



8

Plagues and the Passover

Key Themes

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.
- God is omnipotent.

Key Passages

- Exodus 7:20, 8:3, 8:17, 8:24, 9:6, 9:10, 9:23, 10:13, 10:22, 12:12; John 1:29

Lesson Focus

- God is powerful—even over nature. He is omnipotent.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will glue cotton balls onto large newsprint outlines of lambs.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will learn of God's omnipotence through a review of the Ten Plagues of Egypt. God sent the plagues because of Pharaoh's disobedience and the idolatry among the people. God revealed through the plagues that He is the only all-powerful God. God's provision of safety to His people from the plague of death through the blood of a lamb foreshadowed the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Song—Students will learn the 10 Plagues song.



Activity 1: Find the Real Plagues

Students will find and color three plagues that were real plagues on Egypt. They will cross out the "fake" plagues.



Activity 2: Act Out the Plagues

Students will act out each of the 10 plagues as the teacher guides them.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one Lamb Picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use in tracing onto the newsprint (see below).
- Draw several large outlines of lambs onto newsprint for each table.
- Gather lots of cotton balls for children to glue onto lambs.

- Lamb picture for tracing
- Newsprint with drawings of lambs for each table
- Cotton balls



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the song on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal



FIND THE REAL PLAGUES

- Print one Find the Real Plagues worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Find the Real Plagues worksheet for each student
- Crayons



ACT OUT THE PLAGUES

- Print one Act Out the Plagues instruction sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Bring in brown and red crepe paper cut into about three-foot lengths. There should be one piece per child. Tape the paper onto the walls before class. These will serve as “doorways” during this activity.

- Act Out the Plagues instruction sheet
- Brown and red crepe paper cut into about three-foot lengths—one piece per child—taped to the wall
- Black plastic garbage bag or black cloth



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare yourself and your heart for the lesson this week, read Exodus 5–12.

The historical account of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea is an event commemorated every year in the Jewish Passover, and mentioned many times throughout the Bible (Joshua 4:23; Nehemiah 9:9; Psalm 106:9; Acts 7:36; 1 Corinthians 10:1–2; Hebrews 11:29). “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness’” (Exodus 5:1). And so the passage of God’s people out of Israel begins. This first encounter between Moses and Pharaoh would prove to be one of many as God continually hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he refused to release God’s people (Exodus 7:13). Pharaoh’s initial reaction to this first of many requests from Moses for deliverance was to increase the hardships and labor of the Hebrew slaves (Exodus 5:6–14).

God’s people immediately began to question His plan for them (Exodus 5:20–21) by complaining to Moses. When Moses questioned God, God reminded Moses first of who He is, “I am the Lord” (Exodus 6:2, 6:8) and then of the covenant He made with His people to give them the land of Canaan (Exodus 6:4–5). He is faithful, He is powerful, and He will accomplish what He has said.

But God’s plan included more. It included miraculous signs beginning with Aaron’s rod (Exodus 7:8–13) and continuing through the plagues brought upon Egypt because of Pharaoh’s hardened heart (Exodus 7:14–10:29). Through all of the nine plagues, Pharaoh did not relent to release the Israelites (Exodus 10:27)—until the final plague, which destroyed the firstborn of all of Egypt including Pharaoh’s own son, and even to the firstborn of all the animals (Exodus 11:5).

And this was when God prescribed the Passover. It was intended to protect God’s people from the last devastating plague through the blood of the lamb—a lamb without blemish—which would be applied to the doorposts of the house (Exodus 12:5–7). God’s promise was to pass over the homes of His people. He would not strike them when he struck the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:13). And so we see, as only God can illustrate, a perfect foreshadowing of Christ, our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). The Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). The Lamb

who, by His blood, has granted eternal life to all who would repent and believe in His name (1 Peter 1:18–19).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

You may hear some try to explain miracles—especially those performed in Exodus—with naturalistic explanations. However, we know from Scripture that each of the plagues was predicted by God through Moses and Aaron before it occurred. They were obviously miraculous deeds performed by a holy God. Some of the “natural” arguments surrounding the plagues include:

- The Nile River turned red due to a species of red algae mixed with red dirt. This combination washed into the river and made it appear as blood.
- This alleged red algae produced an anthrax virus that moved downstream killing the fish and causing the frogs to escape into the cities and countryside.
- A volcanic eruption in Santorini, Greece caused ash to taint the Nile and provoked the subsequent plagues ending with the ninth plague of darkness resulting from volcanic ash in the atmosphere.
- The Egyptians, in an attempt to appease their gods and end the plagues, offered up the firstborn as human sacrifices.

