

WARM-UP

- Who is the most powerful or influential person you know? What makes him/her influential?
- What do you usually do when something doesn't go your way?
- Have you ever lost someone or something very precious to you? What happened? How did you respond?

WORD

*23"For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. 24You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. 25And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. **EXODUS 12:23-27***

(Study **EXODUS 11-12**.)

God had been doing miraculous feats and unleashing plagues not just to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians. He intended to show them and the Israelites that He is the one true God, powerful, just, and faithful to His people. The passages we'll be looking at today recount the final plague God unleashed upon Egypt—the death of the firstborn. After having many chances to let God's people go,

Pharaoh continually hardened his heart against God and would not relent. God had promised for the Israelites to be delivered from Egypt so they could walk in His will and plans for them. What does this narrative reveal about God and His dealings with people?

1 | The plagues demonstrated the justice of God over the oppressors of Israel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely."

EXODUS 11:1

For many generations, the Israelites suffered oppression under Egypt. They became *too many and too mighty*, so they were ruthlessly enslaved and afflicted with heavy burdens (Exodus 1:8–13). They cried out to God and He heard their prayers. God chose Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but Pharaoh wouldn't let them go. As Pharaoh hardened his heart, God sent ten plagues, the last of which threatened to end his bloodline. Despite being seen as a god himself, Pharaoh could do nothing to stop the power and plan of the one true God. He was being humbled by God. What does Isaiah 61:1–2 say about how God protects His people?

2

The Passover demonstrated the deliverance of God toward His people.

“For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.” **EXODUS 12:23**

The final plague God unleashed on Egypt was devastating and terrifying. But God, in His mercy and desire to preserve His people, gave the Israelites a way out. He gave specific instructions on how to sacrifice a lamb for each household, whose blood they were to put on their doorposts. If they did not do as God commanded, their firstborn would have also perished. The Israelites did so, trusting full well that God would do as He said. Eventually, they were spared and allowed to depart from Egypt. Recall a time when you took God at His word and responded in faith and obedience. What happened as a result?

God commanded the Israelites to commemorate this miraculous deliverance every year. Today, some Jews still celebrate the Passover feast. It was meant to point God’s people to His promise to eventually save and deliver all of humanity by the blood of the Lamb of God—Jesus Christ. While all of us are worthy of death because of our sin, God sent Jesus to become the sacrificial lamb by whose blood we receive forgiveness and life. Today, God calls us to put our faith in Jesus and His finished work, and to make Him Lord over our lives.

APPLICATION

- Have you put your faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God, through whom we have freedom and salvation? Pray with someone to help you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
- Whenever God gives you a command to obey or a promise to claim, how do you usually respond? In light of what we learned today, how will your response change?
- What miracles has God done in your life so far? What miracles are you asking God to do? How can these powerful displays of His power in your life lead others to Him?

PRAYER

- Thank God for providing us a way to be saved from impossible situations and even from our sins. Pray that you won't take this for granted.
- Ask for the grace and strength to follow and obey God's word. Pray for your faith and trust in Him to grow more each day.
- Pray for God to help you lead others to Him as you enjoy your salvation in Jesus. May His miracles in your life help point others to the one true God who loves us and saves us.



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