



Grace Church Elementary

# Camp Grace

## LESSON 17

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Principle: God is powerful.

Bible Character(s): Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 7-12



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, please read Exodus 7-12. Look at

the power God displayed over the Egyptian gods. He sent the plagues in order to show His power and that He is Lord. There were plagues that the magicians could imitate, just like there are things the world can imitate, but God showed Himself more powerful in the end. Also take note of the faithfulness God showed to the Israelites throughout the plagues and by leading them out of Egypt. What are some things this world has that keep you from seeing God as powerful and Lord of all? Do you truly believe in His power to do all things? Do you believe that His power can rest on you? When you pray, do you believe that He is powerful enough to do whatever you ask if it is His will? Do you pray with this belief in His power knowing that it might not be His will?

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### Power of God Word Game

Write the principle, "God is powerful" at the top of the white board before beginning. This game is played like the classic "Hang Man" but instead of building upon the hanging man, you will draw a barbell (to symbolize the power and might of God) and take away a weight each time a wrong letter is guessed.



Using the white board, draw out a blank for each letter of the plagues (see below) one at a time. Go around the room and have campers guess a letter until the barbell is “weightless” or the word is completely filled in. Explain to them the significance of the barbell in relation to the plagues and God’s power and what will be talking about in class today.

1- river of blood // 2- frogs // 3- gnats // 4- swarms of flies // 5- dead livestock // 6- boils // 7- hail // 8- locusts // 9- darkness // 10- firstborn son

## **BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes**

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

### **The Bridge to Small Group**

We will continue learning about God’s power and how He can use us to show it. We will see God’s power through the plagues and through His protection of the Hebrews in Egypt.

## **Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes**

### **Getting Started**

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group today? What did you think about the video? (Allow responses.) Why did God keep sending the plagues to the Egyptians? (Pharaoh would not listen; to show that He is the true God and is all-powerful.)

Last week, we began our study of Exodus. God had a plan for Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, a plan that He had mapped out before Moses was even born. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, and told Moses what He wanted him to do. Moses questioned God over and over out of fear and doubt because he did not think he could do what God was asking of him. But Moses could not stop God’s plan, and in the end God allowed Moses to take his brother Aaron along to help him fulfill God’s commands.

Today, we are going to continue with the story and see how God used Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God overcame the stubborn heart of Pharaoh by using miraculous signs to

show how powerful He is, and so the Egyptians would know that He is the Lord.

Let's begin in Exodus 7 [NLT].

### Exodus 7:1-7

*1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pay close attention to this. I will make you seem like God to Pharaoh, and your brother, Aaron, will be your prophet. 2 Tell Aaron everything I command you, and Aaron must command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his country. 3 But I will make Pharaoh's heart stubborn so I can multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 Even then Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you. So I will bring down my fist on Egypt. Then I will rescue my forces—my people, the Israelites—from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. 5 When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." 6 So Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded them. 7 Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron was eighty-three when they made their demands to Pharaoh.*

Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt to tell Pharaoh that he must let the people of Israel leave his country. This Pharaoh is not the same Pharaoh as when Moses left Egypt: he is a new Pharaoh. After Aaron told Pharaoh what God wanted him to say, Pharaoh demanded to be shown a miracle. God gave Aaron the power to turn his staff into a serpent. Pharaoh called in his Egyptian magicians, and they were able to perform the same miracle with their magic. But Aaron's serpent ate the magician's serpents. Still Pharaoh's heart was stubborn and he refused to listen to them.

Why was Pharaoh's heart stubborn? (Allow responses.) He was a sinner, who was proud and selfish. God also made Pharaoh's heart more stubborn so the miraculous signs would be even greater and show His power even more.

Let's take a look at the first nine plagues God sent to Egypt.

### Snakes, and Frogs, and More – Oh My!



The purpose is to show campers how powerful God is.

#### Supplies:

Ten plagues worksheet (1 per camper)

Markers or crayons

Read through each verse reference for the first nine plagues. Campers will draw/color pictures of the plague as you read. Explain how Pharaoh used his magicians to try and copy the plagues, but what they could do was nothing compared to what God did. (Save the tenth plague until after the "tie it together" and following activity.)

First Plague: Exodus 7:17-24; Second Plague: Exodus 8:1-7; Third Plague: Exodus 8:16-19; Fourth Plague: Exodus 8:20-24; Fifth Plague: Exodus 9:1-7; Sixth Plague: Exodus 9:8-12; Seventh Plague: Exodus 9:22-26; Eighth Plague: Exodus 10:12-15; Ninth Plague: Exodus 10:21-23; Tenth Plague: Exodus 11:1-7, 12:21-23

## Tie It Together



Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh by the will of God, but Pharaoh had a stubborn heart and refused to do what they asked. Since Pharaoh's heart was stubborn, and he refused to let the Israelites go, God showed His great power through sending plagues. Egypt was a strong nation in the world at the time, and the Egyptians worshipped different gods, such as the gods of the Nile, the sun, and the ground. All of the plagues God sent not only defeated the Egyptians, but each one defeated one of the gods the Egyptians worshipped. Pharaoh used his own magicians to duplicate the plagues to try to prove that God was not Lord of all, but they were only able to duplicate a few of the plagues. It would have been more powerful if they had been able to undo God's work, but they could not do that. They could only imitate a tiny amount of His power with their magic.

