

Bondage in Egypt (1) **Week 1**

Point to Emphasize: God was faithful to fulfill His promise to make the Israelites a great nation.

Reference Reading: Genesis 11:31—12:5; Genesis 45; Exodus 1:1-22; Acts 7:17-19;
Deuteronomy 10:22; 26:5b-7; Numbers 11:5

Memory Verse: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession... (1 Peter 2:9a)

Story Sample

Today we are beginning some stories about a new person in the Bible. These stories will be from the book of Exodus. Who knows where in the Bible is the book of Exodus? That's right. It's the second book of the Bible. Now the centerpiece of the book of Exodus is the children of Israel. Who was Israel? This is Jacob. Now let's back up. Who was Jacob's father? Isaac. And who was Isaac's father? Abraham. Now God had told Abraham to leave his homeland and follow Him to a new land. He promised him that He would make a great nation from Abraham and his children. Abraham left his homeland to follow God. He moved to a new land called Canaan. Abraham lived there. His son, Isaac, lived there. And then Isaac's son, Jacob, lived there and raised his family there.

Because of a famine, Jacob and his family, 70 in all, had been forced to go down to Egypt. They left the land of Canaan and went down into Egypt. At first they enjoyed the rich material supply of Egypt. The river Nile irrigated the land making it rich in many crops. They had all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Fish were easily caught. They did not have to work too hard to have a good living. There were no grocery stores or fast food places in those days so people really appreciated food that was tasty. The Egyptian veggies caused the food to be so tasty. Egyptian food was the best!

Now after the famine was over we might have expected them to return to their own land. They were not Egyptians. This was not their land. God had called them to be His people and to be in Canaan. But maybe after having such a good living in Egypt they forgot about going back to Canaan. It was pretty easy to live in Egypt. They had everything they needed and more. So it seems they forgot about the land of Canaan, the land that God had called them to. They remained in Egypt for 400 years. Wow, that is a LONG time! Let's see just how long that is. If *(name a child)*'s grandpa lived 100 years, and one of his sons *(same child)*'s dad lived 100 years, then *(the child)* lived a 100 years and then his kids lived 100 years – they all together would live 400 years. And that is what happened to the children of Israel. They lived many generations in Egypt.

As they remained in Egypt they increased abundantly and multiplied. They grew exceedingly strong, and they filled the land. God was making them a great nation just like He promised many years before with Abraham. From 70 their number increased to two million! Just as you really cannot count all the stars in the heavens, there are just too many of them, so you really could hardly count all the children of Israel. They filled the land.

One day there was a new king. He knew that the children of Israel now outnumbered the Egyptians. So there were many more, many, many more, Israelites than there were Egyptians. This meant that if these Israelites wanted to take over Egypt and set up their own king they could. And this made the new king fearful of the children of Israel. He was afraid they would rise up as a mighty army against the Egyptians. So he made a plan.

This king made the children of Israel his slaves. He put them into bondage. Instead of them being able to work to take care of themselves and their families, he set task masters over them and forced them to labor for him. This turned the Israelites' life from one of abundance and ease into one of harshness and rigor. They had to labor hard for long hours every day. They had no liberty, no rights, and no rest. What does it mean to have liberty? Liberty means freedom. Freedom to live where you choose, to work at the job you decide on, to go to the place you want to go to. What does it mean to have rights? Rights mean that there are laws to protect you and your property. No one can decide to beat you up and not have the law after them. No one can steal from you without having the law after them. What does it mean to have rest? Rest is being able to take a break, to relax, to be in a calm situation without distress. But they had no liberty, no rights, and no rest.

The Israelites labored as slaves. They had to do as the king, Pharaoh, commanded; otherwise they were harmed or even killed. It was a bitter life. Nothing about it was pleasant to them. They were not treated as men but as slaves, even as beasts. As slaves they built the treasure cities for the Pharaoh - Pithom and Raamses. These were cities of two different Pharaohs that ruled Egypt. And they had the Israelites build cities with bricks and mortar so that they could store their treasure. These cities were not really for people to live in - they were to store treasures in.

Now, since they had so much treasure in Egypt that they could store it in cities why didn't they hire people to do the work instead of enslaving them? You see it was really an evil plot to destroy God's people. And as they were afflicted, and under bondage and slavery, they cried out to Jehovah, the God of their fathers. And Jehovah heard their voice and saw their affliction and labor and oppression. *BUT* the more they were afflicted the more they multiplied and the more they spread out so that the Egyptians came to dread the children of Israel.

Bondage in Egypt (2) **Week 2**

Point to Emphasize: We should fear God, trust in Him, and cooperate with Him.

Reference Reading: Exodus 1:15-22; Acts 7:18-19; 5:29

Memory Verse: But Jehovah sits enthroned forever; He has established His throne for judgment. (Psalm 9:7)

Story Sample

Since Pharaoh's first plan to weaken the children of Israel by enslaving them did not work, he came up with an even more evil plot. He made a plan to terminate the children of Israel. He called the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah to him. Midwives are like our nurses today who help with the delivery of babies. There were no hospitals to go to when you had a baby so these skilled nurses would come to your house and help the mother deliver the baby. These two midwives have interesting names. Do you remember them? Pharaoh told them that as they helped the Hebrew women deliver their babies they were to put any boy babies to death. Only the girl babies were to live.

Now how would you feel if the king over all of Egypt called to see you? Well, maybe these two midwives were a little nervous. This is not like going to see your friend next door. This is more frightening than being called to the principal's office at school for misbehaving. *[Insert story of being naughty and being sent to the principal's office.]* This was more serious than being called to see the President of the U.S. This is much, much more! This is being called to go to the king. And he was king of Egypt. He was a tyrant, and everything he said was law. He was the absolute ruler. Whatever anyone else said did not count. No one disobeyed him. He was harsh and cruel.

What would these two midwives think? What would they do? They were being told to do something awful, something so evil as to kill all the boy babies of the Hebrews. And what could they do about what he commanded them to do? How could they kill the Hebrew baby boys? That would be against God. That would be against God's people. But how could they disobey this king? He could easily kill them if they did not carry out his command.

Although Pharaoh was such a powerful ruler, a tyrant, the midwives were not inwardly afraid of him. They were godly women who feared God. Since these midwives feared God they must have prayed to Jehovah God, calling out to Him for a solution. And God faithfully answered their prayer. Let's see how God worked it all out.

Now, before this command from Pharaoh, when a Hebrew woman was having a baby the family would call for the midwives. They would go and help the mother deliver the baby. But after Pharaoh's command things changed with the Hebrew houses. Every time a Hebrew woman was delivering now they had the baby before the midwives arrived. This happened day after day. Every time a Hebrew family called the midwives, the baby was born before they got there. God made the Hebrew women vigorous (STRONG) and able to give birth in a quick, strong way. It seemed that every time a Hebrew baby was being born the midwives were too slow in coming.

The baby was always born before they arrived. This saved the midwives from having to disobey the king. For whenever they went to help, the baby was already born.

Now Pharaoh was very unhappy when he realized that there were so many little boys growing up among the Hebrews. He again called the midwives and was angry with them.

Read Exodus 1:18-19.

You see, the midwives did not lie to Pharaoh. They told him the truth. Because they feared God, God had come in to be the solution. They really were too late in getting to the Hebrew women. So Pharaoh could not kill or imprison them. The midwives had quietly refused to cooperate with Pharaoh's plot, but they did not lie. Instead of killing the baby boys, the midwives preserved them. So God dealt well with the midwives, and the children of Israel continued to grow and multiply.

But since Pharaoh did not get what he wanted with the midwives, he commanded all the Hebrew people saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the River, but every daughter you shall let live." With this command Pharaoh was forcing people to carry out his evil plot against God's people. He would try again to terminate the children of Israel by making them kill all the baby boys.

Caring for Baby Moses Week 3

Point to Emphasize: We can take care of those who need help

Reference Reading: Exodus 2:1-10; Numbers 26:59; Hebrews 11:23; Acts 7:18-20

Memory Verse: Train up a child according to the way he should go;
Even when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Story Sample

Pharoah had such an evil plan, to destroy all the Hebrew boy babies! But God had an even better plan! He was preparing the way for the children of Israel to return to Canaan, the land He had promised them. And to do this, He needed a man to eventually lead them – and that man would be Moses. God also needed some to care for this one while he was young. He provided a mother, a sister, a servant girl, and even the daughter of Pharoah to care for Moses as a baby.

