

God works many wonders

Exodus 7:1-9:12





Moses and Aaron walked into the palace of Pharaoh, and just as God had said Pharaoh demanded to see signs and wonders and Aaron dropped his staff onto the ground and it became a snake.

Pharaoh was astounded that the Israelite God could produce such magic, to reassure himself he turned to his wise men and demanded they perform the same magic.

After much chanting and conjuring the wise men were able to bring forth snakes. Each one threw his staff on the ground and it became a snake.

Aaron's snake hunted down each snake and swallowed it, until no snake was left, but his. Finally he picked up his snake and it became a staff again.

Pharaoh looked on this wonder and did not listen to what they had to say.



Again Moses and Aaron went to God in prayer, and again God gave them instructions on what to do.

They went to Pharaoh as he was riding in his boat on the Nile river, “The God of the Israelites says to ‘Let my people go to worship me in the desert.’ If you do not let His people go the Lord will cause a plague on the land.”

“And how will your God do this? I will not let your people go,” answered Pharaoh with a haughty sneer.



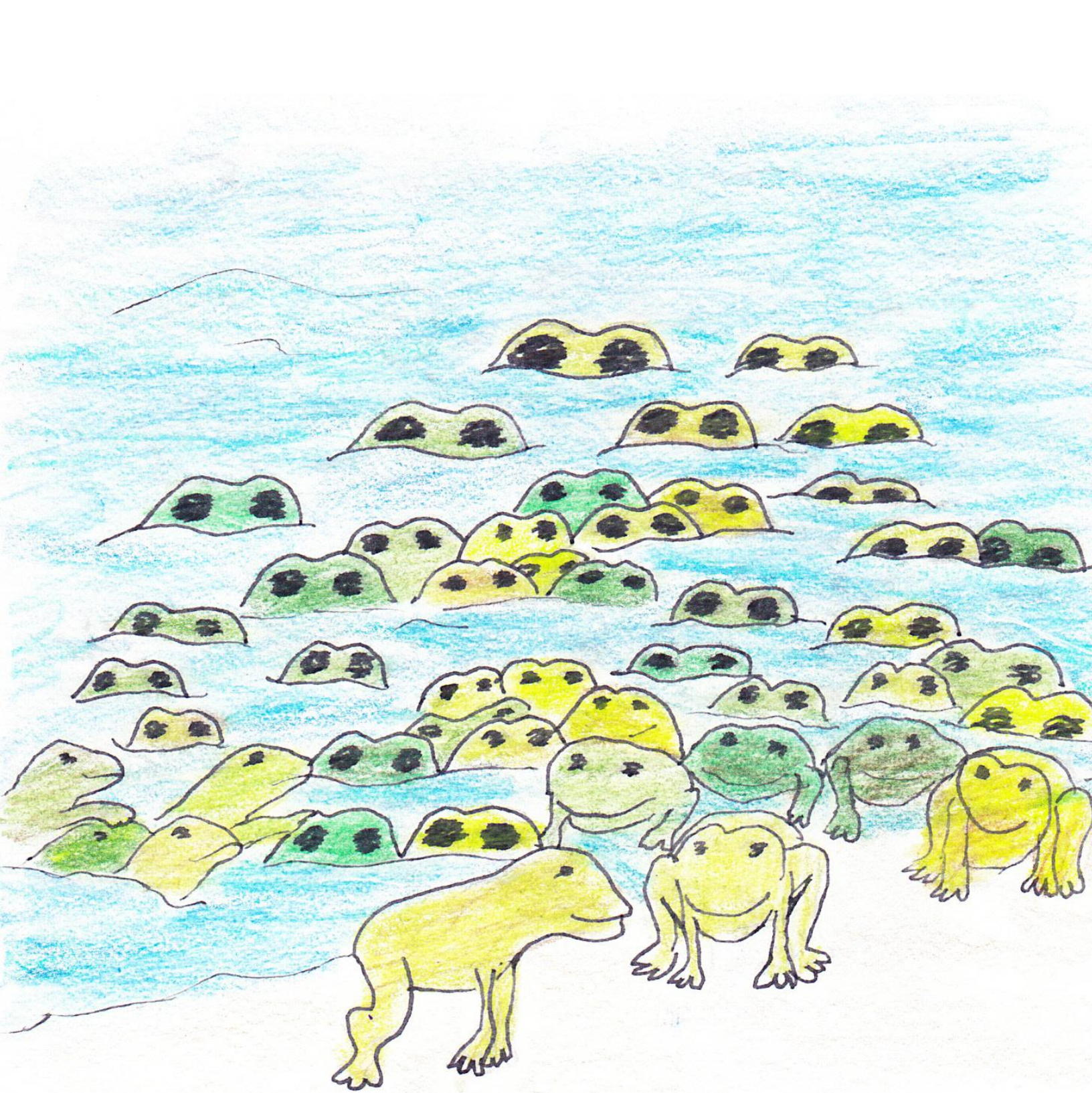
“Very well,” and Moses stepped into the water and placed his staff into the Nile. The water slowly started turning to blood around him, and the Nile river turned to blood.

