

**“God is in control”** on their paper. The lighter colors from underneath will appear in the words. Encourage the kids to pray and ask God to help them trust Him in every circumstance throughout the week.

### Learning Activity 2: **Soft Heart, Hard Heart**

*Supplies: Small sponge, stone, glass of water, pan*

Ask one child to read **Exodus 7:13**, **“Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.”**

Show the kids the sponge and the rock. Pass both around so they can feel each or ask them to describe how they feel.

**Explain** that God wants our hearts to be soft toward Him so he can fill us with His Word. When our hearts are soft, that means we are willing to listen to God and obey Him, even when it is difficult.

**Explain** that the water is like God’s Word. Slowly pour a few drops onto the sponge and watch as it is quickly soaked up. Now pour a few drops on the rock. The water will simply drip off onto the pan.

**Ask:** Is it easier for us to know God and have a relationship with Him if our hearts are hard or soft?

**Ask:** If our hearts are hard toward God will we be able to understand His Word? (No)

**Explain** that Pharaoh hardened his heart toward God and wasn’t willing to obey. God would later punish Pharaoh for his disobedience.

#### ***Memory Verse:***

***5 22 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people?***

***Why is it You have sent me?***

***6 1 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”***

## **CHAPTERS 7 to 10: The ten plagues**

### **Servant’s Preparation:**

Read Exodus Chapters 7 to 10.

Read the interpretation of the chapters in Interpretation of the Book of Exodus by Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty:

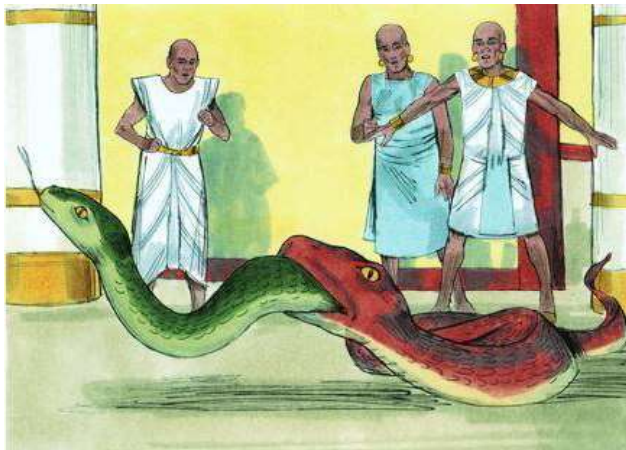
### **Brief introduction:**

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions:

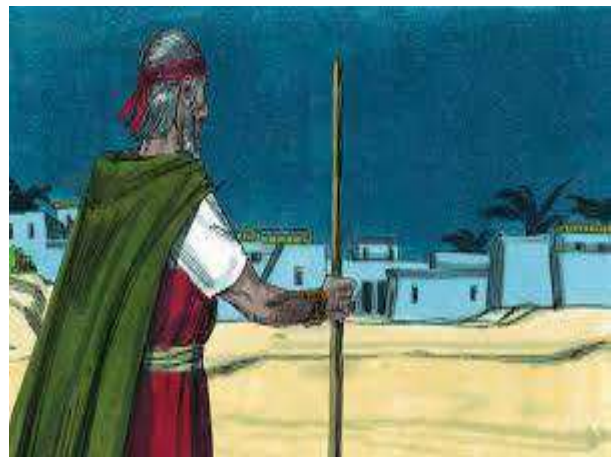
- ✓ *What is the meaning of Exodus?* Departure, going out. It refers to the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt.
- ✓ *Who wrote the Book of Exodus?* Moses the Prophet
- ✓ *What is the structure of the Book of Exodus?* It tells the story of bondage of the Israelites in Egypt, their exodus from Egypt to Sinai and the story of their journey in Sinai.

### **Main Points in the Chapters:**

1. An introduction to the plagues. Miracle of Aaron's rod turning into a snake. (7: 1-13)
2. Turning water to blood (7: 14-23)
3. The plague of frogs (8: 1-15)
4. The plague of lice (gnats in King James version) (8: 16-19)
5. The plague of flies (8: 20-32)
6. The epidemic plague against livestock (9: 1-7)
7. The plague of boils (9: 8-12)
8. The plague of thunder, hail, and fire (9: 13-30)
9. The plague of locusts (10: 1-20)
10. The plague of darkness (10: 21-29)
11. The plague against the firstborns (Chap. 11 & 12)











# Exodus 7

Then the Lord said to Moses... "The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst." So Moses and Aaron did... as the Lord commanded them... v.1,5,6

... Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh... and it became a serpent... v.10

... the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts... v.11



Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt...'"

