



Today's study comes with a warning: getting caught up in the details and missing the main point is easy. Sure, the Nile turning to blood, frogs filling beds and homes, hail and fire raining down from the sky, and the darkening of the sun are all fascinating. Still, if we're not careful, we forget that the purpose of Exodus is not for us to learn about plagues, Moses, Pharaoh, or the Hebrew people being rescued from Egypt. The main point of Exodus is to know God more today than we knew Him yesterday, more about His character, desires, and power. Everything we're about to read in chapters 9 and 10 goes back to a question in chapter 5. Moses and Aaron deliver the "let my people go" message to Pharaoh, and he responds with: "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?" (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh's essentially saying, "This is Egypt. We have our gods. You have your God. Fine. Why in the world would you insist I should obey or listen to your God? The plagues are God's answer to that question. Each plague is God's dramatic display about why Pharaoh—the most powerful man on the planet—should obey Him. In doing so, these plagues reveal why we should obey Him, too.

**Key Passage:** Exodus 9:8 – 10:29

#### Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways do the plagues in Exodus respond to Pharaoh's question, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?"
2. Why does it mean that the details of the plagues should not distract from the primary purpose of the book of Exodus? How do the plagues in Egypt relate to the modern question of "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?" in today's pluralistic culture?
3. What role do the false gods of Egypt play in the narrative, and how does God systematically challenge their authority through the plagues?
4. What is the significance of God wanting the whole world to know who He is, even in the midst of delivering judgment through the plagues?
5. How do the gods of ancient Egypt correlate to modern-day idols that people might worship, such as success, family, health, security, and control?
6. Why is negotiating with God, not true obedience? What consequences might come from a half-hearted surrender to God?
7. In what ways does the text highlight God's patience and desire for repentance, and how does the concept of godly grief leading to repentance apply to our lives today?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?