

NINE PLAGUES

Scripture:
Exodus 7:14-10:29

Memory Verse: Proverbs 29:1 He who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

Materials Needed:
Robes/costumes for role-play; verses written out for students to read, or a Bible for each student; a sign that says, “NO!”

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my student

To Know:

When Moses and Aaron went nine different times and told Pharaoh God’s message to let His people go, Pharaoh refused each time, even though Egypt was totally devastated as a result.

To Realize:

When one knows what God says but consistently chooses to harden his heart and ignore it, it will result in ruin in his life.

To Respond: by not hardening their hearts when they hear the word of God but responding according to what God wants them to do.

Approach:

If you used role-play last week, have the same students play their roles: Moses, Pharaoh, the Israelites (if you have enough students, you may also want to have a group of Egyptians—or at least two attendants to be Pharaoh’s “magicians”.) As you storytell through, either have the students read the different parts of the story, or you narrate the story and have the students act it out as you narrate. Read each statement about Pharaoh hardening his heart. Then say to your students, “And Pharaoh said...” (hold up card with the word “NO!” and have the whole class read it).

Outline of Passage:

Scripture:
Exodus 7:14-25

I. Nile Turned to Blood

A. “Let My people go that they may serve Me!”

B. Nile turned to blood; fish die; stench covers land

C. Egyptian magicians do the same thing

Lesson Development:

Have everyone read sign:
v. 22 “And Pharaoh’s heart was hardened.”

Scripture:
Exodus 8:1-15

II. Frogs

- A. "Let My people go that they may serve Me!"
- B. Egyptians Magicians do the same thing
- C. Pharaoh doesn't let them go

v. 15 "When Pharaoh saw there was relief, he hardened his heart."

Scripture:
Exodus 8:1-19

III. Gnats (lice)

- A. --
- B. Gnats (lice) cover everything
- C. Pharaoh doesn't let them go

(it's not recorded that Moses saw Pharaoh with God's message before the plague came)
v. 19 "But Pharaoh's heart was hardened."

Scripture:
Exodus 8:20-32

IV. Flies

- A. "Let My people go that they may serve Me!"
- B. Flies come
 1. only on Egyptians
 2. Pharaoh says to go worship
 3. until the flies are gone
- B. Pharaoh doesn't let them go

v. 32 "But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also."
What do you think it's going to take to get through to this guy that God is in charge of what's going on and NOT him? That he'd better start doing it God's way?

Scripture:
Exodus 9:1-7

V. Cattle Die

- A. "Let My people go that they may serve Me!"
- B. Egyptian livestock die
- C. Pharaoh doesn't let them go

v. 7 "But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened."
(review what he's lost so far—but Pharaoh wasn't about to give in to God. And God wasn't going to let Pharaoh win either!)

Scripture:
Exodus 9:8-12

VI. Boils

- A. --
- B. Moses brings boils with soot from kiln
- C. Pharaoh doesn't let them go

(it's not recorded that Moses saw Pharaoh with God's message before the plague came)
v. 12 "And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart"

Scripture:
Exodus 9:13-35

VII. Hail

- A. "Let My people go that they may serve Me."

All this has gone on around Pharaoh. What is wrong with this guy?! Doesn't he get the message yet?

- B. Heavy hail comes
 1. warned to put beasts out of fields
 2. some listen and obey
 3. only on Egyptian livestock
 4. Pharaoh admits sin and says he will let people go
- C. Pharaoh doesn't let people go

Scripture:
Exodus 10:1-20

- VIII. Locust
 - A. "Let My people go that they may serve Me!"
 - B. Locust destroy remaining crops
 1. Pharaoh's servants blame Moses
 2. Urge Pharaoh to let the people go
 3. Admit that Egypt is destroyed
 4. Pharaoh agrees to let only men go
 5. Locust destroy
 6. Pharaoh admits sin
 7. Locust are removed

Scripture:
Exodus 10:21-28

- C. Pharaoh doesn't let people go
- IX. Darkness
 - A. --
 - B. Three days of darkness
 1. that could be felt (sandstorm?)
 2. Pharaoh agrees to let people go but not possessions
 - C. Pharaoh doesn't let the people go

We have a confession by Pharaoh. But in v. 32 it says that only some of Pharaoh's crops were ruined. Looks like Pharaoh isn't totally out of options here!

v. 34 "he sinned again and hardened his heart."

v. 3 God has a question for Pharaoh: "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?" What has been the answer so far?

Surprise, surprise!

(it's not recorded that Moses saw Pharaoh with God's message before the plague came)
And now the most severe judgment. It doesn't seem like the most severe, but do you know why it was? Ra was the sun-god and was supposed to be the mightiest. And Pharaoh was supposed to be descended from the sun-god. So God was putting HIS power directly against Pharaohs' power! Has Pharaoh gotten the message yet?? Did Pharaoh ever get the message? What do you think God was trying to tell Pharaoh?

Conclusion:

Has God been telling you something or convicting you of something you need to stop doing or start doing? What has your response been to Him? Maybe you know He wants to be your Savior and you've been holding Him off because there's something you don't want to give up. Maybe You know He wants to be in charge of Your life but You've been ignoring Him because you want to keep your life to yourself and call the shots. What would God's message be to you, today?

NINE PLAGUES HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. Was there ever a time in your life when you felt God's conviction to do or not do something, but you ignored it or tried a different option? What was the outcome?
2. What things make a person harden their hearts against what God wants?
3. When you are corrected (by anyone) what is your natural response like most of the time?
4. Are there any events that have happened recently that have revealed a response that isn't humble?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. Who do your students find it difficult to be corrected by?
2. What are different responses to correction?
3. What forms does a 'non-humble' response take in your students' lives?
4. What dangers do your students face by not learning to humble themselves to Gods' instruction and correction?

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 29:1 He who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

Choose an activity to teach this verse and write down any materials you might need:

Post-lesson Activity:

Choose an activity from the Bible Skills book.

Homework Idea:

Have your students write down three times they are corrected this week. Have them write the date, who corrected them, what the correction was and what their response was. Have them write down at the end whether they think the correction was meant for their good or to harm them.