

Bible background

Exodus 7:14-Exodus 11; Psalm 105:26-36

Aim of lesson

To contrast Pharaoh's greed in wanting to keep slaves for himself with God's kindness in rescuing the Israelites from suffering.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials and your 'booklet' from last week

Suggested outline of lesson

- Using last week's booklet remind the class that Moses had been sent by God to Egypt to set his people free. His people, the Israelites, were slaves to Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Ask the children what the slaves would have to do for Pharaoh. Then ask if they think Pharaoh would want to set the people free. Ask why not. Bring out God's kindness in wanting the people to be free, and not to suffer from Pharaoh's cruelty.
- Tell the children of Moses' warning to Pharaoh about the first plague. Sing the chorus and verse of the song. Say how Pharaoh refused, and God sent the plague. Ask the children to imagine going for a drink of water and finding blood! Ask if Pharaoh let the people go.
- Tell the children about each plague. Sing about the warning to Pharaoh and have the class imagine how horrible the plague would be. Ask if Pharaoh let the slaves go. Tell them how sometimes he said he would let them go to get rid of the plague, but afterwards said they could not go. Tell how after the last plague he said they could go. (Depending on the age and ability of your class, give details of the number of plagues which you think will hold their interest.)
- Let the children choose one of the plagues to draw on their activity sheet, e.g. lots of frogs or lice or boils etc.

Alternative activities

- Before the lesson, make 2 sets of picture/symbol cards to represent each plague. Help the children to sequence one of the sets.
- Use both sets of cards to play pairs. Join in to help the children remember where cards are and to 'find' a few pairs if they are struggling.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask how we can be greedy or selfish like Pharaoh or kind and generous like God.

Prayer

Ask who would like to thank God that he is kind - not cruel like Pharaoh.

Verse

'Their land teemed with frogs, which went into the bedrooms of their rulers.' Psalm 105:30.

Song

Go Tell The King Of Egypt (Tune: Go Tell It On The mountain)

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the melody with chords G, Em, C, D7, and G. The second staff contains the second line with chords G, Em, A, D7, and a section labeled 'Chorus' with chord G. The third staff continues the melody with chords D, G, C, D7, and G. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords C, D7, and G.

Chorus: Go tell the king of Egypt
All his men and his slave drivers
Go tell the king of Egypt
To let my people go.

v.1 If you don't want a plague of blood
Let my people go

For you will get a plague of blood
If Pharaoh still says no... So

v.2 If you don't want a plague of frogs

v.3 If you don't want a plague of gnats (or lice)

v.4 If you don't want a plague of flies

v.5 If you don't want your cows to die

v.6 If you don't want a plague of boils

v.7 If you don't want a plague of hail

v.8 If you don't want a locust cloud

v.9 If you don't want thick darkness

v.10 If you don't want your first born killed

Music: Traditional.