

# Open Bible Stories - The Ten Plagues

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of the Ten Plagues teaches us about God's judgment against his enemies.

### Core Belief Verse

*"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." - Galatians 3:29*

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham.

He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

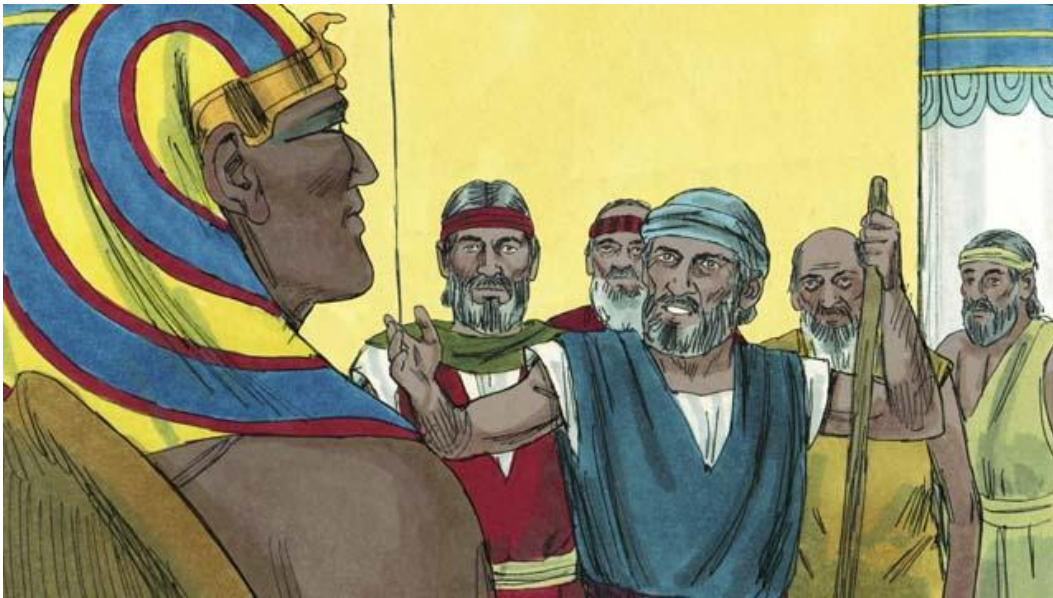
But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God sent judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues.

## The Story: The Ten Plagues

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10-01



God warned Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh would be stubborn. When they went to Pharaoh, they said, "This is what the God of Israel says, 'Let my people go!'" But Pharaoh did not listen to them. Instead of letting the Israelites go free, he forced them to work even harder!

10-02



Pharaoh kept refusing to let the people go, so God sent ten terrible plagues on Egypt. Through these plagues, God showed Pharaoh that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.

10-03



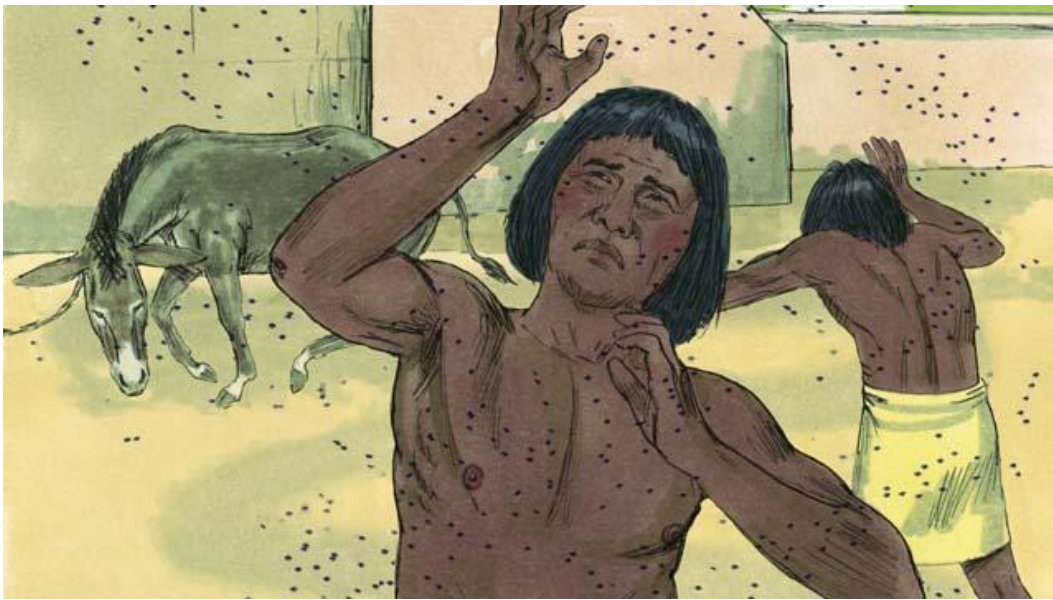
God turned the Nile River into blood, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.