Moses' mother was named Jochabed. I'm sure she was raised to know that God had chosen her to be one of His people and that her baby would also belong to God. She was a good mother, so she cared very much for this baby boy, hiding him from Pharoah for three months. What would a good mother need to do? What did your mother do to take care of you when you were a baby? (*Feeding, changing diapers, bathing, keeping warm and clothed, keeping him happy so he wouldn't cry*)

But, after three months, it got harder and harder to hide him. You know how babies are. As they grow, they make more noise, they don't sleep as much, and they move around more. So Jochabed must have realized that she needed to do something soon, or the Egyptians might come and cast her son in the river. I'm sure they must have prayed to God what they should do, and they came up with a plan. Jochabed took a papyrus basket and covered it with tar and pitch. Who can tell me why she covered it with tar? (*To seal it and make it waterproof*) When the basket was ready she placed her baby inside the basket and took him and placed him in the reeds at the river's edge. Isn't this a good place to hide him? In a way, they had even obeyed Pharoah —by "casting" him into the River— only they put him in a basket.

Now Moses had a sister, Miriam, and she was a very good sister. Can you tell me what makes a good sister? (*Obedient to parents, loving her brother, watching out for him, following her parent's instructions*) After her mom placed the baby in the river, to be sure he was safe, Miriam stayed nearby, watching to see what would happen to him.

One day Pharoah's daughter came to this very place along the river to bathe. And while she was bathing she saw the basket, hidden in the reeds. So she told her female servant to go fetch the basket. Who can tell me the most important thing about a servant? What should they always do? (*Obey their master*) So what do you think this servant did? (*She obeyed and took the basket from the reeds*)

When the servant gave the basket to Pharaoh's daughter, she opened the basket and there was a baby boy, crying. She realized that this must be one of the Hebrew boys that her father had ordered to be destroyed. Do you think she must have considered for a while before she decided what she should do? As Pharaoh's daughter what SHOULD she have done? (*Had the baby cast into the River as her father had ordered*) But she cared about this baby so she wanted to keep him. Do you think she thought her father would let her keep him? She knew the baby was young and would need someone to nurse him, but what would she do?

Miriam was still watching over him, so she saw Pharaoh's daughter holding the baby and maybe even heard her talking about him. So she approached her and asked if she would like Miriam to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. Now, **who** do you think she brought? (*Her mom*) Of course, her mom! Yes, the plan had worked perfectly! Jochabed was even paid to care for her own child until he was old enough to be returned to Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses. (*Exodus 2:10 - Because I drew him out of the water*) Pharaoh's daughter raised him as her son; she cared for him and raised him to be a proper and well-educated person. We'll learn more about this later. So, what did Pharaoh's daughter do? (*Cared for him, raised him, educated him*)

Isn't God just too good?! He never forgot about the children of Israel the whole time they were there, and now He was preparing them to return to the land he had promised them so many years before!

The First Period of Moses' Life

Week 4

Point to Emphasize: We are best cared for in our families where we learn how to fear and love God.

Reference Reading: Exodus 2:9-10a; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23-25

Memory Verse: It is Jehovah your God whom you shall fear, and Him whom you shall serve...
(Deuteronomy 6:13a)

Story Sample

The Bible is an incredibly interesting book! We find so many different stories where we see how God sovereignly cares for His chosen people. The story of Moses is one of these interesting stories. God took care of every single detail of Moses' life in his early years because God wanted to make Moses one that would be very, very useful later.

We learned that Pharaoh's daughter found someone to care for Moses while he was little, right? Yes, he went back to live with his own family! Pharaoh's daughter needed someone to take care of the baby. She did not know that it was his real family caring for him. So, during his early years he remained with his family. Then, when he was a little older, he moved into the palace with Pharaoh's daughter.

Now, what did Moses' family do with him during those early years? Sure, they fed him, cared for him, loved him....and what else? The Bible says that Moses was nurtured by his family. To nurture a puppy means that you feed it, love it, and train it. Moses was being nurtured, nourished and trained by his family. Since this family knew the true God, they surely taught their children that they should love and fear God. God had created all things. He was great and awesome. He alone should be worshipped. And as those who know this God, the ones created by Him, they should love and fear Him. They should respect God, honor God, and to read and follow His Word. The most important thing they taught him was to know and fear God. They were teaching Moses that he was part of God's people.

Surely they must have told him all about Pharaoh's command to kill all the Hebrew boy babies and how they had seen that he was lovely to them and God so they made a basket and put him in the river. Maybe they told him how Pharaoh's daughter found him in the river just like they planned. Maybe they told him how faithful God was to bring it all about and how this showed how much God cared for him and for His people the children of Israel.

Not only did Moses learn about his own story but also he must have heard the stories of his forefathers. Maybe they told him how the faithful God had again and again shown Himself to these ones who lived before him. Maybe they told him how he was different from the Egyptians. He was one of God's chosen ones. Maybe even as a young child, Moses knew about the faithful, loving God. He knew about the promises God had made to his relatives Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Maybe his family talked to him about all these things.

His family loved, feared, and followed God, and they had a family life that would cause their children to fear, love, and follow God, too. Maybe his family life was a little like ours. Maybe they sang hymns or children's songs together, prayed together, and told stories about God. *[Please share your example on how in your household you sing together, read some verses, practice memorizing verses and review the story learned in children's meeting. Lead the children to see that this is the best way to grow in our early years and that it will help them to be very useful later.]*

So, this kind of family life was causing Moses to become something. This family helped Moses become someone that would be useful to God!

Moses - Growing Up as the Son of Pharaoh's Daughter Week 5

Point to Emphasize: Moses' character was built up by having a thorough education in every way and every subject.

Reference Reading: Acts 7:21-22; Exodus 2:10-11a; Hebrews 11:24

Memory Verse: You shall follow Jehovah your God; and you shall fear Him, keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and hold fast to Him.
(Deuteronomy 13:4)

Story Sample

Growing up, Moses needed to know God. Being with his family during the first period of his life did that. God had a very special purpose for Moses, but for that purpose Moses also needed the best and highest education. What better school to go to than in Pharaoh's palace? So God arranged for Moses to return to Pharaoh's daughter and become her son.

As Pharaoh's daughter's son he had the best teachers. The Bible says, "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22)." You see, this is God's wise way. In our family life, and our family being in the church life we are brought up to know God, fear God, worship God, love God, and follow God. Next we need education.

Moses studied hard. He studied different languages. He had to learn Egyptian. He studied math and science. He may have studied from a young boy until he was 25 or older. And just like Moses, today we need to get the best education. In elementary school, junior high, and high school, we need to learn so many things. Then we need to go to college. And often we need to go on and learn more after that – maybe you will get a Master's degree or a doctor's degree.

If Moses were living today, he probably would have gone to the best university and gotten the highest degree, a PhD. Maybe he would have worked hard enough to earn 2 or 3 PhDs. He would be the top scientist, top world leader, or top engineer. Why did Moses get this kind of education? Because God needed him to get the best education.

When Moses was a boy, he applied himself to learn so many things! *(Use a few examples of what the Egyptians knew.)* He was also learning how he should behave. Do you think God could use Moses to lead the children of Israel out of the bondage in Egypt if he was a lazy boy and never got up until 10:00 in the morning? NO! What if he was one who never learned to put his dirty clothes in the right spot; instead he just left them in a heap on the floor. And what if by the time he was ten he still had not learned to obey rather than to talk back to an adult? What if he had not learned to make his bed or do his chores without being told again and again and again? Could such a one be used by God? NO! So while he was young, growing up in the palace, he was being trained – trained to do his chores, trained to clean up after himself, trained to show the proper respect to an adult. As the son of Pharaoh's daughter he rose up early, taking care of so many duties and taking care of his homework and studies.

He was the son of Pharaoh's daughter! That meant he could be in line to rule on the throne. If Pharaoh did not have any other children or grandchildren he might someday govern Egypt.

Now let's talk about you and me. If *(name a child)* decides he wants to be a medical doctor when he grows up what should he do today while he is still in *(what grade)*? What if *(name a child)* wants to be able to do computer programming? Does it make a difference how he studies today? *(In this section bring out the point that it is very necessary to learn math, spelling, reading TODAY. We want to impress them with the importance of studying today.)*

The Bible says, "He was powerful in his words and his works" (Acts 7:22b). Since he grew up getting the best and highest education and because he had learned as a boy to be diligent (not lazy), obedient (not disobeying), reliable (not untrustworthy), with the good habits of rising up early, telling the truth, and being tidy, his behavior was excellent and he became powerful. You see, how he behaved really mattered as he grew. He grew to be a man that could be the top general in the Egyptian army. And his military brilliance could have led the Egyptian army into victory. In those days Egypt ruled the world because of their army. No lazy, sloppy, lying or disobedient person could ever be a top general.

Moses remained as the son of Pharaoh's daughter until he was nearly 40. By the age of 40, Moses had three things he needed. He had the knowledge and fear of God, he had the highest education, and he was a person with excellent behavior. Now God begins to call Moses to be the one who would deliver the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt. God can now begin to answer the cry of His enslaved people.