... Moses and Aaron did... as the Lord... commanded... and all the water that was in the Nile turned to blood. The fish... died... and the Nile became foul... v.19-21



# Exodus 8

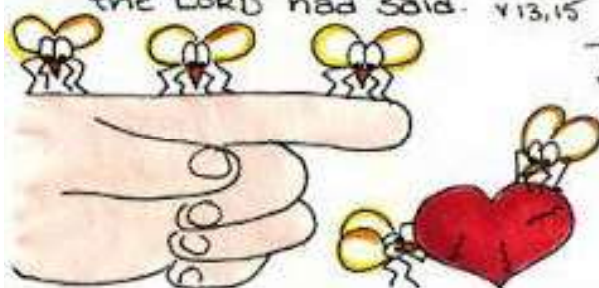
The Lord said to Moses,  
"Say to Aaron..."

"Stretch out your hand with  
your staff... and make frogs."  
Come up on the land of Egypt.  
So Aaron stretched out  
his hand over the waters  
of Egypt, and the frogs came  
up and covered the land... v5,6



Then Pharaoh... said, "Entreat the  
Lord that He remove the frogs...  
and I will let the people go..." v8

The Lord did according to the word of Moses...  
But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, he  
hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as  
the Lord had said. v13,15



Then the Lord said to Moses,  
"Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out  
your staff and strike the  
dust of the earth, that it  
may become gnats..."

The magicians said to  
Pharaoh, "This is the  
finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened,  
and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.  
v16,19

Now the Lord said to Moses...  
"Present yourself before Pharaoh  
and say..."

"Thus says the Lord.  
"Let My people go... For  
if you do not... I will  
send swarms of flies  
on you and on your  
servants... and the houses  
of the Egyptians will be  
full of swarms of flies..."  
v20,21



But Pharaoh  
hardened  
his heart  
this time  
also...

v32



# Exodus 9

Then the Lord said to Moses,  
"Go to Pharaoh and  
speak to him,

"Thus says the Lord... Let My people go...

For if you refuse... behold the hand of the Lord  
will come with a very severe pestilence on your  
livestock...



...the next day all the livestock of Egypt died; but of  
the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died v6

Then... Moses and Aaron...  
took soot from a kiln, and  
stood before Pharaoh;  
and Moses threw it  
towards the sky, and  
it became boils  
breaking out with  
sores on man and  
beast. v10



Now the Lord said to  
Moses, "Stretch out your  
hand toward the sky,  
that hail may fall on...  
Egypt..."

The hail struck... Egypt...  
Only... where the sons of  
Israel were, there was  
no hail... v25-26

Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let  
the sons of Israel go, just as the Lord had spoken... v35



# EXODUS 10

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him,

"Thus says the Lord... 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go... For if you refuse... tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory..." v3-4

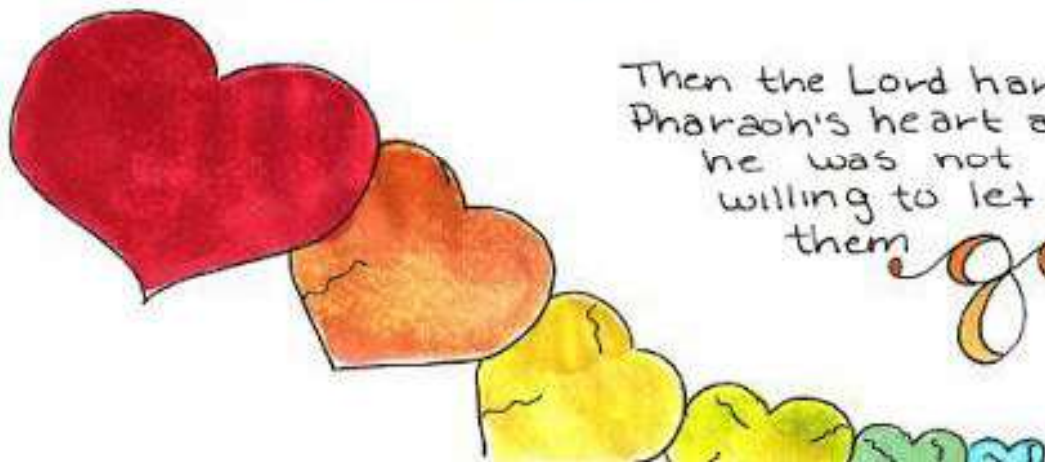
So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt... and... the east wind brought the locusts

...Nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt. v13,15



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 may be felt."

