

Moses Part 4 - The One True God Moses Confronts Pharaoh



Exodus chapters 5 to 11

God called Moses to lead the Israelites from captivity to freedom. After making numerous excuses, Moses finally responded to God's call. In today's Bassline we will witness the power struggle between Pharaoh and the many gods of Egypt on one side, and Yahweh, the one true God, on the other. Through a series of plagues, the perceived power of the Egyptian gods was systematically dismantled, and the Israelites finally began their pathway to freedom.

You will need:

- Paper and pencils/pens
- 'Plagues of Egypt' handout
- 'Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt' handout
- Examples of places in the world that need prayer





Say:

A 'pet peeve' is something that a person finds especially annoying.

Leader's notes:

Ask the group to write down ten of their pet peeves, making it clear that actual people should not be included in the list. Examples include never replying to messages, leaving long voice notes instead of messaging, pushing in when everyone is waiting to queue, etc. Give the group time to write their list and then share it together.

Ask:

Imagine a ten-week period filled with these pet peeves. For the whole of week one, your first pet peeve would be everywhere you went. Then in week two, the second pet peeve would



be there all the time ... etc. What would it be like for you to experience ten weeks of your pet peeves, one after another?



Ask:

If you could get rid of one of your pet peeves forever, which one would it be? Explain your choice.



Leader's notes:

If there are those in the group who have followed through the Moses series so far, then give them one minute to recap the story. We will try this activity every week, and it will get trickier to fit in all the facts as we move through the story of Moses.

There is a lot to cover in the Amplify section of this week's Bassline. The length of the Sound Check activity has been adjusted to accommodate this.

Say:

God called Moses to lead the Israelites from captivity to freedom. After making numerous excuses, Moses finally responded to God's call. The story continues in Exodus 5.

Listen:

David Suchet NIV Bible Exodus 5 (3:28)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adhyy5s8wqA

Ask:

- What happened when Moses and Aaron challenged Pharaoh?
- What did the Pharaoh expect the people to do?
- Exodus 5:22 starts with the words, 'Moses returned to the Lord and said ...' If you had been in Moses' position, what would you have said to God?

Read:

²² Moses returned to the Lord and said, 'Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? ²³ Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.'

- (Exodus 5:22-23)

Ask:

How do you think Moses was feeling at this point in the story?



Say:

Throughout Exodus chapters 6 and 7, Moses, along with his brother Aaron, continued to try to convince the Israelites that God would set them free and put Pharaoh on notice for God's wrath. Instead, the people doubted God's power and Pharaoh's heart continued to harden.

God sent ten plagues on the people of Egypt. Although the plagues caused the people immeasurable harm, the aim was to dismantle their belief system and show who was the one true God. Each plague targeted the power base of one of the Egyptian gods or goddesses.

Leader's notes:

The young people will need a 'Plagues of Egypt' handout and a 'Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt' handout. This Amplify activity equips the young people to investigate the story for themselves. Using their Bibles and the 'Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt' handout, they will need to fill in the blanks on the 'Plagues of Egypt' handout. A completed table is provided below for the leader's reference (see pages 6 and 7). The chart is based on information from the *Chronological Life Application Bible*. Each group will need a set of handouts and a Bible. Give them time to fill in the gaps and then recap the main points of the table together.

The Plagues of Egypt				
Reference	Plague	What Happened	Result	Targeted god
Exodus 7:14-24	Blood	Fish die, the river smells, the people are without water.	Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the miracle by 'their magic', and Pharaoh is unmoved.	Hapi – god of the Nile, associated with fertility and life.
Exodus 8:1-15	Frogs	Frogs come up from the water and completely cover the land.	Again Pharaoh's magicians duplicate the miracle by sorcery, and Pharaoh is unmoved.	Heqet - Egyptian goddess of fertility who was depicted with the head of a frog.
Exodus 8:16-19	Gnats	All the dust of Egypt becomes a massive swarm of gnats.	Magicians are unable to duplicate this; they say it is 'the finger of God', but Pharaoh's heart remains hard.	Geb - the god of the earth, soil and dust.