Moses Chooses to be with the People of God and Flees from Egypt Week 6

Point to Emphasize: God prepared Moses so that he would be just the right person to serve God's people.

Reference Reading: Exodus 2:11-25; 1:11; Acts 7:23-29; Hebrews 11:24-27

Memory Verse: Choosing rather to be ill-treated with the people of God than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin, (Hebrews 11:25)

Story Sample

Which of you kids that have brothers or sisters have *never ever* fought with your brother or sister? Raise your hand if you have. So, we all have fought with our brothers or sisters. Now, how many of you have ever fought for your brother or sister? *[Give a personal example of defending a brother or sister, an example not just of someone being bullied but where a real wrong has been done. For example: "I have two daughters, Lisa and Julie. Now Julie can only hear from one ear, so sometimes she doesn't hear everything that is said, or she misunderstands what is said. When she was in elementary school, about the age of some of you, the kids would make fun of her because of this. One day, they were especially mean to her, and she began to cry. Lisa was out on the playground at the time, and she saw what was going on. Even though she was three years older, and it wasn't "cool" for an upper grader to go to the younger children's playground, she marched right over and told those children to leave her sister alone. And, because she was an upper grader, the children were afraid, and they actually did stop teasing her. Even though Lisa and Julie often fought with each other, there was no way that Lisa was going to let anyone be mean to her sister, so she fought for her sister!"*]

Well, the Bible tells a story of how Moses fought for a brother, a Hebrew brother. The children of Israel were all brothers and sisters, just like we are all one big family here in the church in Anaheim.

One day after Moses had grown up (he was about 40 years old), he went out to visit the sons of Israel. He saw the burdens of his brothers the Hebrews, how they were all slaves of Pharaoh. Now remember, even though Moses had been raised in Pharaoh's house all these years, yet still he remembered when he was a child hearing from his family about how he was a Hebrew, one chosen by God. So he still looked at these people as his brothers.

Well, while he was out, Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. How do you think he felt? Well, Moses didn't like it one bit. So he looked around to see if anyone could see him. And then do you know what he did? He fought for his brother. He struck the Egyptian down dead, and then he buried him in the sand. Now, we know it's not right to kill anyone, don't we? And we also know it's not right to hide it when we do something wrong. But Moses thought that he was doing the right thing, to save his brother. He probably even thought that he was helping God by protecting His people.

The next day Moses went out again, and this time he saw two Hebrew men fighting with one another. Now, we don't like to see our brothers fighting, do we? Moses didn't either! So he asked the one who was wrong why he was beating his brother. And the Hebrew answered him, asking Moses who did he think he was, a judge? And was he going to kill him just as he had done to the Egyptian the day before?

Oh my, what do you think Moses must have thought? He thought no one had seen what he had done to the Egyptian, but now he found out they knew. You know, when we do something wrong, we often try to hide it but somehow we always get found out. And this is what happened with Moses. When he realized that people knew what he had done, he got frightened. He knew that eventually Pharaoh would find out, and how would he feel about Moses killing one of his people? Well, Pharaoh did find out about it, and he wanted Moses killed. So Moses left Egypt. He went to the land of Midian.

When Moses got to Midian, he sat down by a well. As he was sitting there the seven daughters of the priest of Midian came to the well to draw water. They filled the troughs to water their father's flock. But other shepherds came and tried to drive them away. Moses saw their trouble, and he rose up to help them. When the daughters arrived home, they told their father about what had happened to them and of the "Egyptian" man who had helped them. Now, we know Moses was not really an Egyptian, don't we? But since he had been raised in Pharaoh's household he probably was dressed like an Egyptian, so that is what they assumed he was.

And Moses probably was speaking Egyptian, so they would assume he was Egyptian also by his language. So, sometimes the way we speak also tells others something about us. If you speak using the wrong kind of language, people assume you are that kind of person. If you speak mean words, people will think you are mean, and if you speak kind words, people will think you are kind.

Anyway, to get back to Moses, when the daughters told their father about what Moses had done for them, their father invited Moses to stay, and he agreed. Eventually, he took one of the daughters, Zipporah to be his wife. And he lived in Midian as a shepherd for 40 years.

So we've seen Moses go through a lot today, haven't we? He went from being the son of Pharaoh's daughter in Egypt for 40 years, and living in the palace, to being a lowly shepherd in Midian for another 40 years. My, what a difference! And all because he chose to be with the people of God (the Hebrews) rather than to enjoy all the riches of Egypt.

Read Hebrews 11:25.

Now, don't go feeling sorry for him though! This was all part of God's plan for Moses, so that one day he would lead God's people back to Canaan, the land that God had promised them so many years before. All this time, 80 years, God was preparing him so that he would be just the right person to serve God's people. God is not in a hurry. He takes whatever time He needs to get what He is after.

God's Calling of Moses Week 6

Point to Emphasize: When God asks us to do something, He will always be with us.

Reference Reading: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-22; Acts 7:30-35

Memory Verse: Jehovah is for me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6)

Story Sample

After Moses left Egypt, he spent 40 years in the desert. God used these 40 years to prepare Moses to be a man who could deliver the children of Israel who remained in bondage in Egypt. By the age of 80 Moses was one who depended on God, therefore God could come in to call him to be the savior to His people.

One day Moses was at the backside of a mountain in the wilderness. And as he was leading the flock of sheep, Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush. Now if we put a real flame of fire into a bush, what would happen? That's right! It would soon be burned up. The branches would catch on fire and burn until they were black and then the branches would burn until all of them are burned up. But this bush kept burning yet never burned up!

Moses turned to take a really good look at this because he had never seen such a thing before! Then as he looked, someone called his name from out of the thorn bush. What a wonder! First, there was a flame within a bush, but the bush did not get burned. Then someone called to him from out of the bush!

Moses realized that it was God Who was talking to him. No man had ever been on this spot of ground at the mountain of God. It was God's ground. Now Moses, *a man*, was there with God. And what a talk God was having with Moses! God was telling Moses that He had come down to deliver His people out of the slavery of Egypt and that He would bring them up to the land of Canaan – a rich land, full of good pastures for raising cattle, etc.

God was sharing His plan with Moses. Why would God come to share His plan with Moses? God was not planning on doing this all by Himself. No! He wanted to send Moses to do it. Do you think Pharaoh the great king of Egypt would listen to some small person like Moses? After all, he had run away when he was young and strong and now here he was 80 years old – an old man. Why would anyone listen to him now, especially the Pharaoh?

What would your response be if God had asked you to go to Pharaoh? Well, we might have been afraid. When we are afraid we feel better if someone else is with us. *[Give an example of a time you were asked to do something hard and you took a friend with you to do it.]*

So God promised to be with Moses. He would not have to go alone. Moses and God would go tell Pharaoh together to let the people go. God wanted to do it with Moses. God did not want Moses to be by himself. Moses would not be by himself. God would be with him. And it is the same today. God wants to be with us. He does not want us to do things on our own.

So Moses returned to Egypt led the elders of the children of Israel together to tell them that God had seen their affliction and would deliver them out of the slavery of Egypt. Then he was to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the children of Israel take a three-day journey into the wilderness to sacrifice unto their God. God told Moses that Pharaoh would not give up easily. But God would lead Moses, so he went forward as he had been told.

Now, this is an exciting story! In the coming weeks we will get to see how the mighty God changes the situation so that His people who are slaves become victors! I can't wait to hear what happens next.

The Completion of Moses' Calling

Week 8

Point to Emphasize: We should not trust in ourselves, rather, we should learn all the lessons that God has planned for us.

Reference Reading: Exodus 4:1-31

Memory Verse: And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. (Exodus 3:14)

Story Sample

When God appeared in the flame of fire in that thorn bush, He talked with Moses for a long time. We have only covered the first part of this conversation between God and Moses. Let's see what happened next.

You see, Moses still was not really ready to go to the children of Israel and tell them that God had sent him to deliver them out of Egypt. He was sure no one would believe him. So Moses did exactly what God asked him to do in front of the people so they would know that God had sent him.

God told Moses to throw down his staff. Moses used his staff as he walked, and he relied on it to steady himself. Now he threw it down as God commanded and this staff, which he used every day, became a snake. This frightened Moses, and he sprang back from it. I would have been frightened, too. If you needed to catch that snake how might you do it? You could try to use a branch and pin it down; or you would try to pin it down close to its head. What might happen if you pinned it down in the middle and then you went to pick it up? Right, it could turn around and bite you. So it is very interesting that God told Moses to pick the snake up by the tail. Well, Moses followed God's instructions and picked the snake up by the tail. When he did, the snake became a staff in his hand again.

Jehovah did this sign so that the children of Israel would believe that He, the God of their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), had appeared to Moses. Now if Moses was here with us this morning, and he threw down his staff, and it became a snake, and then he picked it up by its tail and it became a staff, wouldn't we believe that God had sent him? Sure, we'd believe.

But God wanted to make real sure they would believe so He did another sign. He told Moses to put his hand into his bosom. Then he told Moses to pull it out. But when he pulled it out it was not his normal hand...it was diseased! It was leprous. It was all white, not the natural skin color. Now in those days leprosy was a disease, which could not be healed. It was a serious disease to have, and it meant that you had to be put off by yourself so that no one else could catch it. Now suddenly Moses' hand was leprous, full of this awful disease. How alarmed Moses must have been! One minute his hand was normal and the next it was fully diseased. Then Jehovah told him to put his leprous hand back into his bosom. And when he pulled it out it was restored, looking just like the rest of his skin.

Now Jehovah wanted to make sure that His people believed Moses so He gave him one more sign.

God told Moses that if the children of Israel did not believe the first two signs, that Moses would then go and take water from the Nile River. But if Moses poured this water onto the ground it would become blood.

Wow, these are three pretty fantastic signs God did for Moses. It looks like he is surely ready to go and tell the children of Israel about God's plan. Now he is ready to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go! Right? WRONG! There were still two things that had to happen.

Moses still felt that he could not talk good enough. He felt he needed someone else to do the talking when he went to see Pharaoh. So God added his older brother Aaron. You see, two is better than one.

Now with Aaron as the speaker Moses was almost ready. He only needed one more thing. What could that one thing be? To follow God, Moses needed to talk with his family! Now Moses was not the oldest one in his family so he did not make the decision to go to Egypt all by himself. First, he went and asked his father-in-law's permission. Moses was 80 years old, but he still went to his father-in-law to ask permission before he moved his family from Midian. He really honored his elders and in this way he honored God. After his father-in-law agreed, Moses still needed his wife and sons to go along. Moses needed to follow God and answer God's call, but he also needed his family to go along. *[Give a simple example of moving as a family or making an activity together. This example should show the need for family cooperation.]*

So our family is similar to Moses' family. God needs the whole family to go along. Moses was ready to answer God's call, but he needed his whole family's cooperation. So God came in and Zipporah, Moses' wife, went along with Moses her husband. So now Moses had all He needed. He had:

1. God's promise to be with him.
2. Three signs of God's calling (staff becoming a snake, hand becoming leprous, water becoming blood).
3. He had Aaron as his speaker.
4. He had his family's cooperation.

The Bible surely has the **best** stories!

Moses Goes to Pharaoh Week 9

Point to Emphasize: We should not get discouraged.

Reference Reading: Exodus 4:29—5:23

Memory Verse: And the people believed; and when they heard that Jehovah had visited the children of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed and worshipped. (Exodus 4:31)

Story Sample

[Review last week's story.]

So, now it was time to go to Pharaoh and tell him what God had said. The Bible says, "And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, Let My people go that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness (Exodus 5:1)."

God wanted Pharaoh to let His people go so that they could hold a feast to Him. What is a feast? Have any of you ever been to a feast? Sure, you have! Was there a lot of food? And a lot of people, all ages? And a lot of enjoyment? Yes, we all love a feast! Well, God must love a feast too because this is what He wanted to have His people do to worship Him. He wanted to have ALL His people together, the young and the old alike, to eat together and enjoy together. This is the kind of worship God likes best!

But Pharaoh didn't feel the same way about this plan. He said "NO!" He asked them who was this God of theirs that he should even listen to what He would say. He didn't know God, and he wasn't about to let the children of Israel go. And besides that, he told Moses and Aaron that they were just trying to get the people out of their work. You remember how the children of Israel had multiplied? Pharaoh had a lot of servants now, and he didn't want to give them up!

So Pharaoh gave them even MORE work! He said they were not busy enough, talking only of going to worship their God. So he would keep them busy so they wouldn't talk of this any more. The children of Israel had to work making bricks. At that time, bricks were made from clay and straw. They would add straw to the clay so that when it dried, the straw would help hold the clay together. It made the bricks three times stronger and would keep the bricks from breaking apart too easily. The straw would be gathered by Egyptians and then the Israelites would add it to the clay. But now Pharaoh commanded his taskmasters to make the people gather their own straw for making bricks. This would take twice as long to make the bricks. Now they had to go out to the fields to look for the straw, bend over to pick it up, and when they got a load, they would have to take it back, and then start all over again. It was a LOT of work! And not only that, Pharaoh also said they would still have to make the same number of bricks. How would they ever be able to do that? And if they didn't, then they were beaten! How awful for them!

How do you think the children of Israel responded? What did they do? Well, they blamed Moses and Aaron. They blamed them for making Pharaoh angry with them and increasing their labor. These are the same people who were believing and worshipping not long ago, when Moses and

Aaron told them what God had said and showed them the signs. When things got tough, they weren't so quick to believe. It seemed like it was easier to blame than to believe.

So how do you think Moses responded? What did he do? Even for him it seemed easier to question than believe. So he went to Jehovah and asked Him, "WHY?" The Bible says, "Then Moses went back to Jehovah and said, Lord, WHY have You mistreated this people? WHY is it that You sent me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has mistreated this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all (Exodus 5:22-23)."

Aren't we all a little like Moses? When our parents tell us "When you grow up, you can be anything you want to be," we believe them, don't we? But then we have to go to school and we have to study and it's hard and a lot of work and we stop believing we'll ever be anything. So we go to our parents and ask "WHY? - Why do I have to study and WHY do I have to go to bed on time and WHY do I have to eat right?" We get discouraged.

And this is what happened to Moses. He got discouraged and didn't trust God. Thankfully this is not the end of the story! Over the next weeks, we will see that God taught Moses not to give up, so Moses went back to Pharaoh again and again and again and again, even twelve times! Until finally Pharaoh let the people go.

Moses Being Discouraged, then Encouraged, and Going to Pharaoh Again Week 10

Point to Emphasize: God does not give up, and we should not let discouragement cause us to give up.

Reference Reading: Exodus 6:1—7:14

Memory Verse: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Story Sample

So Moses was very, very down. He was defeated, discouraged, and he could not figure out why God had told him to go speak to Pharaoh. It just had not worked. Do you know how someone looks when they've been defeated? [*Make fists and rest your cheeks on them with a very glum expression.*] Can you make a look to show you are discouraged? Often, when we get discouraged, we just quit. Is that what Moses did? Did he pack up his family and head back to Midian? NO! What did he do? He sat down and talked with God. But since Moses was so discouraged, he really did not have a lot to say. Moses just asked, "Why?"

Now what do you think God did? Did he come and give him a lecture or fuss at him? NO! God came to have a long talk with Moses to give Moses a word of encouragement. God told him that He would do something mighty, something so great that Pharaoh would want the children of Israel out of his land quickly.

Here God told Moses that He would fulfill every promise. He was not only the promising God, He was the fulfilling God. He would do it.

Now, Moses should have been encouraged and cheered up by this. God was God, and He was going to do what He said. But sometimes [*rest your cheeks on your face & look glum*] when we are so discouraged we hardly listen when someone is trying to encourage us. All we can see is how terrible everything is. [*Give a personal example of being discouraged to the point that no one could encourage you.*]

So instead of being cheered up, all Moses could say was that the children of Israel were so upset with him now that they wouldn't listen to anything he said, and surely Pharaoh was not going to listen to him. He might as well give up. Speaking to the children of Israel and to Pharaoh was not going to work. Moses was still discouraged and defeated. He needed God to talk to him some more.

God went on to share with Moses how He had chosen him and Aaron from among so many different ones. He had chosen them long before they were born. He showed Moses that even before he was born He selected Moses to do this very thing. God had chosen him to deliver His people out of the bondage of Egypt. God told Moses that he should go and speak to Pharaoh again and that even though Pharaoh would not listen, God would stretch forth His hand with mighty works and force Pharaoh to let the people go.

God's talk gave Moses the confidence that whatever God told him to do would happen. Now Moses was no longer like this [*rest fists on cheeks*]. He was now ready to go to Pharaoh again.

READ: Exodus 7:10-12

And Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and they did just as Jehovah had commanded; and Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh called for the wise men and the sorcerers. And they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret spells; That is, each one threw down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Wow! What do you think Pharaoh did? Do you think he said, "OK, I give up! Your snake is greater than mine. I will release all the people to go and hold a feast to their God." No, that is not what happened. As Aaron's snake swallowed up all the other snakes, Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not listen to them...just as Jehovah had said.

God had sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh two times now, but Pharaoh was not at all ready to give in. And God was not done yet either. He was ready for a good fight. God would not give up, and Moses was no longer discouraged. He now knew that God would win.

