

## The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 5–14

**MAIN POINT:** God showed Egypt that only He is God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 3:5-6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people.

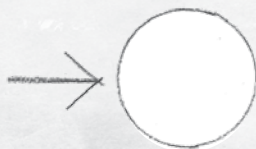
**SMALL GROUP OPENING**  
(15–20 MINUTES)

**PAGE 22**



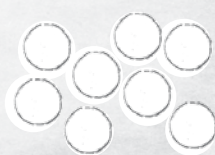
**LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)

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**SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES**  
(20–25 MINUTES)

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### Leader BIBLE STUDY

God had a plan to rescue the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. He chose and called Moses for the task and allowed Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

Moses and Aaron faced a huge obstacle to leading the Israelites out of Egypt, and his name was Pharaoh. Pharaoh did not recognize the Lord's authority: "Who is Yahweh that I should obey Him by letting Israel go?" (Ex. 5:2) Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord, but all of this fit into God's plan to reveal to Pharaoh—and all of Egypt—who He is.

First, God sent a series of plagues that wrecked Egypt. The plagues were acts of judgment designed to show the Egyptians who God is—and the Egyptians learned their lesson. Read Exodus 8:19; 9:20,27; and 10:7.

The tenth plague was the most severe and had the greatest impact on the Egyptian people. God told Moses that around midnight, every firstborn male in Egypt would die. But God gave specific instructions to the Israelites. They were to slaughter a lamb or goat and put its blood on their doorposts. The blood on the doorpost would be a distinguishing mark. When God saw the blood, He “passed over” the house.

The Israelite people were sinful, and they deserved death just as much as the Egyptians did. But God graciously provided a way out. By marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb, they were spared from the judgment and death they deserved. The lamb was killed instead. The heart of the gospel is found in the story of the Passover: Jesus never sinned, but He was crucified for our sins. We deserve death, but He died instead.

As you teach preschoolers this week, highlight the Passover and help them look ahead to the true spotless lamb—Jesus, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).



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training made simple

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# The BIBLE STORY

## The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

*Exodus 5–14*

**God had a plan to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt. He told Moses to be the leader, and Moses' brother Aaron would help. So Moses and Aaron went to talk to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.**

**They said, "This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go." But Pharaoh did not let the people go.** "Who is this Yahweh?" he asked. "I will not obey him!" **So God punished the Egyptians.**

**God turned the water in the Nile River into blood.** No one could drink the water. Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!" **Second, God sent frogs into Egypt.** Frogs were everywhere! Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!" **Third, God sent gnats into Egypt.** Gnats are small flies that bite people and animals. Moses said, "Let My people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!"

**God sent flies into Egypt.** Flies were everywhere! Pharaoh said, "Go!" Then he changed his mind. Pharaoh said, "No!" **Fifth, God caused all the livestock**—animals like horses, donkeys, and sheep—**to die.** Moses said, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh said, "No!" **Sixth, God sent boils, or sore spots, all over the people in Egypt.** But Pharaoh said, "No!" **Seventh, God sent a hailstorm.** It was the worst storm they had ever seen! Pharaoh said, "Go!" But when the hail stopped, Pharaoh said, "No!"

**Eighth, God sent locusts into Egypt.** Pharaoh said, "Go!" But when the locusts were gone, Pharaoh said, "No!"

**Next, God sent darkness to cover the land. Moses said, "Let My people go!" Pharaoh said, "No!"**

God told Moses, “I will bring one more punishment. After that, Pharaoh will let you go.”

Moses warned Pharaoh about what would happen. “Around midnight, the firstborn son in every family in Egypt will die.” But the Israelites would be safe. Pharaoh did not listen. So that is exactly what happened.

God told the Israelites to sprinkle the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see, and He would “pass over” the house.

At midnight, every oldest son in Egypt died. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. **Pharaoh said, “Go!” The Israelites left quickly. God led them toward the Red Sea** and told them to camp near the sea. He told Moses, “Pharaoh will change his mind and come after you.” But God had a plan to rescue the Israelites from Pharaoh.

