

Session 4

The 10 plagues

Children learn how much God loved the Israelites. This means that He loves us too and will go to extreme measures to help us.

Scripture: Exodus 7–11

Supplies:

For the session:

- Bowls for “Fear Factor”
- Blue, yellow, and red dye
- Cold, cooked, unsalted sago, *mieliepap*, and spaghetti
- Lunch Bar, Fanta, sour worm sweets
- Red cooldrink
- Pretzel sticks
- Jelly
- 7 posters, one for each word: “Yippee!”, “Oh no!”, “Let my people go!”, “No!”, “Gross!”, “God is great!”, “Ouch!”

For activities (for each child)

- Paper bag
- Paper with the words, “Let my people go”
- Pattern of Moses for the paper doll
- 10 plagues booklet
- Colour pencils, crayons, pens
- Copy of the word search activity



Welcome

Today we are going to take part in “Fear Factor”. Prepare a few interesting (harmless, but gross) dishes in bowls. For example: Cold spaghetti coloured with different dyes; colour sago red, mieliepap green, etc. Use broken pieces of the Lunch Bar in some Fanta, sour worms in the red cooldrink (snakes in the river), pretzel sticks in jelly for grasshopper legs, etc. (Be careful with something like peanut butter because some children could be allergic.) Teams or individuals can be challenged to eat these gross dishes. You can also give the dishes a few interesting names!



Worship

Settle down ritual: Stand in a circle, hold hands and say the following:

“Because I believe in God, I can forgive those who hurt me.

Because I believe in God, I look forward to the beautiful life God is preparing for me.”



Word

Practise before you start: Show the posters and let the children read it aloud. (*The reader or one of the older children show the posters as indicated in the story.*)

Today we are going to look at a time when all sorts of strange things were happening to an entire country. The Israelites were in Egypt for almost 300 years. God told Moses to get his people out of Egypt. I wonder if the pharaoh would have let them go easily. Who would do all the hard work like making bricks and building pyramids?

Moses gave many excuses not to go. But God gave him signs that he could use to convince the pharaoh that God sent him. God also sent Moses' brother Aaron with him to help Moses. Moses and Aaron went to the pharaoh and said, "So says the Lord, God of Israel: **(Let my people go!)**

The pharaoh answered: **(No!) (Oh no!)**

But Moses thought of the words that God told him. "I will show the pharaoh that I am God." **(God is great!)**

That's why Moses went back to the pharaoh. He had the signs that God showed him and he used them. Aaron threw his walking stick on the ground and it turned into a snake, but the pharaoh was not impressed. He called his magicians and they also threw their sticks on the ground which also turned into snakes. **(Oh no!)**. Then Aaron's snake ate the other snakes. **(God is great!)** But it only made the pharaoh angry and he didn't want to listen.

God told Moses that he had to wait for the pharaoh at the Nile River the next day. He had to hit the water with his walking stick. Then God would show the pharaoh that He is the only God. The water from the river and all the dams and drinkable water will turn into blood. The fish will all die and the smell will be terrible. The Egyptians won't be able to drink the water. **(Gross!)** But the pharaoh's magicians could also do it and the pharaoh was not impressed. He just turned around and went home. The Egyptians suffered. They didn't have water to drink, clean anything, or to make food. It stayed like that for a week. **(Oh no!)**

Moses went back to the pharaoh and asked him again to let God's people go. Moses said: **(Let my people go!)**. The pharaoh answered again: **(No!) (Oh no!)**. God sent millions of frogs. The frogs were everywhere: in the stoves, in the pots and pans, in the beds. **(Gross!)** The pharaoh said that he would let the Israelites make offerings to God if Moses made the frogs go away. **(Yippee!)**. When the frogs went away, the pharaoh changed his mind again. **(Oh no!)** God then told Moses that Aaron must hit his stick on the ground. The dust on the ground turned into millions of gnats that descended on the people and animals. **(Sies!)**. The pharaoh's magicians tried to do it, but couldn't. **(Yippee!)**. The magicians finally admitted that only God could do something like that. **(God is great!)**. But the pharaoh still didn't want to let the Israelites go. **(Oh no!)**

God sent more plagues to Egypt to convince the pharaoh that He is the only and strongest God.

The fourth plague was a swarm of flies. **(Gross!)**

The fifth plague was the Egyptian's animals dying of an illness, but not one of the Israelite animals got sick. **(God is great!)**

The sixth plague was that people and animals got sores on their skin. **(Ouch!)**

The seventh plague was hail that hit all the plants, animals and people in the field. All the plants were destroyed. **(Oh no!)**

The eighth plague was locusts that ate all the wheat before it was time to reap them. **(Oh no!)**

The ninth plague was darkness for three days. It was so bad it felt like you could touch the darkness. **(Oh no!)**

I wonder which of the 9 plagues were the worst for you.