Moses Continues Going to Pharaoh Week 11

Point to Emphasize: We should not give up.

Reference Reading: Exodus 7:15-25; 8:1-19

Memory Verse: ...We do not lose heart. (2 Corinthians 4:1b)

Story Sample

One morning Pharaoh went out to the Nile River. Pharaoh might have been going down to the Nile to relax and enjoy the morning air and the pleasant scenery. Rivers are nice places to relax. That very morning God sent Moses and Aaron down to the bank of the Nile to meet him. This was the **third** time God had sent them to Pharaoh. They said "Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, Let My people go that they may serve Me in the wilderness. But until this very moment you have not listened. ... By this you will know that I am Jehovah. I am now going to strike the water which is in the River with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood."

And Aaron lifted up the staff and struck the water that was in the River and all the water turned to blood. All the rivers and pools and reservoirs turned to blood. Even all the water in the vessels in the houses turned to blood. What do you think happened to all the fish when the river turned to blood? Right, all the fish died and floated to the surface of the water. Dead rotten fish - what a foul smell! And what's more, you couldn't drink the water or wash the dishes or take a bath in it. OH, this was awful. Don't you think Pharaoh would be ready to give in to God?

No, Pharaoh did not even take a minute to think about letting the people go. The water remained blood for seven days.

Now, did God give up? No! Did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

Then the **fourth** time God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, and once again Pharaoh refused to let the people go. So Aaron stretched forth the staff over the waters and frogs came up and covered the whole land of Egypt. Then the magicians came and did the same thing. There were frogs everywhere. What a nuisance those frogs were; they were everywhere. When you went to bed, you found frogs. When you put the cake into the oven - you found frogs - frogs on the tables, frogs on the chairs, frogs in your shoes. In the house there were hundreds of frogs. On your clothes, in the sinks, on the floor, and on the walls - FROGS!

OH, what a bother it was! Then Pharaoh seemed to give in. He called for Moses and Aaron. He told them to take the frogs away. He told them he would let the people go. Then Moses cried out to Jehovah concerning the frogs, and Jehovah caused all the frogs to die. Then the people gathered them into huge piles - heap after heap. The land smelled like dead frogs! But once again Pharaoh did not listen. Once the frogs were gone he refused to let the people go.

Now, did God give up? No! Did Moses get discouraged and give up? No! Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh a **fifth** time, this time turning the dust of the earth to lice. What are lice? (*tiny parasites that live on the strands of hair*) So on every man, woman and child and on every dog, cat, horse and cow there were lice. On every person and on every creature there were lice. On every strand of your hair - on your head, on your legs, on your arms...lice. Oh, just talking about it makes me itch. How irritating it was to be full of lice. But Pharaoh's reaction was to call his magicians. But even his magicians couldn't do what Pharaoh told them to do.

So even after **five** times Pharaoh was still hard and stubborn. But God did not give up and neither did Moses. He knew Pharaoh would be forced to let God's people go.

Though we can't do all of the things that Moses did to Pharaoh, there is one thing we can do. We can never give up when we think something is right. Sometimes we want our friends to come to children's meeting with us and they keep saying "No." Don't let that discourage you! Remember this story of Moses, and never give up! Just keep going back again and again to invite them. One day they will come!

Pharaoh Bargains with God Week 12

Point to Emphasize: We shouldn't bargain with our parents.

Reference Reading: Exodus 8:20—9:12

Memory Verse: ...But a wise man listens to counsel. (Proverbs 12:15b)

Story Sample

Can you believe how hard Pharaoh was? You would think that the river turning to blood would have been enough to convince him that God meant business. But it didn't. So then, wouldn't you think the frogs might have frightened him? Well, they didn't. And then the lice. I would have hated that! Lice crawling in my hair would drive me crazy! But even that didn't convince Pharaoh to let the people go. So let's see what happened next.

So Moses went to Pharaoh for the **sixth** time. The next morning as Pharaoh went to the water, Moses spoke to him as Jehovah had told him to. And the day after that, it happened. Jehovah caused swarms of flies to come. Do you know what a swarm is? That's right – it's not one fly, and it's not ten flies and it's not even 100 flies. It was millions of flies. They were everywhere! They came into Pharaoh's house, and his servants' houses, and even into all the Egyptian houses. So all the land was ruined from these swarms of flies; EXCEPT for the land of Goshen. Now, who lived in Goshen? (*The children of Israel*)

Well, this is what Pharaoh did – he bargained with God. So he called Moses and Aaron and asked them to remove all the flies. He even told them that they could have their sacrifice to God, as long as they did it in Egypt. But Moses told him no, that they needed to go to the wilderness. So Pharaoh bargained that they could go, but not far. So Moses went to Jehovah and asked Him to remove the flies. And God did. But, did Pharaoh keep his promise? No! Once again he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. He was so stubborn! But, did God give up? No! And did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

Do you ever bargain with your parents when they ask you to do something? They say, "It's time to do your homework", but you bargain with them saying, "But I'm playing with my friends. Please can I stay out for 15 minutes more?" These 15 minutes eventually turns into an hour, and your parents become angry. But they don't give up! Eventually they stand their ground, no matter how stubborn you are, and you have to mind them and do your homework. Often, it then takes longer to do than if you had just done it right away. We should listen to our parents because they are wise. Both our parents and God know what is best.

So they went to Pharaoh the **seventh** time, warning him of a pestilence. Do you know what a pestilence is? (*a contagious or infectious disease that can cause death*) Yes, it's a horrible thing, and it affected all the animals. The horses got it, the donkeys got it, the camels got it, the cows got it, and even the sheep got it. How would they ever be able to travel? They didn't have cars at that time, so the horses, donkeys, and camels were all they had for transportation. And what would they eat? The cows and sheep were all sick and dying. And yet, the livestock of the Israelites weren't touched at all! God really took care of His people. Pharaoh even sent some to

find out if this was true. And it was! Not one of their livestock had died. Wouldn't you think Pharaoh would finally let them go? But, once again, he wouldn't do it. He was so very stubborn. But, did God give up? No! And did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

Read Exodus 9:8-9

Then Jehovah said to Moses and to Aaron, Take handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and on beast throughout all the land of Egypt.

So Moses and Aaron did just what Jehovah had said. Do you know what ash is? (*What remains after everything else is burned*) They gathered ash from the furnace. And then they went and stood before Pharaoh for the **eighth** time. Moses sprinkled the ashes toward heaven, and it became dust all over Egypt, and then it became boils. Do you know what a boil is? (*It is an infected lump under the skin, and they are very painful.*) Well, these boils were on man and on beast. How painful that must have been! The Egyptians were miserable and the animals were miserable. Even the magicians of Pharaoh were so miserable that they couldn't even stand before Moses. Ouch! But, once again, guess what? Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart. And just like Jehovah had spoken to Moses, once again Pharaoh would not let the people go. But, did God give up? No! And did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

How long will this go on?

Moses Continues Going to Pharaoh Week 13

Point to Emphasize: There are consequences for not obeying.

Reference Reading: Exodus 9:13-10:29

Memory Verse: Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine. (Exodus 19:5)

Story Sample

God had already tried to convince Pharaoh to let His people go by: *[make list: 1. the staff becoming a snake, 2. water to blood, 3. frogs everywhere, and 4. lice, and 5. flies, 6. pestilence, and 7. boils]*. Today we will see that God sent three things to damage their surroundings – hail, locusts and darkness. *[Add to list as you continue.]*

God was not trying to be mean. He really was merciful to send Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh refused to give in. He had made up his mind not to listen. God was going to have His people freed from bondage. They would go and have a feast with Jehovah; nothing could change that. God had to do something to “help” Pharaoh give in.

This is kind of like us. Let’s say I have a really messy bedroom. There are clothes and shoes all over the floor; the bed is unmade; there are books, brushes, hair clips, etc., piled on the dresser, along with dirty cups and discarded cookie wrappers. Now you and I both know it can’t stay like that. My mom tells me to clean it up, but I don’t want to do it. I won’t listen to her. Right now I’d rather go out with my friends. She tells me three or four times that I must clean up my room but I refuse to listen. I try to make all kinds of bargains (“I will do it after I see my friends.”) I don’t plan on giving in, and my mom does not plan on letting the room stay a mess. So what is my mom going to do? That’s right. She is going to discipline me so that I will be forced to listen to her. Why does she have to do that? Because I refused to listen to my mom. I have to pay the consequences of not listening to my mom.

Why did God have to send all of these troubling things? Because Pharaoh refused to listen to Jehovah. For the **ninth** time, Moses was sent to Pharaoh. God said that He would cause very heavy hail to fall. What is hail? (*balls of ice*) Now, rain is what God usually sends and it waters the earth – but hail destroys it. Once when I lived in Texas hail came down the size of golf balls and baseballs and it dented cars, smashed windows, and broke tile roofs. If that size of hailstone hit you it would really hurt and leave a big bruise. But God warned that this hail would be even bigger - big enough to kill a cow.