10-04



God sent frogs all over Egypt. Pharaoh begged Moses to take away the frogs. But after all the frogs died, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt.

10-05



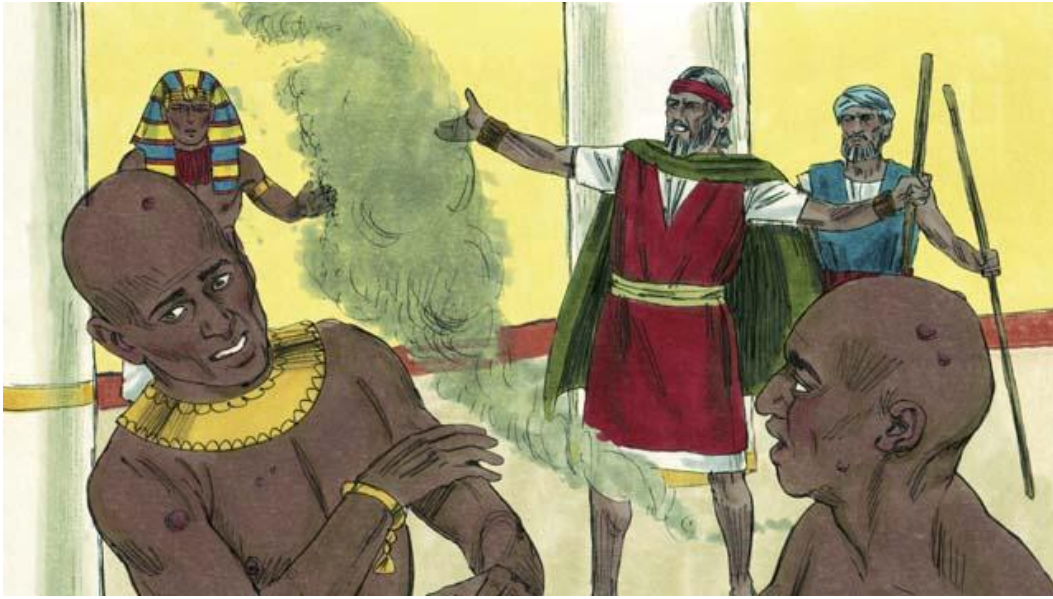
So God sent a plague of gnats. Then he sent a plague of flies. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them that if they stopped the plague, the Israelites could leave Egypt. When Moses prayed, God removed all the flies from Egypt. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go free.

10-06



Next, God caused all the farm animals that belonged to the Egyptians to get sick and die. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go.