In many cases, it takes more creativity, imagination, and faith to believe some of the theories people will contrive in order to discredit God’s Word. We know, however, that human understanding cannot comprehend the nature and depth of God, for His message is foolishness to those who are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18).

But we believe that the Bible is the final authority—the infallible and inerrant Word of God. We don’t need naturalistic explanations for the amazing things our Creator God has accomplished, whether it be the plagues of Egypt, a floating axe head (2 Kings 6:6–7), the sun standing still (Joshua 10:13–14), Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14:25–26), or the Resurrection of our Savior from the tomb (Matthew 28:6). We accept the Bible as the Word of the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator, who is fully able to perform supernatural wonders to accomplish His will.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Egyptian history can be traced back to Mizraim, Noah's grandson who settled there around 2150 BC after the dispersion at Babel (Genesis 11). In fact, the Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitsrayim which is also translated as Mizraim (Genesis 10:6, 10:13). The present name for Egypt is Misr, derived from the name Mizraim—the one who founded Egypt. Shortly after Mizraim established this first Egyptian dynasty, Egypt began pagan worship, inventing multiple false gods. God carried out each plague as a direct response to the Pharaoh's hardened heart. The plagues the Lord sent upon Egypt before the Exodus were judgments against the many false gods Egypt had devised to replace the one true God (Numbers 33:1–4), as shown below:

	Plague	Egyptian god
1	Nile turned to blood	Hapi, god of the Nile River
2	Frogs	Heqet, goddess of fertility, having a frog's head
3	Gnats or Lice	Geb and Akhor, gods of the earth
4	Flies	Khepri, god of creation, having a fly's head
5	Death of livestock	Hathor, the mother cow goddess
6	Boils	Isis, goddess of medicine
7	Hail	Nut, goddess of the sky
8	Locusts	Seth, god of vegetation

	Plague	Egyptian god
9	Darkness	Ra, god of the sun
10	Death of the firstborn	Pharaoh himself, held to be a god

In this account, God revealed that He alone is God (Isaiah 46:9), He is to be feared (Joshua 24:14), and He is faithful to His promises (Exodus 13:11).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Holy Father I can't begin to imagine your power, wonder, and strength. This account gives me a glimpse into it. You truly are the only omnipotent Creator. Help me to recognize the reality of the Exodus of your people from Egypt—the amazing things you did, the faithfulness you showed, and the punishment you wrought because of unbelief. Lord, please give me wisdom to present this lesson in a way that will clearly show the parallel between the first Passover and the perfect Passover Lamb who took away the sins of the world. Then I ask you, dear Father, to allow the students in my class to see the blood of Jesus Christ as the only way to escape the death sentence they carry because of their sin.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will tear apart cotton balls and glue them onto large newsprint outlines of lambs.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets a turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .
(put your own personal prayer here).

➤ Before making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle, giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God they love Him and why!

Very good! Now let's get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's Holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Last time we talked about how God called Moses from the burning bush! Well, Moses was not excited to obey God. But he did return to Egypt with his brother Aaron. God wanted them to bring God's people out of Egypt. Remember, the people were slaves and were being treated very badly. *Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart page.* God knew that Moses was going to have a very hard time. But God wanted to show that He was more powerful than all the people, kings, and false gods in Egypt. God was going to show His power in some very unusual and great ways. We are going to read about all of it in God's true Word!

? We are going to learn a big, grown up word today. Can you say "omnipotent"? Do you know what that means? *Allow for answers. Let the children repeat it after you a few times.*

? Omnipotent means all-powerful. There is only one person who is all-powerful. Do you know who that is? *God!*

Yes! Only God is all-powerful. And only God has the power to do what we are going to read about today. Now, every time we hear the word "omnipotent" in our lesson today, we're all going to clap! Let's practice: "om-ni-po-tent." *Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating the word.*

God is the only one who is all-powerful. He can do ANYTHING. Well, today we're going to learn how God was omnipotent over the mighty king, Pharaoh! *Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating "omnipotent."* God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to Egypt. They had a special message to tell Pharaoh from God: "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh was not going to listen.