Now what would you do if God warned you like this? Sure, you would go and make sure that all your sheep, pigs, cows, camels, goats, dogs – all your animals, were brought into a barn and protected. And you would make sure your family and everyone you knew was indoors.

But do you think Pharaoh paid attention to Jehovah’s word? No. So the heavy hail came down upon the nation of Egypt and it struck everything that was in the field, both man and beast,

and it struck all that was growing in the field, all the plants and all the trees. Only in the land of Goshen was there no hail. Why was that? *(God's people lived there.)*

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron that if they asked Jehovah to end the thunder and hail then he would release the people. Do you think Pharaoh kept his word? No! When he saw that the hail had stopped, he hardened his heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go. He was so stubborn! But, did God give up? No! And did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

Now for the **tenth** time Jehovah told Moses to go to Pharaoh. This time He was going to send a huge swarm of locusts. What are locusts? They are huge insects that cause a lot of damage to crops and farms. When Pharaoh's servants heard what was going to happen next they pleaded with Pharaoh to let the people go to serve Jehovah. They said, "Don't you realize that Egypt is destroyed?!"

Once again Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to him and told them he would let them go, but this time he asked Moses who would be going. Moses said that the young and old, sons, and daughters, and flocks and herds would all go. Pharaoh said NO! Only the men could go and he drove them out of his presence. He knew if he let only the men go they would eventually come back for their families and herds.

Because Pharaoh refused to listen and let the children of Israel go, swarms of locust came and covered the face of the land. There was a thick blanket of locusts covering the land, and they ate everything green. They ate until there was nothing left in the fields.

Again Pharaoh seemed to give in. He called for Moses and asked him to take the locusts away. So Jehovah caused a strong wind to sweep all the locusts away. Not one locust was left. But, did Pharaoh keep his promise? No! Once again, he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. He was so stubborn! But, did God give up? No! And did Moses get discouraged and give up? No!

The **eleventh** time Jehovah told Moses that He would send a thick darkness across the land. And there was thick darkness for three days. No one could see anything. Only the children of Israel had light in their homes. Remember, no one had electricity so without the sunshine from outside it was REALLY dark. It was a darkness they could feel. No one got out of bed for three days to do anything because the darkness was so thick. Then Pharaoh tried to bargain with Moses again. But Moses would not give in. He insisted that they must go with their young and their old and with their flocks and their herds.

The Bible says, "And Pharaoh said to him, Get away from me. Be sure that you do not see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die. And Moses said, You have spoken correctly. I will never again see your face" (Exodus 10:28-29). And this is true. Moses never saw Pharaoh's face again.

The Sovereign God Week 14

Point to Emphasize: God is patient, and in His sovereignty He is always right.

Reference Reading: Exodus 11:1-10

Memory Verse: Jehovah is long-suffering and great in power and will by no means clear the guilty... (Nahum 1:3a)

Story Sample

God was very patient in His dealings with Pharaoh. He sent Moses to speak to Pharaoh **twelve** times. Now, when your dad tells you to take out the trash how many times will he repeat himself before you obey? Do you think your dad is going to be so patient and come and tell you twelve times? No, I am pretty sure that if you don't listen after two or three times, your dad is going to take some action to discipline you, and then you are going to take out the trash with no reminders.

Isn't this something that God would be so patient with Pharaoh? Time after time He sent Moses to speak to Pharaoh to let His people go. If God were not patient He would have wiped Pharaoh out the first time. Because Pharaoh would not listen to God and let the people go, God sent the plagues. This was God's discipline for not listening.

By this time everyone except Pharaoh wanted to get rid of the children of Israel. Not letting them go had caused plenty of troubles for them. Let's see what troubles they had because Pharaoh refused to let the children of Israel go:

1. First all the fish in the rivers died. No more fish to eat.
2. Trouble upon troubles came with frogs, lice, and flies. What a bother!
3. Many animals started to die. Not many cows left for milk and beef.
Not many horses or donkeys to ride or work in the field. Not many animals left to use to carry the loads. This was a big hardship!
4. Then the sores came. All the people got boils. What pain these caused!
5. Then the hail damaged the houses, the barns, the trees, and the crops.
6. Then the locusts came and ate everything in the fields. How dreadful to have every plant eaten up! Now the land and everything in it looked like a war zone. It was an ugly place to be.
7. Then there were the days of thick darkness.

But none of these things had turned Pharaoh from his hardness, and God had to do one last thing. God had to do something very severe. Pharaoh had to be forced to listen to God and let the people go.

READ: Exodus 11:1a, 4b-5

Then Jehovah said to Moses, One more plague will I bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt; after that he will let you go from here...About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt, and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of

Pharaoh who sits upon his throne to the firstborn of the female slave who is behind the millstones, and the firstborn of the cattle.

Pharaoh's stubbornness had forced God to do this. God is loving and patient, and He is also sovereign. In His sovereignty God has the absolute right, authority, and power. As the sovereign One, God has the right to do anything He decides to do.

READ: Exodus 11:2-3

Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man is to ask of his neighbor and each woman of her neighbor for articles of silver and articles of gold. And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

Was God asking the children of Israel to take or steal the gold and silver from the Egyptians? No, He told them to ask for the gold and silver. God was making the Egyptians pay the Hebrews for all the years of slave labor they had been under. How many years did the children of Israel work as slaves and not get paid for what they did in Egypt? Right, nearly 400 years. Wow, if I worked for 400 years I could get a lot of gold and silver as pay. So God was not asking them to steal or take something that did not belong to them. God was simply making the Egyptians pay for all the work the children of Israel had done. You see, God is always right. He is right in the way He handles things.

Of course Pharaoh still was hardened and refused to listen, so next week we will hear how God prepares His people to leave Egypt.

The Passover Plan Week 15

Point to Emphasize: God is very detailed in His plan; He also cares for households, so we should appreciate our families.

Reference Reading: Exodus 12:1-36

Memory Verse: And you...shall rejoice in all the good which Jehovah your God has given to you and to your household. (Deuteronomy 26:11)

Story Sample

Have any of you ever gone on a trip? Now, you don't just jump in the car and go, do you? Don't you need to make a lot of plans and do a lot of things before you go? You need to decide where you will go, how to get there, what to pack, who will take care of your pets and water the plants, who will get the mail for you, and so on. It takes a lot of planning to go away on a trip!

Well, God needed to get His people out of Egypt. So He had a plan. God had a very exact plan for getting His people out of Egypt. Let's go over the details of His plan *[Write on board:]*

The time: 1. This Passover happened in the first month of the sacred calendar, Abib, on the tenth day. The word Abib means sprouting or budding, so it means a new beginning.
 2. At midnight Jehovah struck the firstborn of Egypt. Midnight is the last hour of the night. So in the middle of the night, the firstborn child of every Egyptian family died.

The meal: 1. They were to eat a lamb that was perfect, one year old. The whole lamb had to be eaten by morning. The leftovers should be burned. None of the bones of the lamb should be broken.
 2. They were to eat unleavened bread. Do you know what leaven is? Leaven is like yeast – it makes the hard bread easier to eat, but it is not as pure.
 3. They were to eat bitter herbs.

The place: 1. The meal would be eaten inside the house. Every member of the household would be inside. The parents would do all the preparation, and the children would enjoy the safety inside as well as the meal.
 2. The house would be marked on the doorpost and the lintel by hyssop, a very small plant, dipped in the blood of the lamb, so that God would pass over those houses when He judged Egypt.
 3. The people inside would be feasting. No one was to go outside.

The dress: 1. They should be girded (covered for protection).
 2. They should have sandals on their feet, ready to make the journey.
 3. They should have a staff in hand, ready to leave in a moment. They would be ready like an army to leave at any time on their journey.

The reason: Why was all this done? So that Jehovah could judge the land of Egypt, yet still protect His people. God would pass over every house marked with lamb's blood. God would not kill the firstborn in the houses of His people.

The memorial: God wanted this time to be a memorial, something the Israelites would never forget. So from this time on, there were two memorials the Hebrews always kept.

1. The Passover
2. The feast of unleavened bread

These memorials were to continue forever and would be told to their children after them.

The result: Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and told them to go. Did they question God? No! They left immediately.

These details are important because this is how God planned to take His children out of Egypt.

It is important to be in a Godly household. Remember, the adults carried out God's detailed plan, but who was in the house? Right! The whole family – the adults AND the children. Today it is the same with your family. Your parents have believed in Jesus so they are the ones who carry out God's plan. But you are in the house with them, so you receive all the blessings from God because you live in a godly household. Aren't you glad to have such a family?!