10-07



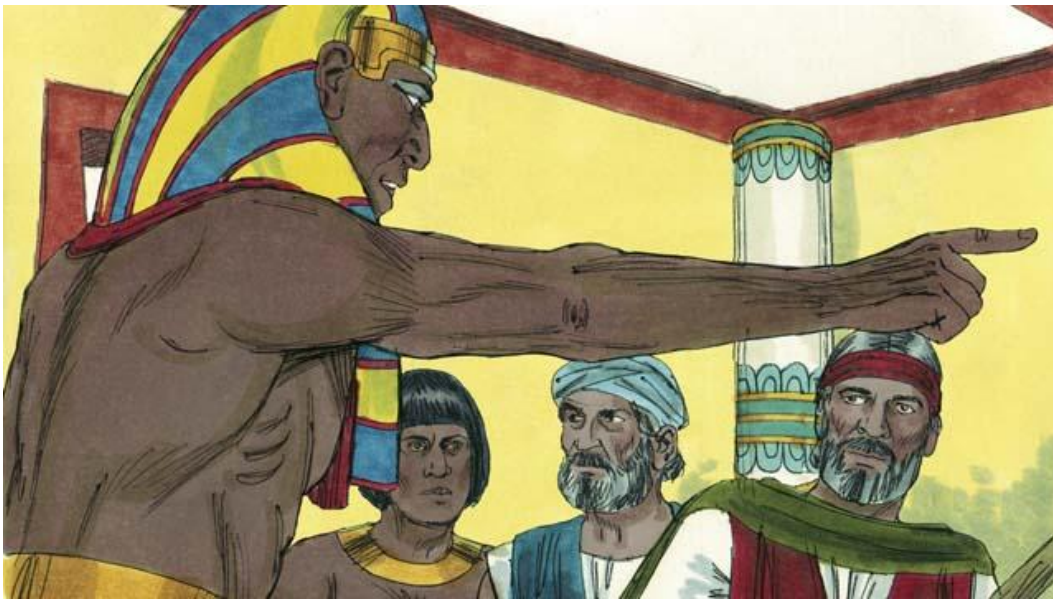
Then God told Moses to throw ashes into the air in front of Pharaoh. When he did, painful skin sores appeared on the Egyptians, but not on the Israelites. God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go free.

10-08



After that, God sent hail that destroyed most of the crops in Egypt and killed anybody who went outside. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them, "I have sinned. You may go." So Moses prayed, and the hail stopped falling from the sky.

10-09



But Pharaoh sinned again and hardened his heart. He would not let the Israelites go free.

10-10



So God caused swarms of locusts to come over Egypt. These locusts ate all the crops that the hail had not destroyed.

10-11



Then God sent darkness that lasted for three days. It was so dark that the Egyptians could not leave their houses. But there was light where the Israelites lived.

10-12



Even after these nine plagues, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go free. Since Pharaoh would not listen, God planned to send one last plague. This would change Pharaoh's mind.

*A Bible story from: Exodus 5-10*

## Things Which Are Not Proper - Recognizing the Community Damage of Sin

- **Key Idea:** Acknowledging the negative impact of sin
- **Key Passage:** Romans 1:28-32
- **Main Session:** OBS 10 (The Ten Plagues)

### Recite the Core Belief Verse (3–5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*"The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people numerous when they stayed in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he led them out of it. Acts 13:17"*

### Read the Passage (5 minutes)

When people reject God, they live in a way that dishonors God and harms others. Christians need to guard themselves against ungodly attitudes, behaviors, and desires. In order to understand the danger of such ungodliness, read the passage below.

*"28 Because they did not approve of having God in their awareness, he gave them up to a depraved mind, for them to do those things that are not proper. 29 They have been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, and malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and evil intentions. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventing ways of doing evil; they are disobedient to parents. 31 They are senseless, faithless, heartless, and unmerciful. 32 They understand the regulations of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death. But not only do they do these things, they also approve of others who do them. - Romans 1:28-32"*

### Explore the Idea (10–15 minutes)

Christians should guard themselves against ways of life that are wrong and evil. Use the following questions to discuss the destructive effects of sin in the Christian community.

1. What are sinful effects that result when people reject God?

2. How do such sinful ways dishonor God and harm others?
3. Even though Christians have been set free from sin, how might these sinful ways still damage and disrupt the Christian community?
4. How can your community guard itself against these sinful ways?

