

Stronger Than Egypt's Idols

Exodus 3:1-10; 6:28-10:29; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 251, 252, 257-272

Tara listened to the stories at Vacation Bible School. They kept telling her about God's love for everyone in the world. There are so many people in the world, *she thought*. Could God really care about me?

What do you think? Does God care about you?

The cool, early morning breeze ruffled Moses' beard as he and his brother Aaron stood quietly by the great river Nile. "Here he comes," Moses said softly.

"What do you two want now?" Pharaoh growled as he arrived at the riverside.

Moses stepped forward. "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say, 'Let My people go.' The Lord says, 'You are going to find out that I am the Lord.'

"I will hit the water of the Nile with this staff, and the river will turn to blood. The fish in it will die, and the river will stink. The Egyptians will not be able to drink any water from the Nile."

It happened just as Moses said. Everywhere in Egypt, water turned to blood. Even water that was stored in pots in people's houses.

But Pharaoh would not let God's people go. He did not want to give up his slaves. After all, they had been slaves in Egypt for almost 400 years.

"Go to Pharaoh again," the Lord said. "Tell him I will send millions of frogs to Egypt. Frogs will be everywhere! Even in people's bedrooms. Even in their beds!"

Moses told Pharaoh the words of the Lord. And it happened just as Moses said.

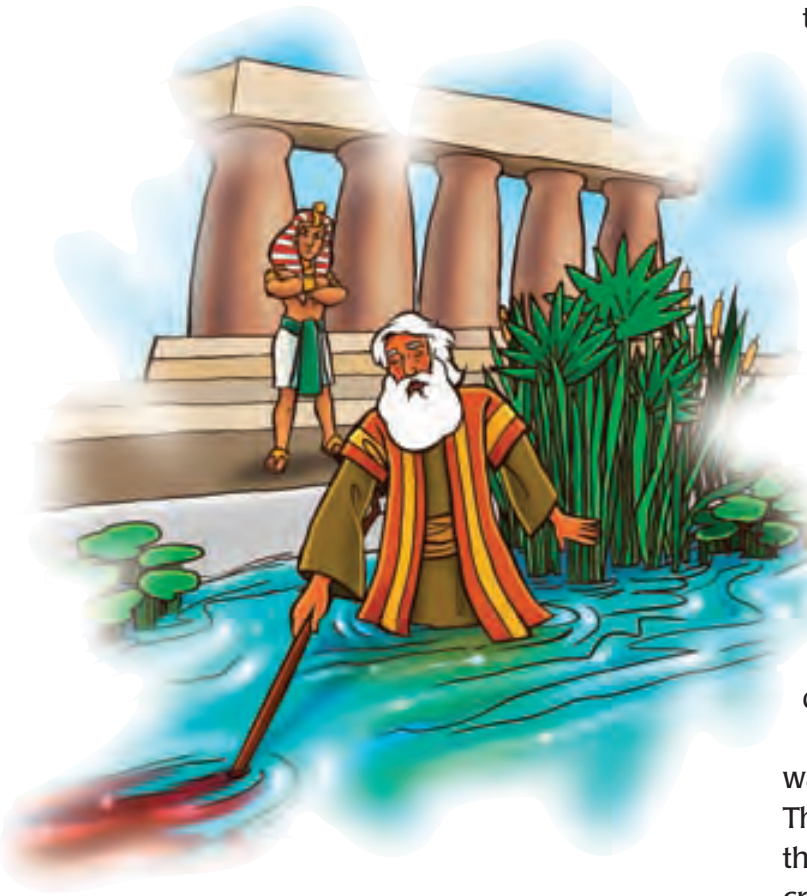
The frogs were everywhere, and they made the Egyptians crazy!

"Get rid of these frogs, and I will let your people go!" Pharaoh shouted at Moses.

So the Lord ended the plague, and all the frogs died. But Pharaoh did not let the people go.

The Lord spoke to Moses again. "Tell Aaron to hit the dust with his staff. The dust will turn into gnats."

Aaron did. And suddenly the land of Egypt was filled with a fog of tiny, irritating gnats. The little gnats covered the Egyptians and all their animals. The gnats drove the Egyptians crazy!