**Soon Pharaoh and his army came after the Israelites.** Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid! God will fight for you.” **God told Moses what to do. He said, “Stretch out your hand over the sea.” Moses did, and the sea was divided in two. The Israelites walked through on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides.**

But the Egyptians were getting closer! **As soon as the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand again. The waters returned, covering Pharaoh’s army. None of them survived.**

**When the Israelites saw what had happened, they thanked God! They believed that God is real and that He had sent Moses to lead them.**

*Christ Connection: At Passover, God kept His people safe. Moses led God’s people out of Egypt, and God helped them get away by crossing the Red Sea. Moses was a great leader, but the Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus leads people away from sin so they can live with God forever.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Moses and Aaron obeyed what God told them to do. (Ex. 7:6) Through them, God performed signs and wonders. God proved that He is the one true God. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).



# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 5–14

**MAIN POINT:** God showed Egypt that only He is God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 3:5–6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people.

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## Welcome time

- “God Gives Us Everything We Need” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- “Matching Bugs” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to match the bugs.

**SAY** • In today's Bible story, God sent flies, gnats, and locusts to Egypt. Let's find out why God did that.

## Make faces

Invite preschoolers to form pairs and guide each pair to face each other. Explain that the children will pretend they are looking in a mirror. When you call out an emotion, they are going to make a face that goes with that emotion. For example, if you call out happy, they will show their partner a happy face. Call out emotions that preschoolers would be able to show (happy, sad, afraid, silly, brave). You may also provide non-breaking mirrors to children for them to examine their own silly faces in a mirror.

**SAY** • Last week, we learned that God told Moses to go to



- non-breaking mirrors (optional)

Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites go. God had told Moses that his job would not be easy. Pharaoh was not going to let God's people go! In our Bible story today, sometimes Pharaoh was mad [*make a mad face*]. Other times, he was afraid [*make an afraid face*]. We'll find out more later.

## Who am I?

Briefly review details of Moses' life by saying review statements. After each statement, ask the preschoolers, "Who am I?" Sample statements:

- I said to throw all the Israelite boy babies in the river. Who am I? (*Pharaoh*)
- I made a basket and put my baby inside it to keep him safe. Who am I? (*Moses' mom*)
- I was washing in the Nile River when I found a baby in a basket! I raised the baby to be my son. Who am I? (*Pharaoh's daughter, the princess*)
- I spoke to Moses in a burning bush. I told him to go back to Egypt and rescue My people. Who am I? (*God*)

**SAY** • Great job remembering! God chose Moses to rescue His people. Today we are going to learn more about how God used Moses to rescue His people.

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to hop like frogs as they move to Bible study.



• countdown video  
(optional)

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

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## Introduce the Bible story

Select five preschoolers to come up, one at a time, and say to you “Let My people go!” Each time a child tells you the message, you (Pharaoh) must say “No, no, no!”

**SAY** • Great job! God sent Moses to Pharaoh 10 times with a special message. God said to Pharaoh, “Let My people go!” But Pharaoh said no to God! Let's see what happened!

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Exodus 5.

**SAY** • The Bible is God's words. God's words are most important. We can believe God's words in the Bible because they are true. Today's Bible story comes from the second book of the Bible, Exodus.

Show the Bible story video “The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

**SAY** • **God showed Egypt that only He is God.** Moses led God's people out of Egypt, and God helped them

- Bible
- “The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

get away by crossing the Red Sea. Jesus leads people away from sin so they can live with God forever.

Point to today's Bible story on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Why did God send 10 plagues on Egypt? (**God showed Egypt that only He is God.**)
2. Name one of the plagues. (*Nile River turned to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock died, boils, locusts, darkness, death of firstborn sons*)
3. What special mark did the Israelites put on their doorposts so God would "pass over" their houses? (*lamb's blood*)
4. What did God do so His people could cross the Red Sea on dry ground? (*divided it in two*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Our big picture question and answer is, ***What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people.*** God loves His people and rescues them. God used Moses to rescue His people from Pharaoh, but God sent His very own Son, Jesus, to rescue His people from sin.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Hebrews 3:5-6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Confidence of Our Hope."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "Confidence of Our Hope" song

**SAY** • Jesus is greater than Moses. Moses obeyed God as a servant, but he was still a sinner. Jesus always obeyed God perfectly. Only Jesus can rescue people from sin because He is the only One who never sinned.

## Transition to small groups

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**SESSION TITLE:** The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

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LOW PREP

## Review the plagues

Invite the preschoolers to raise their hands and name a plague they remember from the Bible story. Each time a child names a plague, everyone will play out that plague. For example, if a child says “frogs,” everyone must *ribbit* and hop like frogs. For the first plague, pantomime being thirsty since no one could drink the water in the Nile. For the tenth plague, pantomime painting the doorposts and lintels to emphasize God's protection of His people instead of the death of the firstborn.

**SAY** • God sent 10 plagues, or troubles, against Egypt because Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go. Pharaoh thought he was better and stronger than God, but **God showed Egypt that only He is God.** Moses led God's people out of Egypt, and God helped them get away by crossing the Red Sea. Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus leads people away from sin so they can live with God forever.



LOW PREP

Tip: For younger preschoolers, do not make children who move after Pharaoh says “don't go” return to the wall.

## Go/don't go

Play this version of “Red Light, Green Light.” Invite children to line up shoulder to shoulder on a far wall. Choose a volunteer to be Pharaoh and stand opposite his

friends against the other wall. When “Pharaoh” faces the wall and says, “Go!” children will try to move across the room. When Pharaoh turns around and says, “Don’t go!” they must freeze. Any children who move after Pharaoh turns around must go back to the wall and try again. The first child to reach Pharaoh becomes the next Pharaoh.

**SAY • God showed Egypt that only He is God** by sending troubles to Egypt. Sometimes when God sent a trouble, Pharaoh said God’s people could go. When the trouble went away, he changed his mind! God does not change His mind. God promised to bring His people out of Egypt. Moses led God’s people out of Egypt, and God helped them get away by crossing the Red Sea. Jesus leads people away from sin so they can live with God forever.

## Play a plagues matching game

Before class, print and cut out the plague cards. Shuffle them and place them on a table facedown. (Place the cards faceup for younger preschoolers.) Invite preschoolers to take turns turning two cards over at a time. If their cards match, they get another turn. If they do not, their turn is over and another preschooler gets a turn. Briefly review the plagues as preschoolers play the game.

• “Plague Cards” printable

**SAY • God showed that He has power over the Nile River, animals, the weather, sickness, and darkness. God showed Egypt that only He is God.** God showed the Israelites that He was going to rescue His people. At Passover, God kept His people safe. Moses led God’s people out of Egypt, and God helped them get away by crossing the Red Sea. Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus rescues us from sin!

- shallow tub of water
- towels or plastic tablecloth
- drinking straws
- bowls or cups

## Red Sea experiment

Provide a shallow bowl or tub with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of water. One at a time, invite preschoolers to try to split the water down the middle using their hands. Provide towels for children to dry off their hands. Then provide each preschooler a drinking straw and a bowl or cup of water. Demonstrate using your own straw how to blow through the straw to make the water in the bowl move. Invite each preschooler to try parting the water with her breath. Retell how God parted the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to walk through the sea on dry ground.

**SAY** • We had a hard time parting the little bit of water that was in our bowl. God parted the Red Sea—a whole bunch of water! Only God could do something so amazing. **God showed Egypt that only He is God.** Moses led God’s people out of Egypt, and God helped them get away by crossing the Red Sea. Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus rescues us from sin!

## Passover musical chairs

- “God Gives Us Everything We Need” song (optional)
- red construction paper
- chairs, 1 per child

Set up a chair for each preschooler in a circle, facing outward. Set a sheet of red construction paper under a few chairs. Play the unit theme song as children walk in front of the chairs. When the music stops, children must sit down in the closest chair. Invite children with the red construction paper to hold it up as you walk around the outside of the circle. Say “Passed over” as you move past the children with the red construction paper. Invite preschoolers to place the construction paper back under their chairs and play again.

**SAY** • **God showed Egypt that only He is God** by sending them troubles. At Passover, God kept His people safe. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin.

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve flat bread for snack today. Talk about how God told the Israelites to make bread like this for the Passover meal so they would be ready to go when it was time to leave Egypt. God rescued His people, and God's people celebrated Passover every year to remember that God kept His promise to bring them out of Egypt.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of the Red Sea divided in two. Talk about what the bottom of the sea might have looked like. Talk about how happy and excited the Israelites may have been. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • Dear God, thank You for showing us that only You are God. Thank You for bringing Your people out of Egypt. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and come back to life to rescue us from sin. We love You, Jesus. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool



# Journal Page

## God the Redeemer

**Key Passage:** Hebrews 3:5-6

**Big Picture Questions:** What is God's plan?  
God's plan is to rescue His people.

**Session 1:** Moses Was Born and Called  
*Exodus 1:8-2:10, 23-25; 3:1-4:20*  
God rescued Moses to save His people.

**Session 2:** The Plagues, the Passover, and the  
Crossing of the Red Sea  
*Exodus 5-14*  
God showed Egypt that only He is  
God.

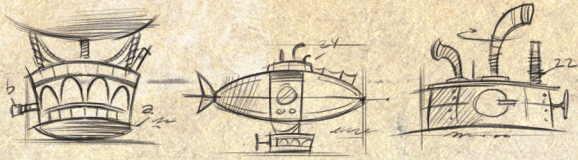
**Session 3:** The Wilderness Test  
*Exodus 15:22-17:7*  
God gave His people food and water.

**Session 4:** The Golden Calf  
*Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-9*  
God's people worshiped a golden calf.

**Session 5:** The Ten Commandments: Love God  
*Exodus 19:1-20:11; 31:18*  
God gave us rules to show that He is  
holy.



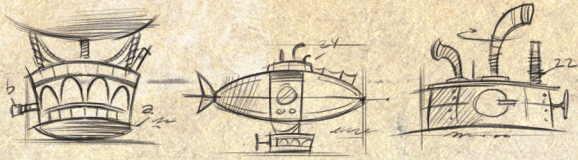




**Moses was  
faithful as a  
servant ... But  
Christ is faithful  
as the Son.  
Hebrews 3:5-6**





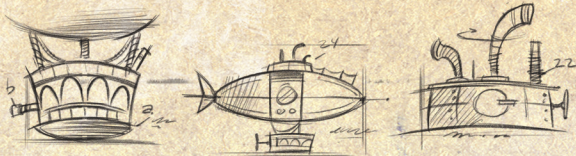


Moses verily was  
faithful ... as a  
servant, ... But  
Christ as a son.

Hebrews 3:5-6







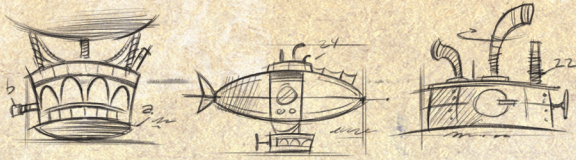
Moses was  
faithful as a  
servant ...

But Christ was  
faithful as a Son.

Hebrews 3:5-6







Now Moses was  
faithful ... as a  
servant ... but  
Christ is faithful  
... as a son.

Hebrews 3:5-6





God showed  
Egypt that only  
He is God.









# Matching Bugs

DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a line connecting the bugs that match.



**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 3:5-6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**THE PLAGUES, THE PASSOVER, AND THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA**

- Pharaoh would not let God's people go.
- God showed Egypt that only He is God by sending 10 plagues.
- God kept His people safe at Passover.
- God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could walk across.