Completion of the Passover Week 16

Point to Emphasize: We can be those that trust in the faithful God, Who cares for His people and fulfills His promises.

Reference Reading: Exodus 12:28-42

Memory Verse: ...And You have fulfilled Your promises, for You are righteous. (Nehemiah 9:8b)

Story Sample

So the children of Israel went and did everything just as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron. They carried out God's plan exactly. Each household chose a lamb and roasted it. It was a lamb without blemish. Along with the roasted lamb each family prepared bitter herbs and unleavened bread to eat. And how were they dressed as they ate this meal? Yes, with their loins girded, sandals on their feet and staff in their hand. They were eating, expecting to leave soon. And they put on the outside of their house the blood of the lamb upon the doorpost and lintel before they started to eat.

At midnight, when all the children of Israel had finished eating the lamb in their houses with the blood on their doorpost, God's last plague began. Jehovah struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. All the firstborn in all Egypt died. Only those in the houses who ate the lamb and had the blood on the doorpost were passed over. And who was in the houses eating the lamb with the blood on the doorpost? *[Ask a child.]* Right, God's people! They were in their houses with their families. So God's judgment passed over them. Not one of them was touched.

But in every Egyptian home the firstborn died. Pharaoh, all his servants, and all the Egyptians arose that night and all of the firstborn in their families were dead. There was a great cry in Egypt! Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and commanded them to get out of Egypt. He told them to take all their families, all their cattle and go to serve Jehovah. And all the Egyptians urged the people to go quickly. They wanted them to go as fast as they could. The Egyptians were afraid that if the children of Israel did not leave Egypt they all might die.

And the children of Israel took their dough, their kneading bowls and their clothes upon their shoulders. And they asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and clothing just as Moses had told them to. Now, who can tell us why they got to take the silver and gold from the Egyptians? *[It was counted as their pay for all their years of slave labor - this is a point from the previous story].* And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians so that they let them have what they asked for. Thus the children of Israel plundered the Egyptians.

Now who had been set free to hold a feast to Jehovah? *(The Children of Israel)* And who had been defeated? *(Pharaoh and the Egyptians)* And Who won this victory? *(God did!)*

By His mighty acts God had defeated Pharaoh. God had done everything that He promised to do when He first told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell Him to let His people go. Now, after twelve visits to Pharaoh the children of Israel were free at last. After 430 years in slavery, under the bondage of Egypt they were free to go and hold a feast to Jehovah their God. What a marvelous God! What an exciting story! So the children of Israel journeyed and the number of the men alone there were 600,000 - that is not counting the women and children. WOW! That is a huge amount of people. And they brought their flocks and herds with them.

So at the end of 430 years in Egypt the armies of Jehovah went out from the land of Egypt. And throughout all that night Jehovah was watching to bring them out of the land of Egypt. God had not only given Moses the plan to be carried out, but also He was watching over them all through the night to bring them out of the land of Egypt. *[Bring in the thought of God's tender care for His people - could use the example of new parents who will stay up throughout the night to keep checking on their newborn.]*

Out of Egypt and Crossing the Red Sea Week 17

Point to Emphasize: Jehovah was leading and fighting for His people.

Reference Reading: Exodus 13:17—14:31

Memory Verse: ...Do not be afraid; stand firm, and see the salvation of Jehovah,
(Exodus 14:13b)

Sample Story

Now Jehovah went before the children of Israel to lead them as they went out of Egypt. By day He went before them in a pillar of cloud. At night He was in a pillar of fire to give them light. This way they could travel by day or by night. They did not need a map, because Jehovah was always before them leading the way in the pillar of cloud or in the pillar of fire.

Now Pharaoh thought the children of Israel were wandering aimlessly in the land. Jehovah said that he would harden Pharaoh's heart once again and cause Pharaoh to pursue after the children of Israel in order to glorify Himself, and show the Egyptians who He was. When Pharaoh was told that the people had fled, he and his servants once again changed their heart and regretted letting them leave.

Next, Pharaoh got his chariot and took 600 choice chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with the officers over them. He and the Egyptians pursued after the children of Israel with all the horses, chariots, horsemen, and army following. They overtook them as the children of Israel camped by the sea.

When the children of Israel saw the Egyptians marching after them they were scared and cried out to Jehovah. They cried out to Moses asking him why he brought them out of Egypt. They thought for sure Pharaoh would capture them and show no mercy. What had the children of Israel forgotten? (They had forgotten that God promised to bring them out of Egypt into Canaan, forgotten all the things God did to force Pharaoh to let them go, forgotten God's faithfulness and care) Oh, how easily we forget! *[Give an example of a time someone did something nice for you, and you forgot about it]*

"But Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid; stand firm, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will see no more again forever. Jehovah will fight for you, and you will be still" (Exo. 14:13-14). Oh, this is great! Now we get to see Jehovah fight the Egyptian armies.

Jehovah, who was before the children of Israel as a pillar of cloud, moved to the rear of them and stood between them and the Egyptians. The Egyptians could not see the children of Israel, and when the children of Israel looked behind them all they saw was the cloud. At night the cloud was light to them, but the Egyptians had darkness.

So here we have the Red Sea. *[Draw on the board and explain.]* The children of Israel were right here, and Jehovah was the pillar of cloud before them. Then the Egyptians came close and

they cried out to God. He then moved from the front to the rear... right in between the children of Israel and the Egyptians.

Now let's see what happened! Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Jehovah caused a strong wind to blow parting the waters and drying up the land so the children of Israel could walk through. The waters were like a big wall on either side. And you know what happened next? The Egyptians pursued them; Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen went in after them right into the midst of the sea. Jehovah looked down upon the Egyptians and threw them into confusion. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve and made it difficult for them to drive. The Egyptians realized that Jehovah was doing this, so they turned to try to escape. Right at that moment Jehovah said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and over their horsemen." (Exo. 14:26) And Moses did. The sea washed back in as the Egyptians were trying to escape covering the chariots and the horsemen, even all the army of Pharaoh. Not one of them was left. But the children of Israel were safe. So Jehovah saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians. The Bible says, "And when Israel saw the great power which Jehovah exercised against the Egyptians, the people feared Jehovah; and they believed in Jehovah and in His servant Moses" (Exo. 14:31).

Praising, then Complaining **Week 18**

Point to Emphasize: We need to praise and thank God and not complain.

Reference Reading: Exodus 15

Memory Verse: I will praise You,...Your works are wonderful, and my soul knows it well.
(Psalms 139:14)

Story Sample

The Lord really took care of His people in a great way, didn't He? Who would have ever thought that the Israelites could have escaped the Egyptians? And who would have ever thought He would have done it in such a big way as to open the Red Sea and let the Israelites cross over? There is no One like God!

So, how do you think the people felt after all this had happened? Do you think they just thought "Oh well, that was nice, now let's just go on"? No, I don't think so. Do you think they felt happy? Do you think they felt grateful? Do you think they felt cared for? Yes, I think they were feeling all these things. So, how could they express all these feelings they must have had? Well, they did it by praising.

Who can tell me what praise means? The dictionary says: 1) Words of approval or admiration; 2) To worship and express thanks to. So, when your mom and dad get your report card and they tell you how wonderful all those "A's" are, that is praising you, isn't it? Those are words of approval. And when your parents say "PRAISE THE LORD!", that is them worshipping and thanking God, isn't it?

Well, I'm sure the Israelites really felt like praising the Lord after they had crossed over the Red Sea. And they did their praising by singing a song. Singing is a great way to praise the Lord. Chapter 15 of Exodus even gives all the words of the song that they sang. Would you like to learn some of the words to the song?

(TEACH THEM THE WORDS TO THE SONG OF MOSES)

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to Jehovah and spoke, saying, I will sing to Jehovah, for He has triumphed gloriously; The horse and its rider He has cast into the sea. Jah is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. (Exo. 15:1-2)

How about some other praising songs? Can you name some we could sing? [*e.g. Oh We Will Praise, All Ye Little Children, Would You Like to Praise the Lord, etc.*] Sing 2 or 3 songs.

Doesn't singing make you happy? It makes God happy too! As the Israelites were praising God do you think they had long, sad, frowning faces? No, of course not! Because praising causes us to be happy.

But, unfortunately, the praising didn't last long. Right after all the singing and praising, these verses come next.

