

FROM CAPTIVITY TO THE WILDERNESS: OUT OF EGYPT

(The Gospel Project Volume 2 Unit 4: Customized from the Preschool, Younger, and Older Leader Guides)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION FOR THIS UNIT:

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

KEY PASSAGE FOR THIS UNIT:



God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should
change his mind. Has he said,
and will he not do it? Or has he
spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Numbers 23:19

TODAY'S LESSON: God Delivered His People

God's heart is for His people. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord, He heard them and had a plan to rescue them from their suffering.

That's why God called Moses back to Egypt. Though Moses had been raised among the royal household in Egypt, his heart was for his own people too. God chose Moses to deliver the enslaved Israelites after a series of plagues.

God's purpose in sending the plagues was not only to get His people out of Egypt; the plagues would put God's power on display and stand as acts of judgment against the Egyptians. (See Ex. 7:4-5.) The plagues made life in Egypt uncomfortable. In some instances, the people suffered terribly.

The plagues did convince some of Pharaoh's officials to take God's word seriously, but other Egyptians—including Pharaoh—refused to humble themselves. It was the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, that finally got Pharaoh to send the Israelites out of his land.

The heart of the gospel is found in the story of the Passover. The Israelite people were sinful; they deserved death just as much as the Egyptians did, but God graciously provided a way out to keep the promises He made to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 and to Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15.

At the Passover, the Israelites killed a lamb instead. By marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb, the Israelites were spared from the judgment and death they deserved.

God kept His promise to rescue His people from the power of the Egyptians. Each year, the Israelites remembered this miraculous event by observing the Passover festival.

Jesus never sinned, but He was crucified for our sins. We too are deserving of death, but the blood of Jesus—the Lamb of God—covers all who trust in Him and sets us free from sin and death.

God is faithful to keep His promises. He calls us to remember that Jesus has freed us from slavery to sin so we are free to live for His glory.

TERMS TO KNOW

Passover feast: Hebrew feast to remind the Israelites of how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Passover was celebrated by Jesus and His disciples and is still celebrated by Jewish people today.

PREPARING YOUR CHILDREN FOR GOD'S WORD:

Make sure that your children have a Bible with them even if they are too young to read.
Have your kids sing along with the worship songs that are posted for this week.

THE BIBLE STORY:

GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

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 (KAY nuhn). For 430 years, the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. They were finally free!

APPLICATION:

One thing I always find fascinating about this story is all the different ways God showed His power over Egypt. You see, Egypt worshiped many false gods. Some were supposed to be in charge of the Nile, or the animals kept as livestock, or the sun. Each plague affected a different part of Egypt that was supposed to be protected by the Egyptian gods. But false gods have no power and can't do anything to stop the real God of the universe.

God planned to save His people from slavery, and nothing can stop God's plans. Generations before Moses, God had made a promise to Abraham to bless his family to bless the world, and to give them a land of their own. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** Because God is always faithful, it was only a matter of time before God fulfilled His promise to Abraham.

It's important to remember though, that Israel didn't earn God's favor. It wasn't because Israel was really good and holy that He chose to judge Egypt and rescue Israel from slavery. In fact, before the last plague, what did Israel have to do to be passed over? [Allow responses.] That's right! They had to sacrifice a lamb and cover their door with its blood. The Israelites weren't spared because they were better than the Egyptians, they were spared because God showed them

mercy, allowing a lamb to die in place of their sons.

At the first Passover, God protected His people from the final plague. Thousands of years later, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. That night, He was betrayed and captured by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. After an unfair 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 our sin. Jesus' sacrifice reminds us that **God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.**

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.

TIMELINE MOMENT:

After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience, God promised to provide the solution for the problem of sin. He promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham's family.

Last time, we saw how Abraham's descendants—the Israelites—were slaves in Egypt. God called Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt and lead them to the promised land. Was Moses excited to return to Egypt and confront Pharaoh? Not really. But God promised He would go with Moses, and He told Moses what to say.

How do you think it went? Of course, God kept His promise to be with Moses. In today's Bible story we continue with the story to learn what God did to prove His power to Egypt and force Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

2-5 Year Olds:

What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?

What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?

What special mark did God tell the Israelite families to put on their doorposts that God would see and keep them safe?

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade:

Why did God send 10 plagues, instead of just the last plague?

Point out that we can't fully understand all of God's reasons, but the plagues were about more than just freeing His people. The plagues also demonstrated to Egypt that their false gods had no power. Even in the instances where Pharaoh's magicians could copy God's plagues, they could only copy it, not overcome it or undo it. God was showing His power to people who had built their entire culture on worshiping false gods.

Why did the Israelites have to sacrifice a lamb to be protected from the last plague?

Remind your kids that everyone is guilty of sin. Everyone deserves God's wrath because we all rebel against Him. God's choice to give the Israelites a way to be saved shows His mercy and love. God was also showing a beautiful picture of the way He would eventually save everyone who believes. The blood of the lamb pointed forward to Jesus, the Lamb of God who died to take away the sins of the world.

How does this story show God's faithfulness to keep His promises?

God showed His faithfulness in many ways. He was faithful to pass over the houses marked by blood. He was faithful to free His people. He was faithful to judge the Egyptians for their sin. God always keeps His promises. Any time you think about a promise of God

that hasn't happened—like the promise to send Jesus again—it means He isn't done working yet.

3rd-5th Grade:

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

Guide your 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: read John 16:33.)

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

Lead your kids to think of relational consequences with friends and family. Guide your kids to consider the cost of sin in their relationships with God. Remind them that Jesus' sacrifice pays the cost of our sin so we can have a right relationship with God when we trust in Him.

(Option: read John 1:29.)

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

Encourage your kids to think of ways we can show God's love to others. Remind your 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 your kids to notice that we can't change people's minds on our own and we need God's help.

(Option: read Ezek. 11:19-20.)

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask your kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with your kids.

God rules. Explain to your kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell your kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with your kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell your kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.