**Pick One from the List** (5 minutes)

Thinking about the list of sinful ways, pick one specific sin that you feel could disrupt your community life. Think out loud of the consequences that would result if this sinful way made inroads into your community. If the sin of [choose one from the passage above] was present in our community, then the results would be...

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Divide the community into groups of 2–3. Pray that God would guard you as individuals and as a community against the effects of these sinful ways.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

10-01

How did God say that Pharaoh would respond?

God told Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh would be stubborn.

What was God's message that Moses and Aaron gave to Pharaoh?

God's message to Pharaoh was, "Let my people go!"

What did Pharaoh do when he heard this command?

Pharaoh did not listen to them. He forced the Israelites to work even harder.

10-02

What did God do when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go?

God sent ten terrible plagues on Egypt.

What did God show Pharaoh through these plagues?

God showed that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.

10-03

What was the first plague? What did God do to the water in the Nile River?  
God turned the water in the Nile River into blood.

10-04

What happened in the second plague?

God sent frogs all over Egypt.

What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go free.

10-05

What happened in the third and fourth plagues?

God sent gnats. Then God sent flies.

What did Pharaoh tell Moses and Aaron to do?

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron that if the plague stopped he would let the Israelites go free.

What did Moses and Aaron do?

Moses and Aaron prayed to God. God removed all the flies from Egypt.

What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go free.

10-06

What happened in the fifth plague?

God caused the farm animals that belonged to the Egyptians to get sick and die.

What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites go free.

10-07

What happened in the sixth plague?

God caused painful skin sores to appear on the Egyptians.

Who was affected by the plague of the painful skin sores?

The sores appeared on the Egyptians, but not on the Israelites.

What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

God hardened Pharaoh's heart and would not let the Israelites go free.

*10-08*

What happened in the seventh plague?

God sent hail that destroyed most of the Egyptian crops and killed people who went outside.

What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

Pharaoh said he sinned. Pharaoh told the Israelites they could go free and the hail stopped falling from the sky.

*10-09*

How did Pharaoh change his mind about letting the Israelites go free?

Pharaoh sinned, hardened his heart, and would not let the Israelites go free.

*10-10*

What happened in the eighth plague?

God sent locusts to come over Egypt.

What did the locusts destroy?

The locusts destroyed the Egyptian crops that the hail did not destroy.

*10-11*

What happened in the ninth plague?

God sent darkness that lasted for three days. It was so dark the Egyptians could not leave their houses.

Did the plague of darkness affect everyone equally?

No, it was dark where the Egyptians lived, but there was light where the Israelites lived.

*10-12*

How did Pharaoh respond to each of the first nine plagues?

Pharaoh refused to let the people go free.

What did God do after Pharaoh did not respond to the first nine plagues?

God planned to send one last plague.

What would this last plague do that the first nine had not done?

It would change Pharaoh's mind.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

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### **What Does This Story Teach Us?**

1. What are some of the ways sin and disobedience can affect us and others? How do the actions of Pharaoh warn us about the effects of sin and disobedience?
2. How does God bring about judgment on those who do not follow him? What does this story teach us about God's judgment?
3. How does God bring freedom to his people? What does this story teach us about how God rescues and frees his people?

## **Movement 3: Live It Out**

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### **Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. How does the condition of Pharaoh's heart serve as a warning for you?
2. How do you respond when you hear about God's judgment on the Egyptians?
3. How is your life in need of freedom?
4. Think about this week. Where does "The Ten Plagues" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of the Ten Plagues teaches us about God's judgment against his enemies.

## **Movement 4: Retell the Story**

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "The Ten Plagues" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

## Church Ministry

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. What setting, audience, or approach would you use? Record your ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching or lead a discussion. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. What went well? What would you do differently? Reflect on your experience below.

## Movement 5: Share It

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "The Ten Plagues" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

## Mission Engagement

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. What context, relationship, or opportunity will you use? Record your ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a natural conversation or teaching. Record your plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from sharing this story with unbelievers. What did they respond to? What questions did they ask? Reflect on your experience below.