The first three plagues were sent to the whole land of Egypt, but then God started sending the plagues only to the Egyptian people and kept the Israelites from experiencing them. He remained faithful to the Israelites and protected them by showing the Egyptians that they were His people. By defeating the magicians and the different gods the Egyptians worshipped, God triumphed over a powerful Egypt and proved His greatness as Lord of all to the whole world.

After the first nine plagues, Pharaoh's heart was still stubborn and he continued to refuse to allow the Israelites to leave. This set the scene for the final plague God sent that was so powerful it made Pharaoh force the Israelites out of Egypt.

Let's take a look at the final plague.

### Exodus 11:1, 4-8

*I Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that he will force you all to leave.*

*4 Moses had announced to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. 5 All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die. 6 Then a loud wail will rise throughout the land of Egypt, a wail like no one has heard before or will ever hear again. 7 But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.*

God hardened Pharaoh's heart during the first nine plagues in order to lead up to this final show of His power to the Egyptians. It was a plague that would create in the Egyptians a fear of who God is and His power. It was also a plague that would show the Israelites that God was their protector because He gave them a way to keep from experiencing the death of their firstborns.

Let's draw the tenth plague on our timeline, before moving on to the next activity which will show us a way in which God provided.

## God Provides



The purpose is to show the campers how God provided a way for the Israelites to be spared from the death of the firstborn. It also will help them understand that Jesus is our perfect sacrificial lamb.

### Supplies:

Craft sticks (3 per camper)

Worksheet – John 1:29 house side (1 per camper)

Red markers/crayons

Glue

Read Exodus 12:21-23 to the campers. Have them make a picture of what the Israelite's homes looked like by making a doorframe out of popsicle sticks, gluing them onto their house cut out and coloring them red to show the blood that was wiped on them.

### Exodus 12:21-23 (NLT)

*21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, "Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. 22 Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. 23 For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.*

### Tie It Together



God provided a way for the Israelites to be spared from the death of the firstborn male. He gave them detailed instructions on what to do: 1) take a perfect lamb; 2) sacrifice it; and 3) wipe its blood on the doorframe of their house. Then, they were to stay inside all night and prepare a special meal according to God's instructions. During the night God would pass through the land of Egypt and kill every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. But the blood on the doorframes would serve as a sign, marking the houses where He was to pass over and not strike, because the family had faith in and trusted God. It is important to see that God provided this way for the Israelites to be spared from death of the firstborn male, but the Israelites had to accept it and follow His commands. They had a choice to obey what He asked them to do, or to choose to disobey and not trust in Him.

We also have a choice to obey what God commands. Just as God provided a perfect lamb for the Israelites to sacrifice so the plague of death would pass over them, God has provided the perfect Lamb who is Jesus. John 1:29 says "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" In John 3:16 we read, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." God provided His first and only Son to die so that we would not die, but have eternal life. All we have to do is make the choice to believe by having faith and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's finish the story to see what happened after the plague of death.

### Exodus 12:31-32, 37-38

*31 Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you said, and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave."*

*37 That night the people of Israel left Rameses and started for Succoth. There were about 600,000 men, plus all the women and children. 38 A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock.*

God showed His power and He showed the Egyptians that He is the Lord. He brought the Israelites out of Egypt and proved His greatness by doing it. God is more powerful than we could ever imagine. He can do more than we know because His power stretches beyond belief.

### Do You Need Help Believing?



The purpose is to have the campers examine their belief in God's power.

#### Supplies:

Worksheet – "Prayer Requests" side (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Hand a prayer card to each camper. Ask them to think about something for which they have been praying, but may not fully believe in God's power to answer the prayer. It could be something like a sick relative who they are asking God to heal, or having the courage to share their faith. Remind them that just because they pray and believe God can do what they're asking, it does not mean He will do it. But it is important that we have that faith and believe that God can do whatever we ask if it is in His plan. Give them an opportunity to share their prayer requests if they want to. Have them write or draw the requests on the worksheet.

### Tie It Together



Our God is powerful. He can do anything, and because we have Him with us, if we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we can do anything too. God desires for us to believe in who He is and what He can do. We can go to Him with prayers about anything, even if it seems impossible. He wants us to believe in His power to do anything we ask, even if He does not do it because it may not be a part of His plan. We can believe in His power and still ask for His will to be done. For example, if there is someone in your life who is very sick, do you really believe that God is powerful enough to heal this person if it is His will? Do you pray with the belief that He can do that? Think about your belief in Him and His power to do anything you ask. Do you have that kind of belief in who God is and how powerful He is? If not, what can you do to have that kind of belief?

## Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer with your campers. Thank God for His power to defeat sin through Jesus, and ask Him to help us trust and believe in His power.



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