



UNIT 4 | SESSION 2

GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

EXODUS 5-12

KEY PASSAGE:

Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Does God keep His promises? Yes, 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.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

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.

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ What is the most annoying insect you have ever encountered? What was it like? ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: HAILSTORM CHALLENGE



Ask for two volunteers to compete in a minute challenge. Give each volunteer a handful of cotton balls. Position a wide-mouth jar at each volunteer's feet.

Explain that when you say go, each volunteer will hold a cotton ball at chest level and try to drop it into the jar. Players will have one minute to drop as many of the cotton balls into the jar as they can.

After one minute, count the cotton balls in the jars. The player with the most wins. Choose new volunteers to compete in subsequent rounds.

SAY “ Have you ever seen hail? Hailstones can range in size from the size of a pea to the size of a grapefruit! Hail can do a lot of damage to crops and property. In today's Bible story, we will hear about a time God sent a hailstorm on the Egyptians. Do you think it got their attention? ”

OPTION 2: FIRST PLAGUE POUR

Before the session, fill two buckets with water. Put several drops of red food color in the bottom of two more buckets. Lay a tarp or plastic tablecloth on the floor and position the water buckets at one end and the buckets with food color at the other.

Form two teams of kids. Direct each team to line up at a water bucket. Give a cup to the first player in each line.

Challenge kids to scoop a cup of water, carry it to the second bucket, dump it in, and carry the cup back to their team. Then the next player will take a turn. After several minutes, call for teams to stop. The team that moved the most water wins.

SAY “ How did the water change when you put it in the second bucket? It turned red! In the Bible story we will hear today, God turned water from the Nile River into blood. Why would He do that? Let's find out. ”

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello! I'm [your name]. It is so good to see you today. Do you have your Bible with you? [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.]

Why do you think we read and study the Bible? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God's Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God's plan to rescue sinners. God has a message He wants us to know, and He wants us to know Him most of all. God is a faithful promise-keeper who made us and loves us. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Last time, we heard our big picture question for the first time. Do you remember what it is? [Pause for kids to respond.] **Does God keep His promises?** The answer is **yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** God never breaks His promises, so we can trust Him.

I'll ask the question again, and then you say the answer: **Does God keep His promises?** [Pause for kids to respond.] **Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** Keep that in mind when you hear today's Bible story. ”

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 5–12. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Delivered His People.” Use the bold text to retell or review the 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!

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show pictures: Draw an icon for each plague (river, frog, gnat, fly, cow, sore, hail, locust, darkness, death). Point to the icons as you tell about the plagues.

Use hand motions: Encourage kids to give a thumbs up whenever someone in the story obeys God and a thumbs down whenever someone disobeys.

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. ”

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Open your Bibles to Exodus 5:2. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Pharaoh didn't listen when God said to let the Israelites go. In fact, Pharaoh made the Israelites' work much harder. The Israelites started to question Moses and Aaron. Were they really trying to help? It seemed like they were making things worse.

To Moses, God's plan didn't seem to be working. Imagine getting up the courage to go talk to the ruler of Egypt only to be rejected. But God was in control. He had heard the Israelites' cries. Look at Exodus 6:5-8. [Invite a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] God had a plan to prove His power to Pharaoh and to fulfill His promise to His people.

God sent 10 plagues to get Pharaoh's attention and judge the Egyptians. Can you name all 10 in order? [Allow kids to respond. Guide them to look at Exodus 7-11 if they need help.] The Egyptians suffered terribly, but Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

The last plague was the most terrible one of all. In the night, the Lord struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt. Every firstborn son died—from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of prisoners and even the livestock. Yet God passed over the Israelites' houses whose doorposts were marked with the blood of a lamb. That night, Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to get out of Egypt. Pharaoh let the Israelites go, just like God promised. **Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What did Pharaoh believe about God? How do our beliefs affect how we live? ”

Guide 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: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

| **SAY** “ What are consequences we might face when we don't listen closely or we choose to disobey? ”

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

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:29.)

| **SAY** “ How can we help other people recognize God if they don't believe He is real? ”

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

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ezek. 11:19-20.)