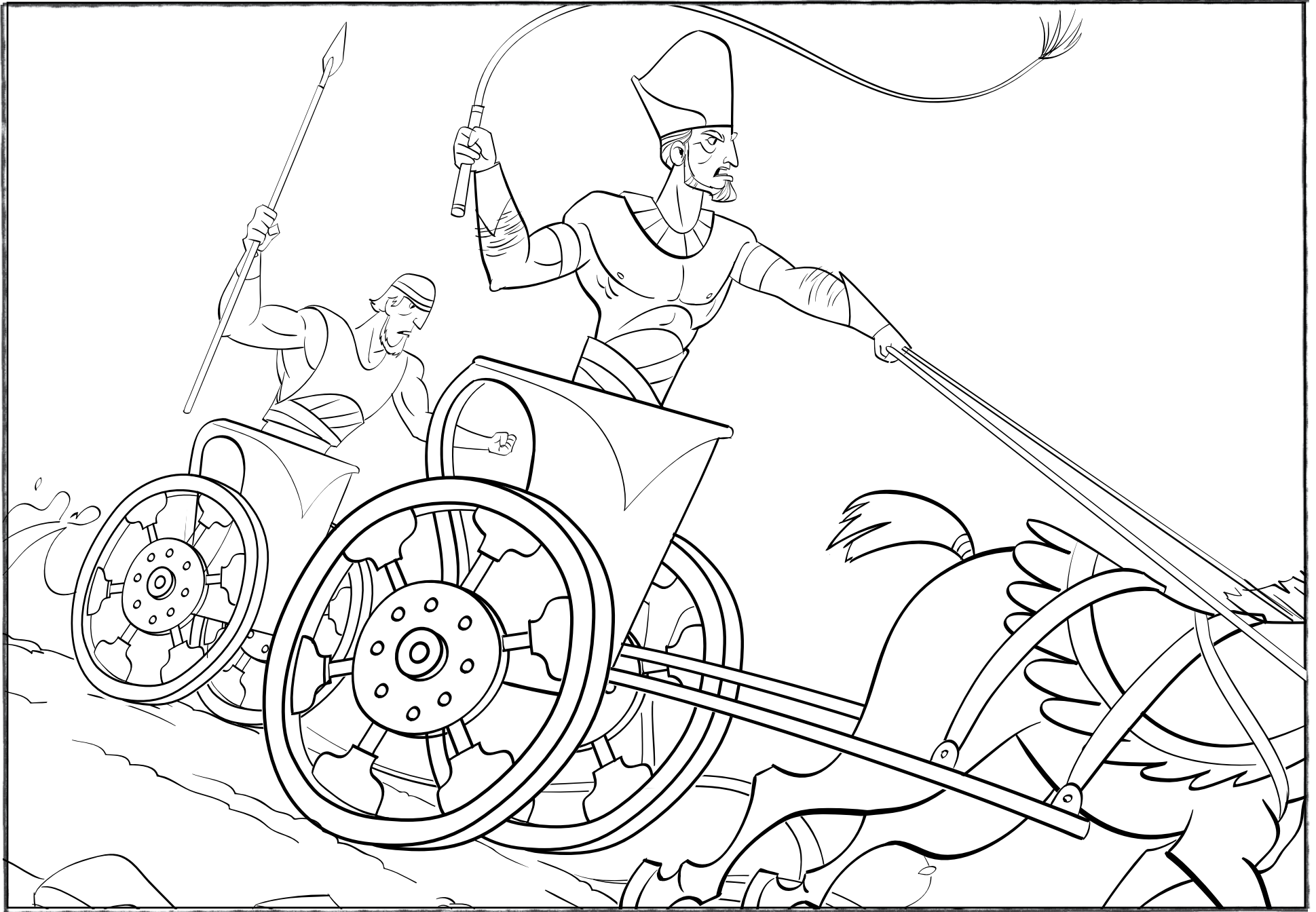
**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Which of the 10 plagues sounds the worst to you?
- What might you think about as you walked through the Red Sea on dry ground?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

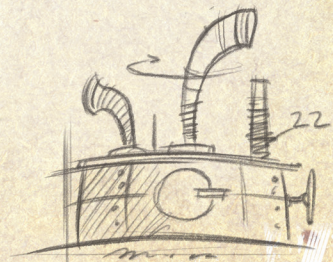
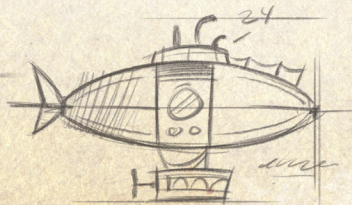
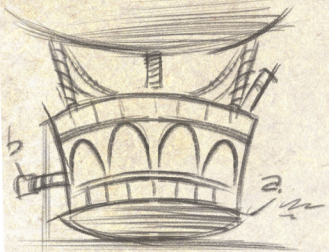
- Talk about a time your family had to trust God to take care of you.
- Take it further: Choose a family in your community to invite to dinner. Pray for God to use your family to share the gospel.







# What is God's plan?





# What is God's plan?

God's plan is to  
rescue His people.

