kids should have a sticky note in each division of the Old Testament books. Review each division. Consider using the following examples or create your own:

- Exodus (blue sticky note, the Law)
- Judges (yellow sticky note, History)
- Psalms (green sticky note, Poetry and Wisdom)
- Isaiah (orange sticky note, Major Prophets)
- Jonah (purple sticky note, Minor Prophets)

**SAY** “ God’s Word is true, good, and leads us to know Jesus. The more time we spend in the Bible, the better we understand God’s love for us. And the more we get used to learning how to read it, the clearer it becomes. The whole Bible points to God’s plan to save us from sin through His Son, Jesus. ”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: PLAGUES CUBE



Provide each kid with a “Plagues Cube” printable and markers. Invite kids to color their cube. Then provide kids with scissors and glue. Assist kids in following the directions on the printable to help them form their cube. Once the cubes have been formed, invite kids to practice using the cube to tell about the plagues God sent to Egypt and how they showed God is all-powerful and able to save His people.

**SAY** “ God sent the ten plagues to show that He alone is God. Pharaoh did not obey God. **PHARAOH’S HARD HEART CAUSED THE EGYPTIANS TO SUFFER, BUT GOD’S PEOPLE WERE DELIVERED.** We are saved from sin when we trust in Jesus. Jesus holds all power to save us from sin and death. I hope you will use your cubes to share the good news of God’s saving power with others. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.