



Unit 4 | Session 2

GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

Exodus 5-12

God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt, and God called Moses to rescue them. Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt and told him: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go."

But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD? Why should I obey Him? Israel may not go!" So God sent ten plagues to punish the Egyptians.

First, God turned the water in the Nile River into blood. But Pharaoh would not let the people go. God sent frogs into Egypt. Pharaoh said, "Ask your God to take away the frogs. Then I will let the people go." But when God removed the frogs, Pharaoh refused to let the people go.

So God sent gnats that bit the people and animals. Then God sent flies, and He caused all the livestock to die. Still, Pharaoh did not let the people go.

God sent boils that covered the people, but Pharaoh's heart was hard. Not even a terrible hailstorm changed Pharaoh's mind. Locusts ate up the plants, and then darkness covered the land for three days. But still, Pharaoh said no.

God told Moses, "I will bring one more plague. After that, Pharaoh will let My people

go." Moses warned Pharaoh: Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, but the Israelites will be safe. Pharaoh ignored Moses.

So God told the Israelite families to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see and "pass over." The Israelites' families would be safe.

At midnight, God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt. There was a great cry because there wasn't a house without someone dead. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. "Go!" he said.

The Israelites were ready. All of them—600,000 men and their families—left Egypt quickly. They took bread and their animals. The Egyptians gave them gold, silver, and clothing.

God led His people out of Egypt. He was preparing a place for them in a land called Canaan. For 430 years, the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. They were finally free!

Christ Connection: By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.



1 WELCOME TIME

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

- **What is the most annoying bug you have ever encountered? What was it like?**

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: HAILSTORM CHALLENGE



» supplies: cotton balls, wide-mouth jars, stopwatch or timer

Ask for two volunteers to compete in a minute challenge. Give each volunteer a handful of cotton balls. Position a wide-mouth jar at each volunteer's feet.

Explain that when you say go, each volunteer will hold a cotton ball at chest level and try to drop it into the jar. Players will have one minute to drop as many of the cotton balls into the jar as they can.

After one minute, count the cotton balls in the jars. The player with the most wins. Choose new volunteers to compete in subsequent rounds.

- **Have you ever seen hail? What would you do if a large hailstorm came?**

OPTION 2: FIRST PLAGUE POUR

» supplies: 4 buckets, water, red food color, tarp or plastic tablecloth, 2 cups, towels (for cleanup)

Before the session, fill two buckets with water. Put several drops of red food color in the bottom of two more buckets. Lay a tarp or plastic tablecloth on the floor and position the water buckets at one end and the buckets with food color at the other.

Form two teams of kids. Direct each team to line up at a water bucket. Give a cup to the first player in each line.

Challenge kids to scoop a cup of water, carry it to the second bucket, dump it in, and carry the cup back to their team. Then the next player will take a turn. After several minutes, call for teams to stop. The team that moved the most water wins.

- **How did the water change when you put it in the second bucket?**
- **What would you think if you turned on the sink and blood came out instead of water?**



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear how God delivered His people from Egypt. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Exodus 5–12.

•What does this story teach us about God?

Invite kids to share their ideas. Point out that **God is gracious and generous**. Through the sacrifice of lambs, God gave His people two incredible gifts: protection from the tenth plague and freedom from Egypt. God's generosity can inspire us to live generously too.

•How did the Israelites remember how God rescued them from Egypt?

Guide kids to discuss how the last plague involved God passing over the homes of the Israelites who had lambs' blood on their doorposts. **The Israelites observed the Passover feast to remember God's rescue**. Thousands of years later, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. That night, He was betrayed and captured by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. After trial, Jesus died on the cross and rose three days later. Like the lamb's blood saved the Israelites from the Egyptian plague, Jesus' blood saves us from the cost of sin in our lives.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Remind kids of the McDonalds, who are missionaries in Tanzania. Explain that in our story today, God judged Egypt and freed His people. Missionaries all over the world take the gospel to unbelievers who need freedom from sin, and they do so with help from generous offerings. The hospital where Eric McDonald works is supported by churches. By giving to missions offerings, we can help missionaries like the McDonalds get what they need to help people. And when they help people, they can also tell them about Jesus. Close in prayer for the McDonalds and any missionaries your church supports.

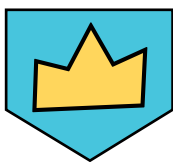
3 PRAY

God, You are faithful at all times. Thank You for keeping Your promises and planning the best for us. Sometimes we feel afraid and make excuses. Help us to trust You, to listen for Your voice, and obey You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



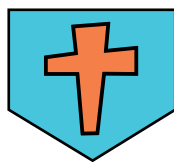
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



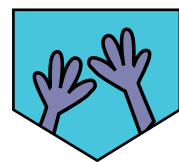
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



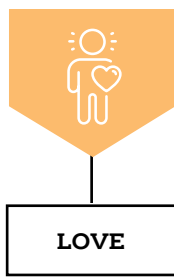
JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- Why did the king keep changing his mind and not let God's people go?
- What can you do if you notice your heart is hard toward God or His plan?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Exodus 12. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 12:17. Remind preteens that the Israelites celebrated Passover every year to remember how God rescued them from Egypt.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Exodus 12:17 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What did Pharaoh believe about God? How do our beliefs affect how we live?

Guide kids to recall that Pharaoh did not recognize God as the Lord; he did not submit to God's authority. Discuss how our beliefs directly affect how we live. If we trust God as Lord, we will trust and follow Him even through difficult times. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

2. What are consequences we might face when we don't listen closely or we choose to disobey?

Lead kids to think of relational consequences with friends and family. Guide kids to consider the cost of sin in their relationships with God. Remind kids that Jesus' sacrifice pays the cost of our sin so we can have a right relationship with God when we trust in Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:29.)

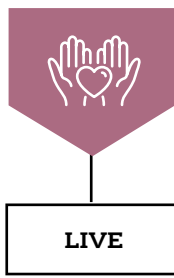
3. How can we help other people recognize God if they don't believe He is real?

Encourage kids to think of ways we can show God's love to others. Remind kids that Pharaoh did not think he needed God, and God allowed Moses to perform miracles so that Pharaoh would recognize God's power. Guide kids to notice that we can't change people's minds on our own and we need God's help. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ezek. 11:19-20.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Does God keep His promises?

Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Numbers 23:19. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Review the big picture question and answer: **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.**

Give each kid an index card with a word from the verse to say. If you have more cards than kids, give kids multiple cards. Guide the kids to recite the verse popcorn-style. Begin with the kid holding the first word. Repeat if time allows.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. Ask God to help us obey Him and show His love to others.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

PLAGUES FISHBOWL

Write the plagues on separate index cards: water turned to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn. Read the cards aloud and put them in a bowl. Play three rounds of a game. For each round, choose a new player to grab cards one at a time. See how many plagues kids can guess in one minute:

1. A player will say any words not on the card to help the kids guess the plague.
2. A player will say only one word to help the kids guess the plague.
3. A player will act out clues without talking to help kids guess the plague.

Emphasize that God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment