Get Ready!

Let My People Go!

By: Gayle Guthrie

Text

Exodus 7-12:42

Key Quest Verse

“. . . Let my people go so that they may worship me” (Exodus 8:1b).

Bible Background

In this lesson students will learn about the terrible plagues that descended on the land of Egypt. Egypt was a large country, but most of the population lived along the banks of the Nile river. This 3,000-mile waterway was a “river of life” for the Egyptians. It made life possible in a land that was mostly desert by providing water for drinking, farming, bathing, and fishing. Without the Nile’s water, Egyptian civilization could not have existed. Imagine Pharaoh’s dismay when Moses turned this sacred river to blood! This was only the beginning of many plagues to follow!
What I want my students to:

Know: God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

Feel: Secure in God’s care.

Do: Trust in God.

The confrontation between Moses and the Pharaoh of Egypt is a picture of contrasts. Obviously there is good versus evil; but there is also the contrast between submission and rebelliousness. After some resistance, Moses submitted to the will of God and allowed God to use him as the one to deliver His people from their slavery in Egypt. The Pharaoh was a stubborn rebel who refused to recognize the power and sovereignty of Almighty God.

Placing submission and rebelliousness at opposite ends of a scale, where would you place yourself on the line between them. It is easy to see the futility of resisting the will of God in the life of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Yet, our nature can be one of rebelliousness. Consider if there is any area of rebellion in your life. It is just as futile. James tells us “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).
Get Set!

Option A

THE NEED FOR PROTECTION

Materials: Collect several items of protection and put them in a bag or box. (Examples: band-aids, padlock, sunglasses, helmet, umbrella, Bible case, knee pads, bug repellent, etc.)

Procedure: What do you think I have here in my bag (box)? Let’s find out. Why don’t you each reach in and take out one of the items. Let them take out all of the items and put them on the table. Now, look at all of these things. They all have something in common. What do you think that might be? Give them a chance to offer their ideas.

The right answer is that they all are things that are used for protection. One at a time you can each take your item and explain how it is used for protection. Take time for them all to explain. In our story today some of the people could have used some of these things for protection. Others in the story were protected from any harm. As the story unfolds, notice what bad things happened. See if you can figure out which people were miserable and which ones were protected. Also, be sure you understand why these bad things were happening.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

IMMOVABLE

Materials: Invite someone to your class who is much bigger and stronger than the children

Procedure: Class, I have invited (name of person) to join us today for a little object lesson. __________ is going to stand at this end of the classroom and I want you to try one at a time to see if you can get him to move to the other side. Give them a chance to try. If your person is large enough, let two or maybe three try at a time. __________ is just about impossible to move, isn’t he? What do you think it would take to move him? Let them give their ideas. In our story today, there is someone who was pretty strong and powerful. He didn’t want to budge a bit. Let’s see what they tried to get him to change his mind and what finally worked.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY
Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Part 1 –
Materials: Worksheet entitled “Let My People Go,” pencils, Bibles

Procedure: For the last two weeks we have looked at the story of the early years of Moses. In today’s lesson Moses has returned to Egypt to free God’s people from their slavery. It would be hard to convince the Pharaoh to let all of his slave laborers go. Let’s look at Scripture to see just what it took. We can use this worksheet to write down the things God had Moses do to persuade the Pharaoh to let His people go.

Pass out the worksheets entitled “Let My People Go.” Read through the worksheet and look up the Scriptures to fill in the answers. When you finish, review with the students how the Pharaoh tried to fight against the will of God and how that lead to death.

Part 2 –


Pass out the worksheets entitled “The Way to the Promised Land Was Paved with Miracles.” Discuss the many miracles that protected the Israelites in this text. Fill in the blank lines with a description of those miracles. Emphasize how God used His power to protect His people and lead them on their way to the Promised Land.
Unit 4—Plagues of Egypt

Go!

The Deliverance

VIDEO

Materials: TV, VCR, videotape of either “The Ten Commandments” or “The Prince of Egypt”

Quest Connection

Last week we watched the first part of the story of the life of Moses. Today we will continue with the deliverance of God’s people from Egypt. As we watch it, we might get a better idea of just how bad the plagues were upon the people of Egypt. We will also see the hardened heart of Pharaoh. Most important, we will see the power of God working in the deliverance of His people.

Procedure: Select the video that you will use and preview it ahead of time. You may want to just show portions of the story. Since the story section divides our text into the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea, you may wish to show those portions each week. Set up the equipment and have the video ready to start at your selected place. As you show the video, you may wish to pause it in order to ask questions or make comments.

Close

What did you think of the video? (Allow them a chance to answer.) Did it help you to imagine what the plagues might have been like? Doesn’t it make you wonder why the Pharaoh didn’t let the people go sooner? I really think the Pharaoh was foolish enough to think that he was more powerful than God. How ridiculous!

God had His hand upon all of these events. He had heard the cries of His people and He sent Moses to lead them back to the Promised Land. The mighty power of God was demonstrated time and time again. We can always remember that God hears our prayers and will also use His mighty power to work in our lives.
I think we can all agree that the worst plague was the last one when the death angel passed over Egypt and the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died. But, what about the other nine? Which one do you think was the worst?

Procedure: Review the first nine plagues. Have your students select the one that they think would be the worst. (You may need to assign some if multiple students select the same ones.) Give each student a 3x5 note card and have them write down reasons that their plague would be the worst. (Example: frogs would be jumping all over you when you were trying to sleep.) When they have their cards ready, allow them to “argue” their points.

Wow! When you were making your points about the worst plagues, it made me realize just how bad they all must have been. Can you imagine how awful it must have been for those people? No wonder the Pharaoh begged Moses to have them stopped. God demonstrated His power over and over again, but the Pharaoh still refused to listen to Him. It makes me think that we would be foolish to not listen to God, don’t you think? We don’t want to be stubborn like the Pharaoh and try to ignore God or we might suffer some consequences as well. We need to always be on God’s side. That’s the best place to be!
Passover

COMPUTER

Materials: Computer, encyclopedia program, paper, pencils

Quest Connection

Passover is a Jewish traditional celebration in memory of the Israelites being freed from their slavery in Egypt as a result of the final plague. We read in the New Testament that Jesus observed the Passover with His disciples the night He was arrested. Let’s see what we can find out about Passover and its meaning.

Procedure: Use computers to look up information about Passover. If you have internet access, you can do a search for information. If not, an encyclopedia program or Bible program may be able to help you. If you don’t have computers, bring some Bible Commentaries, encyclopedias or books on Jewish traditions. Another possibility would be to invite a guest who could explain the Passover and how it is observed.

The observance of Passover is very important in Jewish tradition. Can you see some similarities to communion that Christians observe? The Jews remember when God delivered them from slavery as the blood of the lamb saved them from the plague of the death angel. As Christians, we celebrate the freedom God gives us from our sins through the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who saves us from eternal death.
Go!

Moses Skit

Drama

Materials: Resource Page entitled “Moses Skit,” costumes if you wish, props (staff for Moses, throne – chair for Pharaoh)

Quest Connection

We’ve all seen movies about the story of Moses, but I thought it might be fun to act it out ourselves. We will assign the parts and then act it out as the story is read. Just listen closely so that you can act out your part.

Procedure: Assign the parts of Narrator, Moses, Pharaoh and Pharaoh’s son. Explain that those who remain will act out the “plagues.” You can be the narrator or you can give this part to a student who reads well. Using the script of the “Moses Skit,” the narrator will read the story, pausing so that the action can be acted out.

Close

That was great fun! I think I will remember it for a long time. I hope you will, too. And, I hope it will remind us of God’s great power and how He used it to free His people from slavery in Egypt.
Go!

Passover Meal

FOOD: Please check for food allergies!

Materials: Prepare a large piece of white paper with a door frame painted upon it. Splotches of red should be added on the top and sides to represent the blood of the lamb. Display this somewhere in your room. You will also need a table and chairs and food to share. (Suggested food would be lamb – perhaps in the form of a gyro sandwich that you could buy at a restaurant or in the freezer department of your grocery store)

Quest Connection

Before the final plague, Moses instructed God’s people to kill a lamb and prepare a meal for all those in the household to eat. Notice that we have a door frame here to remind us of the way they placed the blood of the lamb on their door frames. We also have a table where we can sit like they did for that special meal they ate as the death angel was passing over. Have you ever eaten lamb? We are going to try a taste of lamb as a final way of experiencing what happened that night when the Israelites were finally set free to go to their Promised Land.

Procedure: Sit down at the table and set the food before them. If you have a gyro sandwich, cut it into small pieces in order to give them each a taste. You might also want to provide grapes, which would be another food they might have had. As you share the food, remind them of the story of the last plague and how God used it to set His people free from their slavery in Egypt.

Close

Although this story took place thousands of years ago, it is still a story of God hearing the prayers of His people and delivering them from their suffering. Today we experienced what that might have been like for them. The most important thing we can remember is that God still hears our prayers and that He loves us and will take care of us always.
Great Big God

MUSIC/PRAISE/GAME

Materials: None

Quest Connection

The story of Moses delivering the people of God from their slavery in Egypt is one that demonstrates the power of a great big God! Today we will consider all the many ways that the greatness of our God is revealed in this story.

Procedure: Begin by singing the song, “Great Big God.” (You might want to invite someone to play the guitar for this.) Then, explain that one at a time a person will say, “My God is a great big God.” The others in the class will all say together, “How big is He?” Then, the one who made the original statement will answer with something from the story that demonstrates the power of God. (He made darkness cover the earth, He sent a pillar of fire to lead His people by night, etc.) When one is finished go on to another and repeat the same procedure until everyone has had a chance. Finish with the song, “How Great Is Our God.”

Close

We truly have a great big God! He is as great today as He was in the time of Moses and He has some mighty great things planned for all those who love Him and accept His Son. We can be sure of that.
**LET MY PEOPLE GO!**

Moses was sent by God to free His people from slavery in the land of Egypt. Moses and his brother, Aaron, went to the Pharaoh to ask that he let God’s people go.

How do you think the Pharaoh responded?

Why?

Read what happened: **Exodus 7:13**

Each time Moses and Aaron went before the Pharaoh they would perform miracles and wonders and ask that he let God’s people go. These miracles were in the form of plagues upon the people of Egypt.

In the boxes below describe each of the ten plagues.

1. Exodus 7:19-23
2. Exodus 8:1-6
3. Exodus 8:16-19
4. Exodus 8:20-30
5. Exodus 9:1-7
6. Exodus 9:8-12
8. Exodus 10:3-6, 13-20
9. Exodus 10:21-29
The Way to... 

Exodus 13: 21-22

the Promised Land...

Exodus 13: 21-22

Was Paved...

Exodus 14:15-16

with Miracles.

Exodus 14:2628
God's Message to the Pharaoh
THE TEN PLAGUES

**BLOOD**
**DEATH**
**GNATS**
**LOCUSTS**
**BOILS**
**FLIES**
**HAIL**
**DARKNESS**
**FROGS**
**LIVESTOCK**
REBELLION VS. SUBMISSION

The Pharoah of Egypt refused to listen to what God wanted. That is called rebellion. Moses listened to God and did what He wanted. That is called submission.

Which best describes you? Rebellion or Submission? On the line above place an “X” where you stand. Are you closer to rebellion or submission? Or are you right in the middle?

Where do you want to be? Where does God want you to be?
Let My people go so that they may worship me. —Exodus 8:1b

God had Moses speak these words to the Pharaoh. In this story it was the Pharaoh who was preventing His people from worshiping God. We don’t have a Pharaoh to stop us from worship, but are there other things that might keep us from worshiping God?

Look at the list below and check any that might be keeping you from worshiping God.

- Television
- friends
- sports
- video games
- roller blading
- shopping
- parties
- other__________

Can you let these “go” so that you can worship God?
Moses Skit—The Ten Plagues

Characters: Narrator, Moses, Pharaoh, Pharaoh’s son, plagues

(Pharaoh on throne)
Narr: God’s people, Israel, had been slaves in Egypt for many years. God saw their suffering. He sent them a deliverer. His name was Moses.

(Enter Moses)
Moses: The Lord God of Israel has appeared to me in a burning bush. He has sent me to tell you “Let My people go so they may worship Me.” Pharaoh, will you let God’s people go?
Phar: No. I will not.
Moses: Sit back and watch the power of God.

(Moses exits.)
Narr: The power of God was shown through ten plagues. The first of these was the water changing to blood. Pharaoh was stubborn and would not allow Israel to leave. The Lord said through Moses, “I will smite your whole territory with frogs”—and it was so.

(Enter children hopping like frogs)
(Enter Moses. Frogs exit)
Moses: Pharaoh you have seen the power of the Lord. Will you let my people go?
Phar: No!
Moses: Sit back and watch the power of God.

(Moses exits)
Narr: The Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth that it may become gnats. Gnats filled the earth.

(Enter children itching all over. Then exit.)
Narr: Again God spoke to Moses and said. “If Pharaoh will not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies into all of the land of Egypt.” Pharaoh refused and the flies came.

(Enter children bussing like flies and swarming all around Pharaoh)
(Enter Moses. Flies exit.)
Moses: Pharaoh, you have seen the power of God. Will you let my people go?
Phar: No!
Moses: Sit back and watch the power of the Lord.
Narr: More plagues came to the people of Egypt, yet each time Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel leave. Disease killed many of the livestock and they lay dead in the fields. Next, extremely painful boils formed on man and beasts so that they cried out in agony. And then, the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt killing crops and plant life. The crops and plants that survived the hail were then devoured by locusts. Then, the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which can be felt”—and there was darkness.

(Enter Children with eyes closed and groping as if in the dark)

(Enter Moses. Children exit.)

Moses: Pharaoh, you have seen the power of God. Will you let my people go?

Phar: No. Get away from here. I don’t want to see your face again!

(Moses exits.)

Narr: Then the Lord announced one more plague. He said, “About midnight I will pass through the land of Egypt and all the first born of man and beast will die. Only those people with the blood of a spotless lamb on their door frame will be spared.” That night the death angel passed over Egypt.

(Pharaoh’s son falls dead and Pharaoh kneeled over him.)

(Enter Moses.)

Moses: Now will you let my people go?

Phar: Get out of my land and get out fast.

(Moses goes to the people)

Moses: The Lord has delivered you from bondage. Follow me to the promised land.

Narr. The power of the Lord God of Israel was shown in a mighty way to the people of Egypt. Through his power, God provided the way for Israel’s journey to the promised land.