

God Rescues His People

Date: 7.26.2026 | God Sends Plagues
Scripture: Exodus 5-10

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God is powerful and takes care of His people.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God showed His great power over Pharaoh and cared for His people.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

Through the plagues, God showed that He is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the false gods of Egypt.

STUDENTS:

As Pharaoh resisted God's command, God displayed His sovereign power through the plagues so that Egypt and Israel would know that He alone is the Lord.

ADULTS:

In Exodus 5–10, God confronts Pharaoh's pride and the false gods of Egypt through powerful acts of judgment, revealing His unmatched sovereignty and covenant faithfulness. Through the plagues, God makes His name known and demonstrates that no earthly ruler can stand against His redemptive purposes.

MEMORY VERSE

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew. Exodus 2:24-25



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

God the great Creator of all things does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, leaders, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy. - WCF V. 1

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

At the end of *Exodus 4*, Moses and Aaron obeyed the Lord and returned to Egypt just as God had commanded. They gathered the elders and people of Israel, told them everything the Lord had spoken, and performed the miraculous signs God had given them. When the people heard that God had seen their suffering and cared for them, “they bowed their heads and worshipped” (*Exodus 4:29-31*). After hundreds of years of slavery, the Israelites finally believed that God had not forgotten His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



As the story moves into *Exodus 5–10*, a new Pharaoh is now ruling Egypt. Interestingly, Scripture never tells us the names of either Pharaoh in *Exodus 1–15*. This is unusual because the Bible often records the names of kings and rulers. Instead, the unnamed Pharaohs stand in contrast to people like Moses and even the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, whose names are remembered. This highlights the foolish pride of the Pharaohs who challenged God Himself.

Throughout the Old Testament, two major names are used for God: Elohim and Yahweh. Elohim is a general word for “god,” while Yahweh is God’s personal covenant name, most often translated “the LORD” in English Bibles. God revealed this special name to Moses at the burning bush when He declared, “I AM WHO I AM” (*Exodus 3:14*). The name Yahweh reminds Israel that their God is eternal, self-existent, and faithful to keep His covenant promises.

At the beginning of *Exodus 5*, Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh with God’s command: “Let my people go.” God had instructed Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go into the wilderness to worship and sacrifice to Him. But Pharaoh proudly responded, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go” (*Ex 5:2*). Pharaoh was not simply rejecting Moses—he was defying the authority of the one true God.

Instead of listening, Pharaoh decided to increase Israel's suffering. He commanded that the Israelites would no longer be given straw for making bricks. They now had to gather their own straw while still producing the same number of bricks each day. Pharaoh accused the Israelites of being lazy and used even harsher oppression to crush them. The suffering became so difficult that the Israelites turned against Moses and blamed him for making their lives worse.

Even Moses became discouraged. He cried out to the Lord, "Why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?" (*Exodus 5:22*). Moses could not yet see what God was doing. It seemed like things were becoming worse instead of better. But God reminded Moses that His plans had not changed.

In *Exodus 6*, God reassured Moses by reminding him of the covenant He had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God repeated His promises with powerful statements: "I will bring you out," "I will deliver you," and "I will redeem you." Then God made one of the most important promises in Exodus: "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God" (*Exodus 6:7*). Throughout the Bible, God desires to dwell with His people in relationship and fellowship.

God also declared, "Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." This phrase becomes one of the major themes throughout Exodus. God would reveal Himself both through salvation and through judgment. Israel would know Him as Savior and Deliverer, while Egypt would know Him through His righteous judgment against sin and rebellion.

At first, Pharaoh hardened his own heart against God's commands. Even after witnessing signs and warnings, he stubbornly refused to obey. Eventually, Scripture says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, confirming Pharaoh in the rebellion he had continually chosen. God told Moses that He would stretch out His hand against Egypt through "great acts of judgment" so that Egypt would know that He alone is the Lord (*Exodus 7:5*).

God's judgment came through a series of plagues that devastated Egypt. These plagues were not random disasters; they demonstrated God's complete power over Pharaoh, Egypt, and the false gods the Egyptians worshipped. God had already declared, "Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord" (*Exodus 12:12*). The plagues also served as justice for Egypt's cruelty and the murder of Hebrew baby boys in *Exodus 1*.

The first plague turned the Nile River into blood (*Exodus 7*). The Nile was Egypt's main source of life and was connected to the false god Osiris. Ironically, the river Pharaoh once used to destroy Hebrew baby boys has now become a place of judgment.

The second plague covered Egypt with frogs (*Exodus 8:1-14*), attacking Heket, the Egyptian goddess connected with childbirth and creation. Frogs filled homes, beds, ovens, and every part of life.

The third plague turned dust into lice or biting insects (*Exodus 8:16-19*), demonstrating God's power over Geb, the supposed god of the earth. The fourth plague brought swarms of flies across the land (*Exodus 8:20-32*), humiliating Egypt's beliefs about eternal life and protection.

The fifth plague struck Egypt's livestock with disease (*Exodus 9:1-6*), thereby defeating the Egyptian fertility gods associated with cattle. Yet God protected Israel's animals, showing a clear distinction between His people and Egypt. Through all these plagues, Pharaoh continued hardening his heart.

The sixth plague brought painful boils on people and animals (*Exodus 9:8-12*). This plague humiliated Egypt's priests and their false religious practices. For the first time, Scripture specifically says that "the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh."

The seventh plague sent hail mixed with fire from the sky (*Exodus 9:13-35*), destroying crops, animals, and people. This plague displayed God's authority over the sky, storms, and harvests that Egypt believed its false gods controlled.

The ninth plague covered Egypt in deep darkness (*Exodus 10:21-29*), directly confronting Ra, Egypt's powerful sun god. The darkness was so heavy it could almost be felt. While Egypt sat in darkness, God continued showing that He alone is the true and living God.

The plagues slowly crushed Egypt economically, politically, and spiritually. Pharaoh repeatedly rejected opportunities to repent and obey God. After continually hardening his own heart, God confirmed Pharaoh in his rebellion. Pharaoh's stubborn pride set the stage for the final and most devastating plague still to come.

This section of Exodus reminds us that there is only one true God—Yahweh, the great I AM. Pharaoh believed he was powerful and

untouchable, but no king, nation, or false god can stand against the Lord. God faithfully kept His covenant promises to rescue Israel from slavery, just as He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These events point us to Jesus Christ, the greater Deliverer. Just as God judged Egypt and rescued His people from physical slavery, Jesus came to rescue sinners from slavery to sin and the judgment we deserve. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeats every false hope, every idol, and every enemy of God so that all who trust in Him can belong to God as His people forever.

TELL THE STORY

Exodus 5-10



The Biggest Story Storybook Bible - Free at Last
The Jesus Storybook Bible - God to the Rescue

After Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt, they gathered the leaders and the people of Israel. Aaron told the people everything God had said to Moses, and Moses performed the miraculous signs God had given him. When the Israelites heard that God had seen their suffering and cared about them, they bowed down and worshipped the Lord. After hundreds of years of slavery, they finally believed God had not forgotten them.

Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh with God's message: "Let my people go."

But Pharaoh proudly answered, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey Him? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go."

Pharaoh did not just reject Moses—he was challenging the one true God.

Then Pharaoh decided to make life even harder for the Israelites. The Hebrew slaves had been making bricks for Egypt, and workers normally gave them straw to strengthen the bricks. But Pharaoh ordered that no more straw would be given to them. The Israelites had to gather their own straw while still making the same number of bricks every day!

The people became exhausted and discouraged. Some of the Israelites even blamed Moses for making things worse. Moses

himself became discouraged and cried out to God, “Why have You brought trouble on these people?”

But God reminded Moses that His plans had not changed. God told Moses, “I will bring My people out. I will deliver them. I will redeem them.” God promised again that the Israelites would be His people and He would be their God. God had not forgotten His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Still, Pharaoh refused to obey God. His heart became hard and stubborn. So God began sending plagues on Egypt. These plagues showed that the Lord was greater than Pharaoh, greater than Egypt, and greater than all of Egypt’s false gods.

The first plague struck the Nile River. God turned the water into blood. The fish died, the river smelled terrible, and the Egyptians could not drink the water. The Nile River was something the Egyptians trusted and worshipped, but God showed His power over it.

When Pharaoh still refused to listen, God sent a second plague. Frogs covered the land! Frogs were everywhere—in homes, beds, kitchens, ovens, and even food. The Egyptians could not escape them.

Then God sent a third plague. Dust turned into tiny biting bugs that covered people and animals. After that, swarms of flies filled Egypt.

Next, God struck Egypt’s livestock with disease. Horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats became sick and died. But God protected the animals belonging to the Israelites.

Even after all this, Pharaoh still refused to obey God.

Then Moses threw soot into the air, and painful boils broke out on the Egyptians and their animals. The people suffered terribly, but Pharaoh’s heart stayed hard.

Next came a terrifying storm. God sent hail mixed with fire crashing down from the sky. Crops, trees, animals, and people were destroyed across Egypt. But in the land where the Israelites lived, God kept His people safe.

Finally, darkness covered Egypt for three whole days. It was a deep

darkness that seemed heavy and frightening. The Egyptians could not even see one another. But the Israelites still had light where they lived.

Through every plague, God was showing Pharaoh, Egypt, and Israel that He alone is the one true God. The Egyptians worshipped many false gods, but none of them could stop God's power.

Still, Pharaoh refused to humble himself and obey the Lord. Again and again, he hardened his heart against God.

These events remind us that no one is more powerful than God. God always keeps His promises and always protects His people. Just as God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Jesus came to rescue us from slavery to sin. Pharaoh could not stop God's rescue plan, and nothing can stop God's plan to save those who trust in Jesus.

REBUILD THE STORY

1. How did Pharaoh respond when Moses and Aaron told him to let God's people go? (*Exodus 5:1-2*)
2. What extra burden and punishment did Pharaoh place on the Israelites after Moses and Aaron spoke to him? (*Exodus 5:6-9*)
3. How did the Israelites and Moses respond when their suffering became worse? (*Exodus 5:19-23*)
4. What covenant promises did God remind Moses of when Moses became discouraged? (*Exodus 6:1-8*)
5. How did the Israelites respond when Moses told them God's promises of deliverance? (*Exodus 6:9*)
6. Why did God say He would bring judgment on Egypt through the plagues? (*Exodus 7:5; 9:14-16*)



7. What were the first nine plagues God sent on Egypt, and how did Pharaoh continue to respond after each one?
(Exodus 7:14–10:29)
8. What did the Lord tell Moses would happen after the final plague, and how would Pharaoh respond? *(Exodus 11:1)*
9. Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his heart against God. What are some ways people today can ignore or resist God’s authority in their lives?
10. The Israelites became discouraged when life got harder before things got better. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God when we cannot immediately see His plan?
11. God showed through the plagues that He alone is the true God and more powerful than Egypt’s false gods. What are some things people today may trust more than God?
12. God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt through His power alone. How does this help us understand the rescue Jesus gives us from sin?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

In the book of Exodus, God calls His people out of slavery in Egypt and begins forming them into the nation of Israel. This rescue becomes the great Old Testament picture of salvation. Over and over throughout Scripture, God identifies Himself by saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt” *(Exodus 20:2)*. God wanted His people to remember that He alone is their Savior, Deliverer, and Redeemer. Israel could not rescue itself from Pharaoh’s power, slavery, or suffering. Only God, through His mighty power, could bring them out and make them His people. The plagues showed that the Lord is greater than every false god, every earthly king, and every enemy that stands against Him.



The story of Exodus points forward to an even greater rescue

through Jesus Christ. Just as the Israelites were trapped in physical slavery in Egypt, every person is born trapped in slavery to sin and separated from God. We cannot save ourselves through good works, strength, or effort. But God, in His mercy and love, sent Jesus to rescue sinners. Through His perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection, Jesus delivers His people from sin, death, and judgment and brings them into a relationship with God. Just as God brought Israel out of Egypt to belong to Him, Jesus saves us so we can become part of God's family and live for His glory.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for showing that You alone are the true God, powerful over every ruler, false god, and enemy. Help us trust You even when life feels hard or when we cannot see Your plan clearly. Thank You for rescuing Your people from slavery in Egypt and for sending Jesus to rescue us from slavery to sin. Help us obey You, trust You, and worship You alone.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Exodus 11-12