We are going to read about ten things God did to the people in Egypt. He was showing that He alone is all-powerful, "omnipotent." *Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating "omnipotent."*

I want you to listen carefully and tell me what God is doing in each of these verses—how He is showing that He alone is the great, all-powerful, holy God. This is all from God's true Bible. It is His Word.

? Read Exodus 7:20, emphasizing “water into blood.” **What did God do?** He turned all the waters into blood. Refer to Flip Chart as you read through each of the plagues.

Exodus 7:20

? Read Exodus 8:3, emphasizing “frogs.” **What did God do?** Sent frogs everywhere!

Exodus 8:3

? Read Exodus 8:17, emphasizing “lice.” **What did God do?** Sent lice to the land.

Exodus 8:17

? Read Exodus 8:24, emphasizing “flies.” **What did God send to Egypt?** Flies!

Exodus 8:24

God is so powerful. He is powerful over the water, the frogs, the lice and the flies . . . He is all-powerful. He is omnipotent! Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating “omnipotent.”

? **So, what is next?** Read Exodus 9:6, emphasizing “livestock died.” **Do you know what livestock is?** Allow for answers.

Exodus 9:6

Livestock means the cows, the sheep, and the goats—the animals the people owned. God is all-powerful, omnipotent over all the animals. Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating “omnipotent.” Refer to Flip Chart.

? Read Exodus 9:10, emphasizing “boils and sores.” **What did God do?** He caused the people and the animals to get sores!

Exodus 9:10

? Read Exodus 9:23, emphasizing “thunder, fire, and, hail.” **What did God do?** He sent thunder, fire, and hail to the earth.

Exodus 9:23

Wow! After each plague Pharaoh still said “No! I am not going to let God’s people go.” And each time Pharaoh said no, God showed Pharaoh and all the people that He is the only all-powerful, omnipotent one. Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating “omnipotent.”

? **God wasn’t finished yet.** Read Exodus 10:13, emphasizing “locusts.” **What did God bring on the land of Egypt?** Locusts. Still Pharaoh said no!

Exodus 10:13

? Read Exodus 10:22, emphasizing “darkness.” **What did God do?** He made it dark.

Exodus 10:22

Pharaoh still said no. He was not going to set God’s people free! And God had one more plague. This one was worse than all the others. God is truly the only all-powerful, omnipotent one. Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating omnipotent. Listen as I read what God did next.

? Read Exodus 12:12, emphasizing “strike all the firstborn.” **What did God do?** Allow discussion.

Exodus 12:12

God sent an angel through Egypt and had all the children who were the oldest in the family killed! This is called the plague of death! God is so powerful. He is omnipotent. Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating “omnipotent.” **And God should be obeyed.**

God sent an angel to kill all the oldest children in all the families in Egypt. But God protected His own people. He told each household to take one of their lambs, kill it, and then put the blood of the lamb over the outside of their door. They did this before night came. Well, when the angel came by all the houses in Egypt, he skipped the Israelites’ houses because he saw the blood on the doors. This is how God protected His people.

John 1:29

➤ Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

➤ Oversee an orderly way to get the children back to their seats especially if the chairs were moved for circle time.

The blood of the lamb protected the people from being killed. God protected them, and Pharaoh finally let them go! Let me read one more verse to you. It is from the book of John. *Open your Bible to John 1:29, show them where it is, and read it, emphasizing "the lamb of God."*

Jesus's friend John is speaking here. He saw Jesus coming toward him and called Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. That's who Jesus is. Jesus is called the Lamb of God. Jesus came to die for sin so sin could be forgiven. He died on the Cross. His blood will protect everyone who believes in Him from God's punishment for sin the same as the lamb's blood in Egypt protected God's people from the plague of death. *Refer to the Flip Chart.*

SONG

There were ten plagues. To help us remember them, we are going to sing about them. All the plagues showed that God is all-powerful, omnipotent! *Sing the "10 Plagues" song.*

Lyrics can be found on the song page of the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Great! Now we are going to go quietly back to our tables for a fun activity and to color.