Moses went to the pharaoh after every plague and said: **(Let my people go!)**

While the plague was ongoing, the pharaoh said that the Israelites could go **(Yippee!)**, but as soon as the plague passed, he changed his mind again. **(Oh no!)**

Then God told Moses that he would send one more plague. This time, the pharaoh will definitely let them go. He will actually chase them away. **(Yippee!)**

I wonder what the tenth plague will be. What can be so bad that the pharaoh would want to chase the Israelites away? God did so many things to help his people.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder what God has done for you because He loves you.
2. I wonder how you feel about not having to do anything to deserve God's love.



Working and Playing

- Make a Moses doll with a brown paper bag. Glue the words: "Let my people go" on the inside of the doll's mouth (under the flap of the paper bag).
- Copy the 10 plagues booklet for each child to colour and decorate.

Closing prayer to end the session

Extra instructions for the 10 plagues booklet:

Colour one half of "1" blue (river) and the other half red (blood).

Add more grey dots at 3 (gnats).

Colour the whole page of 9 black (darkness).

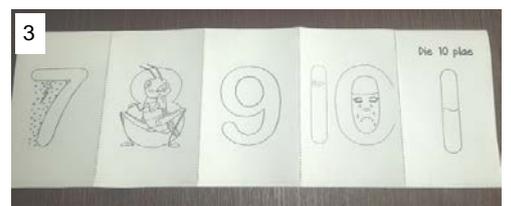
The other pictures can be coloured as you like.



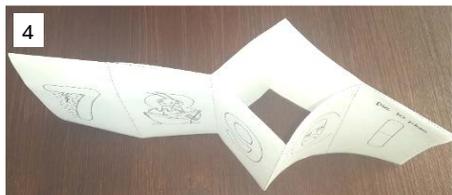
1. Duplicate the booklet onto A4 paper. Fold on all the lines.



2. Fold the page that 1, 2, 3 and 10 are on top. Cut through 2 layers of paper that the last section stays together.



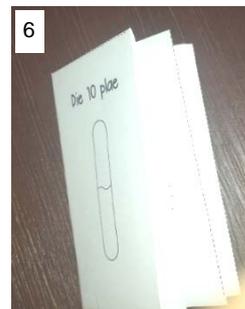
3. Fold the paper lengthwise.



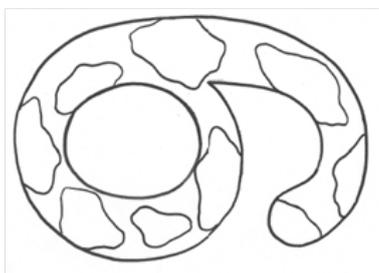
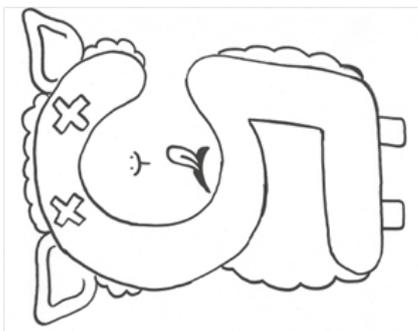
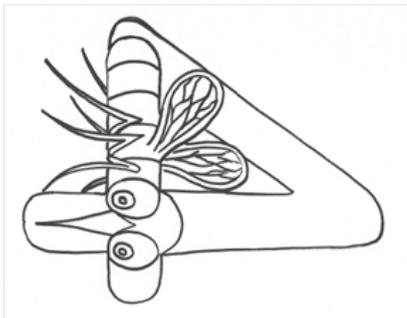
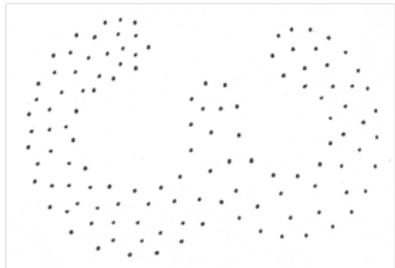
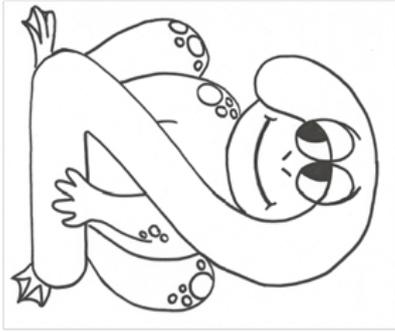
4. Fold the pages as in the photo.



5. Fold the last fifth to fit between 8 and 9.



6. Now the booklet is done!



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