The fish died, and the water began to stink. Nowhere could the Egyptians escape the smell.

Pharaoh was exasperated and turned to his wise men and said, “Do something about this!”

“Oh mighty Pharaoh,” they responded, “We will show you that it is no work of a god, but a trick.” Then they mixed powders and said some words and they turned a bowlful of water to blood.

Again Pharaoh didn’t see the wonders God had done. He saw the small thing his magicians did and was no longer amazed. He did not let the Israelites go.



God spoke and Moses went yet again to Pharaoh, “Will you let my people go to worship God?”

“No!” and Pharaoh turned his back on Moses intending to listen no more.

“Then frogs will take over your land. They will be in your bed, in your ovens, in the places you keep your food,” and Moses nodded to Aaron. Then Aaron stretched out his staff just as God had said, and frogs began to come out of every place in Egypt.

But, Pharaoh turned to his magicians and they too made frogs appear. But they could not make the frogs disappear, no matter how hard they tried. The frogs kept coming.

Finally in desperation Pharaoh called for Moses, “Pray to your God and ask Him to get rid of these frogs, and then you and your people can go to worship your God.”

Moses said, “I trust your honor that we will be allowed to leave.” Moses prayed to God and the frogs died where they were. Heaps of dead frogs could be found all over Egypt.

But Pharaoh forgot his promise and did not let the Israelites go worship.

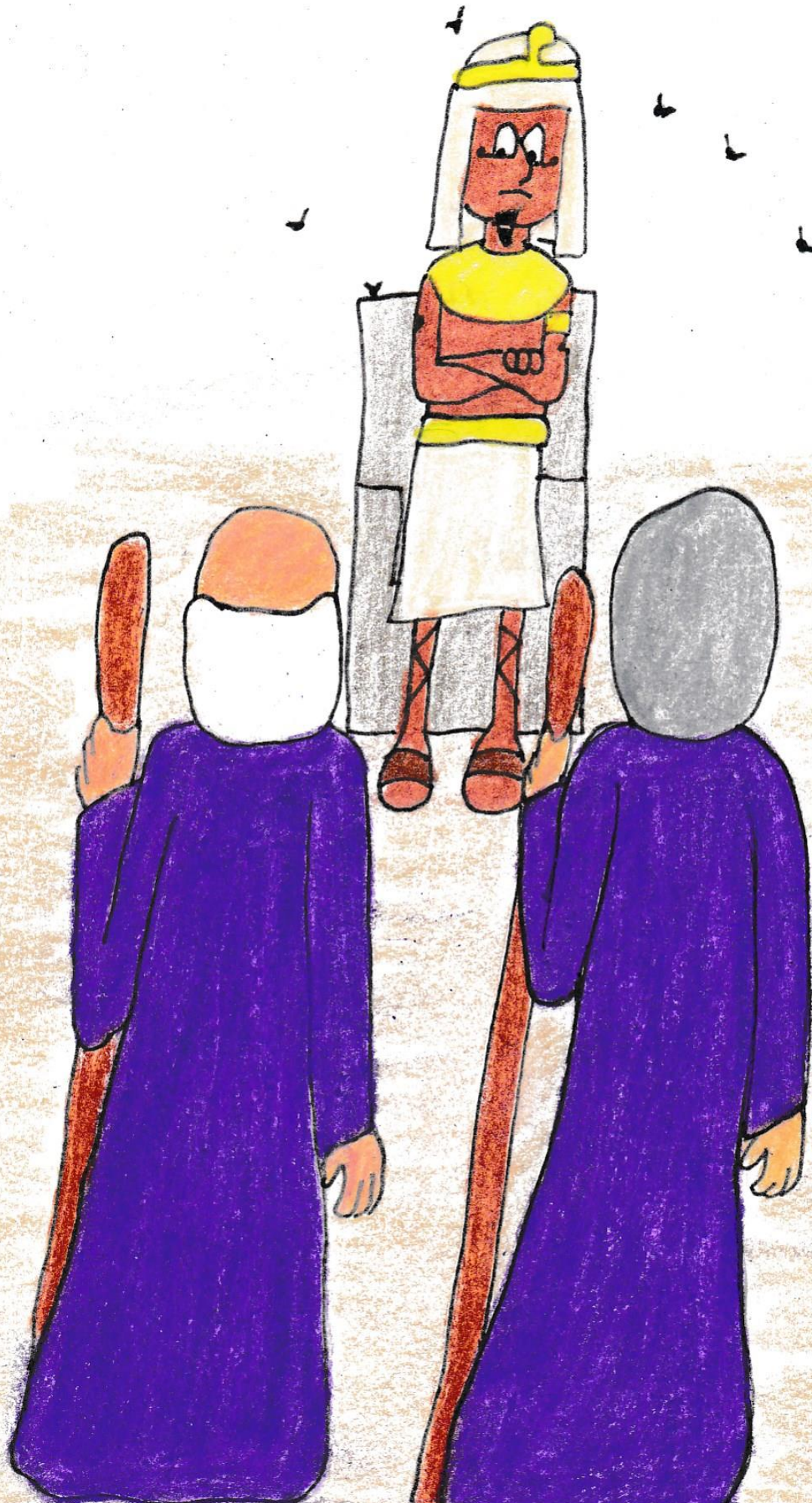


Again God spoke to Moses, “Tell Aaron to hit the ground with his staff and gnats will appear.” Aaron did just as Moses instructed and the gnats covered the Egyptians in bites and caused them all sorts of torment.

Pharaoh went to his magicians and they could not do what God had done, “This must be the work of God,” they said. But still Pharaoh wouldn’t listen to God.

God came to Moses again and said, “Go down to the Nile River and confront Pharaoh. Warn him if he does not listen Egypt will be covered in flies. They will not be able to open their door without being covered in them, but my people will have no problems with them.”

Moses went down to the Nile River and talked to Pharaoh, and it all happened just as God had said. Pharaoh was VERY angry.



Pharaoh called Moses into his throne room, “Fine, I’ll let your people pray, but they must pray here.”

Moses shook his head, “That won’t work. The Egyptians hate the way we worship, and we do not want to be killed by them for worshipping God. We must be able to leave.”

“Bah,” Pharaoh said in anger and disgust, “Go. Take your people and go.”

“I will pray tomorrow and the flies will be gone. Do not break your word again.”

Moses did just as he promised, and the flies were gone. However Pharaoh did not do as he promised and the Israelites were not allowed to go worship God.



God came to Moses and said, “Go to Pharaoh and say, ‘Let my people worship.’ If he refuses warn him I will kill all of their livestock. But, none of the Israelites’ livestock will die. Tell him if he does not listen it will happen tomorrow.”

Moses went to Pharaoh and warned him of all God had said, but Pharaoh would not listen.

Just as God had said, the Egyptian cattle died. In their barns, and in their fields all of the animals had died.

Pharaoh sent men out to investigate to see if any were left alive. They discovered exactly what God had said would happen. Not a single Hebrew animal was harmed. They ate happily in their barns, and in their fields.

Pharaoh heard this and still his heart was hard. He would not let the Israelites go.



God said to Moses and Aaron, “Take up a handful of soot and throw it into the air. Everything that touches the soot will be covered in painful boils.”

Moses did just as God had said, and the Egyptians were covered in angry red sores. Pharaoh’s magicians hid from Moses because they were embarrassed to be seen with all of these horrible sores on themselves.

Pharaoh saw all of the pain his people were in, and saw the horrible sores on the animals.

He looked out and realized this was his fault, and his heart started to soften, but God hardened his heart. He would not allow Pharaoh to change his mind now.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. What plagues have happened so far?
2. Which plagues could the magicians copy?
3. How did Pharaoh react each time?
4. How were the Israelites affected by the plagues? Were the animals hurt? Were the Israelites hurt?

Middle Kids and Older Guys

(for this section I have paired the two for purposes of discussion questions)

1. Read the start of each plague in these chapters (Exodus 7:9, 14, 19, 8:1, 5, 16, 20). Make note of who started each plague and what they did.
2. We get to see how Pharaoh reacts at the end of each plague, and this becomes important towards

the end. Read Exodus 7:13, 22-23, 8:15, 19, and 24

3. Read Exodus 9:7. What is Pharaoh doing? Do you investigate claims people make about God?

Activities

1. Fill a glass pan with water. At one end add some red food coloring. Watch how it diffuses at first. Now add in some ice and watch how the red water moves around some more. Imagine how the blood moved through the Nile River
2. Gather a bunch of bean bags and pretend they are frogs. Play "Capture the Frog." Divide into two teams, set a time limit of 3 minutes, at the end of 3 minutes which ever side has the most frogs wins (and yes you can steal frogs from the other team, but you have to drop the frog if you're tagged).
3. Gather a piece of black tissue paper and some pipe cleaners. Cut the paper into fourths, now crumple it up and around the middle wrap the

- pipe cleaners. Then form the pipe cleaner into a figure 8. Now you have either a fly or a gnat.
4. Read Exodus 10:27. God commands Moses and the Israelites to tell their children and grandchildren, who can you tell about what God has done?

Online

1. Moses and the 10 Plagues list of crafts-
<http://biblestoryhour.blogspot.com/2009/04/unit-1-lesson-7c-moses-and-10-plagues.html>
2. Passover “Bag of Plagues-“
<http://www.marthastewart.com/270407/passover-bag-of-plagues>
3. 10 Plague printables-
<http://www.thecraftyclassroom.com/CraftHistoryMoses3.html>
4. 10 Plagues of Egypt craft-
<http://teachinglittleonesathome.blogspot.com/2013/05/craftivity-ten-plagues-of-egypt.html>

Name of Plague	Who does God talk to?	Who performed the miracle?	How did Pharaoh react?	Could Pharaoh's magicians duplicate it?

What did God say	What did Moses say