Find the Real Plagues

On this sheet are three real plagues that God brought on Egypt, and three plagues He did not send. See if you can find the "fake" plagues, and then cross them out. Color the three real plagues.

MATERIALS

- Find the Real Plagues worksheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Help the children to determine which plagues were not real plagues and to cross them off. Then encourage them to color the three real plagues. Refer to the Flip chart.

The fake plagues are snakes, rats, and tornado.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God brought the 10 plagues to Egypt. He told His people to kill a lamb and put the blood on the door. This blood would save them from the last plague of death. In the same way, God sent Jesus, the Lamb of God, to die on the Cross. Like the blood of the lamb on the doors saved the Israelites in Egypt, Jesus's blood can save us from God's punishment for sin if we believe and trust Him.



Act Out the Plagues

All right everyone, stand up and come over here. We're going to act out the plagues. I'm going to call out the name of the plague and tell you what to do, and then all of you will pretend to be the plague. Are you ready?

MATERIALS

- Act Out the Plagues instruction sheet
- Red and brown crepe paper taped to the wall (one piece per student)
- Large black garbage bag cut open or black cloth

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the script for each plague from the Act Out the Plagues instruction sheet. Have the children do the corresponding action.

The tenth plague is different. Line the children up along the walls where you have taped the red and brown crepe paper strips. The crepe paper will act as their "doorways" for the 10th plague. Remind them that God told His people to kill a lamb and put the blood on the door. The angel of death would then pass by that door.

Tell them that those under the red crepe paper have put "blood" on their doors. Those under the brown crepe paper did not listen to God. With your black garbage bag or black

cloth, go past each child as the angel of death, saying one of the following statements:

"I do not see the blood. The firstborn must die."

Child will fall to the floor!

"You believed God; I see the blood and will pass over your house. You are safe."

Children will get on their knees and praise God for His safety.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God is in control of all things. We heard from the Bible that He has control over the rivers, frogs, lice, flies, disease in the livestock, our health and sores on the body, nature, hail, thunder, locusts, darkness and light, and even life and death! Go over the Flip Chart Lesson page.

God is omnipotent! He is the only all-powerful one. Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating "omnipotent."

Sing the "10 Plagues" song again if there is time.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the Lord your God . . . You shall have no other gods before Me."

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Today we heard from the Bible that God used Moses, Aaron, and the 10 plagues to free His people from Egypt. God was showing the whole world that He is all-powerful, omnipotent! *Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating "omnipotent."*

We also read that the Bible calls Jesus the Lamb of God. And just like the blood of the lambs saved God's people from the angel of death in Egypt, the blood of Jesus who died on the Cross will save everyone who believes in Him from eternal death. Jesus offers forgiveness of sins, and with that forgiveness, we can escape God's punishment.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Many people today don't believe that God's Word is true. They try to come up with other reasons for the plagues and pretend God isn't really powerful. But we know that:

- ? What is in this Bible? *God's Holy Word!*
- ? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*
- ? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*

We know that God's Word is true and God is omnipotent! *Lead children in clapping at each syllable and repeating "omnipotent."*

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God that He is all-powerful, omnipotent, and that we can trust Him.
- Thank God for giving us a way of escape from the judgment of sin through Jesus, our Passover Lamb.
- Pray that all of the children will one day know and understand and believe what Jesus did on the Cross for sinners.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, or bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

THE 10 PLAGUES SONG

(To the tune of "Old McDonald Had a Farm")

There were 10 plagues that God sent,
(Old McDonald had a farm,)

"Let my people go!"
(E-I-E-I-O!)

Because Pharaoh would not relent.
(And on the farm he had a cow.)

"Let my people go!"
(E-I-E-I-O!)

The river turned to blood,
(With a "moo, moo" here,)

Then frogs, lice, and flies,
(And a "moo, moo" there,)

Cattle sick, painful boils,
(Here a "moo," there a "moo,")

Giant hail from the sky,
(Everywhere a "moo, moo.")

Locusts, darkness, firstborn died.
(Old McDonald had a farm,)

"Let my people go!"
(E-I-E-I-O!)

