

PLAGUES TROUBLE EGYPT

Exodus 8 – 10

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:23a “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.**” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold** print.)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children that God will punish people who are stubborn; being stubborn is sin.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Do any of you have a pet that does not obey you? Tell us about your pet. What kind of a pet do you have? How long have you had it? What do you do to your pet when it does not obey you? How do you feel toward your pet when it is stubborn and will not obey you?

Some people own riding horses, but once in a while horses get stubborn and will not obey their owners. Some horses keep running when they are told to stop. Some horses will not move when they are told to go. Some horses will not turn when the rider pulls on the reins to turn one way or the other. Sometimes they can be very stubborn. What happens when a horse gets stubborn? It is whipped or punished. And if the punishment does not make the horse obey, then it may have to be killed. A horse is no good if it will not obey.

This is how God must treat us if we do not obey Him. He must punish us because we are stubborn. If we still do not obey Him, we are very, very stubborn. It makes Him very unhappy when we are stubborn. It is a terrible sin to be stubborn against God. God will have to punish us if we do not obey Him. Some people may even have to die an early death because they will not obey God. Our memory verse for today tells us how bad it is to be stubborn and not obey God.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is 1 Samuel 15:23a and it says, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” (Be sure to print this verse on the chalkboard or on a poster board so the class can see it while you are explaining some of the difficult words.) Let us find out what our memory verse means.

1. “Stubbornness” is when we will not obey God; we will not do the things He tells us in the Bible.
2. “Stubbornness is as iniquity.” Iniquity is sin. When we disobey God, we are stubborn and sin.
3. “Stubbornness is as...idolatry.” When we do what we want to do rather than what God wants us to do, we worship ourselves. That is idolatry. We are telling God by our actions that we reject Him as our God; instead, we want to be God.
4. Stubbornness is also called “rebellion.” (This part of the memory verse is for grades 3-6.) When we do not obey God, we are fighting God. This is rebellion against God.
5. Stubbornness is also called “witchcraft.” How can stubbornness be like witchcraft? A witch obeys Satan and so does a person who is stubborn.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today, we are going to see that Pharaoh was very stubborn, and because he was so stubborn, God punished him with many plagues – eight more are found in this lesson. We should ask God to help us remember this lesson and not forget that it is an awful sin to be stubborn against God.

(Review the past lesson by asking the children some questions.) Do you remember what Moses and Aaron wanted the Pharaoh to do for them? (Let the Israelites go into the wilderness to worship God.) What did Pharaoh make the Israelites do when he heard what God wanted him to do? (Made their brick-making work harder) What miracles did Moses and Aaron do to try to help Pharaoh to believe they were messengers of the true God? (Aaron’s rod was turned into a snake; the waters of Egypt were turned into blood.) All of the plagues (punishments from God) were against the gods that Pharaoh and the Egyptians worshipped. **The first plague** that God sent upon Egypt was the turning of Egypt’s waters into **blood**. Do you know why God sent this punishment to Egypt? (Pharaoh was stubborn and would not let God’s people worship Him in the wilderness.) Pharaoh was so stubborn that God sent nine more plagues before he let God’s people go and worship Him in the wilderness. We will study about eight of these

plagues in this lesson. Do you want to know how God punished Pharaoh for his stubbornness? Then listen carefully.

II. Frogs (8:1-15)

God sent frogs that covered his whole land (8:6). Read 8:2-4 to learn how the frogs filled Pharaoh's land.

III. Gnats (8:16-19)

God sent gnats (lice in KJV) that came on men and animals in Egypt (8:16-17).

IV. Flies (8:20-32)

God sent swarms of flies (8:24).

V. Disease (9:1-7)

God sent an awful murrain (disease) that killed the cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, oxen and sheep of the Egyptians but not the cattle of God's people (9:3-4).

VI. Boils (9:8-12)

God sent boils on the men and on the beasts (9:10-11).

VII. Hail (9:13-35)

God sent thunder and hail and fire that ran along the ground. The hail and fire killed every man and beast in the field, and it broke the trees and destroyed the crops in the fields (9:23-35).

VIII. Locusts (10:1-20)

God sent so many locusts (big grasshoppers) that one could not see the sun, and they ate anything that was still growing in Egypt (10:13-15).

IX. Darkness (10:21-29)

God sent a thick darkness over Egypt for three days. It was so dark that it could be felt (10:21-23).

Pharaoh was so stubborn that he caused his land to be wrecked and his people to suffer terribly, but none of these plagues changed his mind. He was still very stubborn and would not listen to God. He would not obey the true and all-powerful God until God got tougher. Our next lesson will tell us what God finally had to do to make Pharaoh let His people go. It did not pay for Pharaoh to be stubborn.

WE: We must not be stubborn; it will not pay for us to be stubborn, either. God can make our lives sad and uncomfortable if we are stubborn (cf. plagues of gnats, boils and hail that the Egyptians suffered). Or, God can hurt our farms so that you will have nothing to eat (cf. plagues of disease, hail and locusts). It is foolish for us to be stubborn against God. I hope we will learn this lesson from the plagues that the Egyptians suffered. It does not pay to sin against God.

BE (for Action): How did God punish Pharaoh for being stubborn? (Let them review the lesson briefly.) God can also punish you if you do not obey Him. God has given you many good things, but when you disobey Him, He can take away all of these good things that you enjoy and need. Have you been stubborn lately? Have you disobeyed God? Let us bow our heads and ask God to keep us from being stubborn and from disobeying Him. If you know you have been stubborn and do not want to be stubborn anymore, raise your hands. If you want God to help you to stop being stubborn, tell God you are sorry, and ask Him to help you. Let us do it right now. (Give them an opportunity to pray.)