READ: Exodus 15:22-24

Then Moses moved Israel onward from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore its name was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

Can you believe it? Here they had just been praising the Lord for helping them to escape Egypt and now only three days later, they were complaining because first there was no water, and the water they did find was too bitter to drink. What a short memory they had! But aren't we all like this? When I was young I used to love to go to a place called Red Rock Canyon and play on the rocks, but my parents worked a lot so we didn't get to go very often. So when we did, I would always say, "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU", because I was so happy. But I also can't tell you how many times we would get home and an hour later I was complaining, "I'm bored, there's nothing to do!" How quickly I'd forget! *[Storyteller, tell a story from your experience.]*

And that's just what the Israelites did. They forgot what God had done for them and started complaining. So Moses had to cry out to Jehovah once again, and God showed him a tree. Moses cast the tree into the bitter waters, and the waters became sweet. Once again the faithful God came in to care for His people. No matter how much we complain, God still takes care of us.

Would you rather be one who complains all the time or one who praises all the time? Me? I want to be one who praises!

God Feeds His People Week 19

Point to Emphasize: On God's side, He will always meet our needs; on our side, we need to follow instructions.

Reference Reading: Exodus 16:1-35

Memory Verse: Trust in Jehovah, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
(Psalm 37:3)

Sample Story

The children of Israel journeyed from the springs of water to the wilderness. God had been faithful to take care of their thirst. But when they got to this wilderness, once again they all complained, "Did Jehovah bring us out to this wilderness to die of hunger? In Egypt we had plenty of food! Why are we out here with nothing to eat?"

Now remember that they had not packed food supplies for this trip. There were no stores around to buy food. So how were all these people going to survive in the wilderness? What was God's plan? Well, all they knew was that they were hungry and there was no food so they complained to Moses and Arron, saying, "...we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole congregation with hunger." (Exo. 16:3) So what did God do about their hungry complaining? Did He punish them? No! Did He lecture them! No! He just fed them.

Now how can you feed so many people—there were 600,000 men plus their families. Can you serve them food like we eat at home all sitting down around a table? No. Can you serve them food like we do at love feasts where the food is on tables and we fill our plates? No, that would not work. It would take hours for every person to go through the lines and fill their plate. And we eat more than once a day so by the time you finished going through that kind of a food line, you might need to get a place in the line for dinner. So let's see how God fed all the people.

Read Exodus 16:4a

Then Jehovah said to Moses, I will now rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day...

Only God could have come up with such a great plan on how to feed so many people. In the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. And when the layer of dew dried there were fine round flakes...like frost. No one had ever seen such a thing before. They looked at it and then looked at each other and asked "WHAT IS IT?", for no one knew what it was. Then Moses said to them, "It is the bread which Jehovah has given you to eat." (Exo. 16:15) They had seen many different kinds of bread in Egypt but no one had seen any bread that looked like this. It was manna, the bread God rained down upon His people. You know raindrops reach everywhere. A family way up in the north of the camp could go out of their tent and get the bread and a family on the far south side could go out and get some bread because it would come down like rain.

Moses told them not to leave any for the next day. They had to eat all that they gathered that day. That is kind of like your mom telling you that you better not have eyes bigger than your stomach. You should only put as much food on your plate as you are going to eat. Now this became a test to see who was following God's instructions and who was ignoring God and doing it how they wanted.

Well, some did not listen to Moses. Some left part of their bread until the morning, and it bred worms and smelled really bad. Oh, Moses was indignant with them! Now, why didn't they listen to Moses and follow God's regulations? *[Ask a child.]* Maybe they were lazy or maybe they were greedy. Or maybe they just did not want to go along with God's instructions.

Now what happened to all the bread that they left on the ground? Again, God's way was so marvelous. How could you clean up all the extra bread? That would be a HUGE job. So just like the rain can soak into the ground, this bread from God would melt and go into the ground. No clean up at all. Now, what if you were lazy and slept until noon? Right, all the bread would be gone. It would have melted into the ground and you would be one hungry person that day. God cares for us, but He is also very particular in what He wants us to do.

Read Exodus 16:11-12

And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, At twilight you will eat flesh, and in the morning you will be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am Jehovah your God.

God was going to feed them, even in spite of all their murmuring and complaining. This verse tells us that He was going to feed them with meat and bread. We already know that God will rain the bread. But what kind of meat is it going to be and how will God get it to each one to eat?

Again, our God had the best plan. Instead of having the people go and hunt for meat, He had the dinner come to them. At evening quails came up and covered the camp. All around each tent were quails. They were easy to catch and easy to cook. What a feast God gave them! God could provide such a feast for all those people because there is no shortage with God. He has the supply. How He cares for His people! Just like our parents care for us by feeding us, even when we complain!

And the children of Israel ate manna for forty years as they journeyed in the wilderness until they reached the border of the good land.

God Gave Them Water and Helped Them Fight Amalek Week 20

Point to Emphasize: We should be those that trust in God's ways of taking care of us.

Reference Reading: Exodus 17:1-13

Memory Verse: Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And do not rely on your own understanding; (Proverbs 3:5)

Story Sample

In our last story we learned how God fed the children of Israel with quails and manna to eat. They should be happy now, knowing that God is not only leading them but also providing for them, shouldn't they? Let's see.

Now they traveled on to another place called Rephidim. And when they got there, they camped. And now, guess what? There was NO WATER! Do you think they remembered how God had fed them? No! They started complaining all over again.

They were just like us. Do your parents ever say to you, "When will you ever be satisfied?" Sometimes it seems they can never do enough for you—you always need something more!

And so it was with the children of Israel. Would they ever be satisfied? So who did they go to? (Moses) Poor Moses! He must have been so tired of their complaining! He even asked them, "Why do you test Jehovah?" But, no, they kept right on complaining, always bringing up, "For what reason did you bring us up out of Egypt?" So who did Moses go to? (God)

Once again God told Moses what to do. He told them to go before the people, along with some of the elders and to take his staff to the rock in Horeb. And God told him to strike the rock with his staff and water would come forth, enough for all the people. Do you think this was just any old rock? No, it was a rock that God had placed there. And when Moses struck the rock, water came out, just as God had told him. Once again God was able to take care of His people, no matter how much they complained. God is really faithful to His people!

But do you think that's the end of their troubles? Oh no! Now we come to the first battle that the Israelites fought since leaving Egypt. This battle was with Amalek, a descendent of Esau. Moses sent Joshua to fight Amalek while Moses would go to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. Do you think that was because Moses was afraid to fight? No, it was because God had a better way! While Joshua was fighting below, Moses was up on the hill, holding up his staff, just as God had told him. When he lifted his hand up, Israel prevailed in the battle. And when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

So Moses needed to keep his hands up in order for Israel to win, didn't he? But can you imagine how tiring that must be? (Child's name), can you come up here and hold this staff for me? *[Have child try to hold something up in his hands.]* At first it is easy, and then your arms start getting heavier and heavier. That's how it was for Moses too. He needed help! So he got some help from Aaron and Hur. *[Get two other children to come up to help.]* They took up a

stone and put it under Moses so that he could sit down *[Have children act this out.]*. But even that wasn't enough! So Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other side. It was good to have help, wasn't it, (child's name)? *[Tell a story about a time you helped someone who couldn't do something alone without help.]* We can be those who help others, just like Aaron and Hur helped Moses.

So Moses hands stayed up the WHOLE day, until the sun went down. And because of this Joshua was able to defeat Amalek. God just keeps taking care of His people!

Feasting with God Week 21

Point to Emphasize: God wants His people to know Him and serve Him.

Reference Reading: Exodus 19:1-2, 4

Memory Verse: Only, fear Jehovah and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

Story Sample

Read Exodus: 19:1-2b

In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai...And there Israel encamped in front of the mountain.

So the children of Israel had been traveling for three months since they left Egypt. Let's see what had happened in these three months. *[Make a list as children give answers.]*

A lot had happened and now they had come to the mountain of God. Does anyone remember a part in the beginning of these stories about Moses that occurred earlier at the mountain of God? Right, this was when Moses was tending sheep and came to the backside of the wilderness, to the mountain of God. It was here that God called to Moses from a burning bush. So Moses got to know God at this mountain. And it was here that he was called by God to serve Him by delivering the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. *[Write these 2 things on the board – "know God, serve God".]*

God is really something. It was at this mountain where Moses began to know and serve Him. And now He has led all of His people back to this mountain to WHAT? Right, God wants all His people to **know** Him and to **serve** Him. That means us too! As children, we can learn to know God by reading our Bible and serve God by obeying our parents. *[Tell about your own experience of getting to know God and how you now serve Him, even by serving on children's meeting.]*

Now listen to what God told Moses and His people as they were gathered around this mountain.

Read Exodus 19:4

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

God reminded them that He had delivered them from the slavery of Egypt and defeated Pharaoh's army. He led them and fully cared for their every need as they traveled through the wilderness so that He could bring them to Himself. God wanted to be with His people. He had led them in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, but now He came down upon the mountain to speak with His people. In His presence they heard His speaking. It was here that the children of Israel could serve God by holding a feast to enjoy with God what was offered to Him.