Exodus 8:20-32	Flies	Swarms of flies cover the land.	Pharaoh promises to let the Hebrews go, but then becomes stubborn and refuses.	Khepri - the god of creation, the movement of the sun and rebirth. He was depicted with the head of a fly.
Exodus 9:1-7	Livestock	All the Egyptian livestock die – but none of the Israelites are even sick.	Pharaoh still refuses to let the people go.	Hathor - the Egyptian goddess of love and protection. She was depicted with the head of a cow.
Exodus 9:8-12	Boils	Horrible boils break out on everyone in Egypt.	Magicians cannot respond because they are struck with boils as well. Pharaoh refuses to listen.	Isis - the goddess of medicine and peace.
Exodus 9:13-35	Hail	Hailstorms kill all the slaves and animals left out or unprotected and strip or destroy almost every plant.	Pharaoh admits his sin but then changes his mind and refuses to let Israel go.	Nut – the goddess of the sky.
Exodus 10:1-20	Locusts	Locusts cover Egypt and eat everything left after the hail.	Everyone advises Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go, Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he refuses.	Set - the god of storms and disorder.
Exodus 10:21-29	Darkness	Total darkness covers Egypt for three days so no one can even move – except the Hebrews, who have light as usual.	Pharaoh again promises to let Israel go but again changes his mind.	Ra - the sun god.



Exodus 11:1-12:33	Death of Firstborn	The firstborn of all the people and cattle of Egypt die – but Israel is spared.	Pharaoh and the Egyptians urge Israel to leave quickly. But after they are gone, Pharaoh again changes his mind and chases after them.	Pharaoh was the main focus of this plague as he represented the ultimate power of Egypt.
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Ask:

How did God demonstrate to Pharaoh and his people that he was the one true God?



Ask:

What, if anything, do you find challenging about the stories you have read today?

Say:

It is challenging to read stories where God's anger and judgement is portrayed in such a gruesome way. The final plague called for the death of all the firstborn people and cattle. Surely, a loving God like ours would not condone such destruction.

Leader's notes:

Watch and discuss the following clip together. What are the main justifications given for the tenth plague in this clip? Do the young people agree with the conclusions made by Got Questions Ministries, or does the content simply raise more questions? This discussion will be led by the young people and will hopefully prompt them to think critically and explore these themes for themselves.

Watch:

How was the tenth plague, which caused the death of Egypt's firstborn, just in the eyes of God? (4:18) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwtI5dYhDjE



Ask:

 Place yourself in Moses' position. How do you think he was feeling as he witnessed the ten plaques of Equpt?





Say:

Throughout the verses we have read today, Pharaoh's hardened heart is repeatedly mentioned. There are many leaders across our world who are willing to see their people suffer so that they can stubbornly pursue their own path. For our time of Selah today, we're going to pray for the countries in the world where people suffer wars and famines because of their leaders.

Leader's notes:

Discuss with the group the current situations and places that need prayer. It may be useful to review the world news prior to the session to share specific circumstances with the group. Write the different prayer points so that they are accessible to everyone and ask the group to pray. An optional piece of music is provided below. Bring this time of reflection to a close in prayer.

Watch:

Steffany Gretzinger - 'Open Our Eyes' (Official Lyric Video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXyfNG6WoqE



Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from the events in today's story?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.







The Plagues of Egypt

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Exodus 10:1-20	Locusts		Everyone advises Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go, Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he refuses.	
Exodus 10:21-29	Darkness	Total darkness covers Egypt for three days so no one can even move – except the Hebrews, who have light as usual.		Ra - the sun god.
Exodus 11:1-12:33	Death of Firstborn		Pharaoh and the Egyptians urge Israel to leave quickly. But after they are gone, Pharaoh again changes his mind and chases after them.	



Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt



Set the god of storms and disorder



Geb
the god of the earth,
soil and dust



ISISthe goddess of medicine and peace



Pharaoh
the ultimate representation
of the power of Egypt



Heqet
Egyptian goddess of
fertility who was depicted
with the head of a frog



Hathor
the Egyptian goddess of love and protection.
She was depicted with the head of a cow



Khepri

the god of creation, the movement of the sun and rebirth. He was depicted with the head of a fly



Ra the sun god



Hapi
god of the Nile,
associated with
fertility and life



Nut the goddess of the sky