The Message

God is working to reach my heart.

Memory Verse

**“You are great and
do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God”**
(Psalm 86:10, NIV).



But Pharaoh would not let God's people go. The Lord spoke to Moses again. "Tell Pharaoh if he refuses to let My people go, I will send swarms of flies to Egypt. The houses will be filled with them. The ground will be covered with them. But there will be no flies in Goshen where My people live. I am the Lord, and I have power even in the heart of his land!"

Moses told Pharaoh the words of the Lord. And it happened just as Moses said.

"Get rid of these horrible flies!" Pharaoh shrieked. "I will let your people go!"

So the Lord made the flies disappear. But Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

The Lord tried to reach Pharaoh's heart five more times. He tried to show Pharaoh that He

was the true God. The Egyptians worshiped many gods, and the Lord used each plague to show Pharaoh that his gods were useless.

All the Egyptians' horses, donkeys, camels, cows, and sheep died. (The Egyptians worshiped a bull god and a cow god.) The animals of the Israelites did not die.

Next, horrible, painful sores appeared on the Egyptians. (They worshiped a lion-headed god that was supposed to have power over disease.)

Then the Lord sent a huge hailstorm. It destroyed all the crops and every tree. (The Egyptians worshiped a sky god and a god of storms.) The hail did not fall where the Israelites lived.

Then the Lord covered all of Egypt with locusts. The locusts ate every green thing left in the land, and they filled all the houses. The Egyptians' god of crops could not save them.

Finally, a deep, terrible darkness covered Egypt for three days. Their sun god could not help the Egyptians. But there was light where the Israelites lived.

The Lord had now given Pharaoh nine opportunities to see that He was far greater than Egypt's false gods. He had tried over and over to speak to Pharaoh in a way he could understand. He would try one more time.

S A B B A T H

READ Read your Bible lesson story. Try to imagine that you live in Egypt and the water has been turned to blood. What do you think? What do you do?

READ Read John 4:13 in your Bible. Then read Psalm 86:10. Teach the verse to your family.

S U N D A Y

READ Read Exodus 3:1-10 during family worship.

DO If you have a safe place, build a small fire with your family's help. Put a piece of a branch in the fire. What happens? Imagine that you are Moses. What would you have thought when the bush didn't burn up?

DO Review your memory verse. What marvelous deed did God do to guide Moses? Did it reach Moses' heart?

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read together Exodus 6:28-8:32.

DO Draw a picture of each of those plagues on a different piece of paper. Save them.

DO Ask an adult to help you with this. Put some food coloring in water to represent sin. Ask an adult to add some bleach to the water. What happens? The bleach represents Jesus forgiving us. How is this like the way God works to reach your heart? (Be careful with the bleach; it could ruin your clothes.)

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Exodus 9:1-10:29 for worship today.

DO Draw a picture of each of those plagues on a different piece of paper. Save them.

SHARE How was God working to reach Pharaoh's heart? Did it work?

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship arrange your pictures of the plagues in order. Tell your family how God tried to reach Pharaoh's heart. Turn the pictures over. On the back of each write one word of your memory verse. Mix up the papers. Try to put them in order by looking at the pictures. Now put them in order by looking at the words. Say your memory verse without looking.

T H U R S D A Y

DO With your family's help, create a maze for worship. Draw it on paper or make one with furniture, boxes, etc. Draw or make something to represent a heart to go at the end. Talk with your family about the different ways God is working to reach your heart. Say your memory verse together.

In each plague He sent, God was showing He was stronger than the false gods of the Egyptians.



F R I D A Y

DO Act out the story of Pharaoh and Moses with your family. What can you use to represent the different plagues? Ask the adults in your family to tell you about ways God has reached their hearts. What has God done to reach your heart?

SING Sing some praise songs. Thank God for using so many different ways to try to reach our hearts.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Draw a line to match the name of the Egyptian god with the picture of the plague it could not stop.

Heqt (frog god)

Ra (sun god)

Hapi (river god)

Seth (crop god)

Nut and Shu (sky god)

Geb (earth god)