So Moses stretched out his hand... and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for 3 days... but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings... v24-27



Then the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he was not willing to let them go

v27



## Lesson:

Explain the main events of the chapters with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

- Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.
- Aaron's rod turns into a snake: God told Moses that if Pharaoh tells him to show a miracle, to ask Aaron, his brother, to throw his rod and it will become a serpent. Moses and Aaron did so, but Pharaoh's magicians did the same with their magic. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods, showing God Almighty's power. But Pharaoh still hardened his heart.
- When Pharaoh kept hardening his heart and refusing to let God's people go, God sent the ten plagues on the Egyptians only (starting from the fourth plague), but the Israelites remained unharmed.
- Tell the story of each plague, reading parts of the chapters. Or you may tell the events using the Activities method below, also showing the pictures.
  - Turning water to blood (7: 14-23)
  - The plague of frogs (8: 1-15)
  - The plague of lice (gnats in King James version) (8: 16-19)
  - The plague of flies (8: 20-32)
  - The epidemic plague against livestock (9: 1-7)
  - The plague of boils (9: 8-12)
  - The plague of thunder, hail, and fire (9: 13-30)
  - The plague of locusts (10: 1-20)
  - The plague of darkness (10: 21-29)
  - Death of the firstborn announced (Chap. 11 & 12)
- Every time, Pharaoh would say to Moses that he will let the people go and he would ask him to pray to God to take away the plague. But when God took away the plague, Pharaoh would change his mind and harden his heart and would still not let the people go.

## Lesson Aim

Look for God's warnings about bad behavior and benefit when we listen to and obey God.

## Activities

### **Tell the Story**

**Say:** Moses and Aaron had confronted Pharaoh, asking him to let the Israelite slaves go. (*Have the kids shout "Let my people go!"*) But Pharaoh said "no!" (*Have the kids shout "No!"*) Pharaoh's heart was hard and he didn't believe in the one true God, but God was about to put His mighty power on display for all of Egypt to see.

**Say:** God was about to send 10 plagues upon Egypt. Today we'll hear about the first nine. Moses went down to the Nile River to meet Pharaoh. There Moses placed his staff in the water and suddenly the

water turned to blood!

**Ask:** Can you imagine if you turned on your water faucet at home and blood came out? Gross! Do you think Pharaoh was willing to let the Israelites go? No!

**Say:** Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh to ask him....*(have kids shout "Let my people go!")* But Pharaoh said... *(have kids shout "No!")*

**Say:** So God put His power on display again for all of Egypt to see. This time He sent the plague of frogs. There were frogs everywhere! They were in the Egyptian's pots and pans, in their ovens, in their beds, even on the people themselves!

**Say:** Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh to ask him....*(have kids shout "Let my people go!")* But Pharaoh said... *(have kids shout "No!")*

**Say:** Yet again God sent another plague upon Egypt. This time gnats swarmed throughout Egypt.

**Say:** Again and again Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh to ask him....*(have kids shout "Let my people go!")* And again and again Pharaoh said... *(have kids shout "No!")*

**Say:** God sent more plagues on the Egyptians: flies swarmed throughout the land, the Egyptian's livestock died, the people were covered with painful sores on their bodies, hail and fire rained from the sky, locusts ate up all the crops, and finally the land was covered by darkness.

**Ask:** Which of the plagues do you think would be the worst? *(Allow time for kids to respond.)*

**Ask:** How do you think Pharaoh responded after the ninth plague? *(Allow time for kids to respond.)*

**Say:** Let's read from God's Word to find out what Pharaoh said.

**Read Exodus 10:27:** *"But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go. Pharaoh said to Moses, 'Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again!'*

**Say:** You see Pharaoh's heart was hard towards God. He didn't believe that He was the one true God and he refused to obey what God commanded, even though God had put his mighty power on display! Sometimes our hearts are hard just like Pharaoh's and sometimes we might find it hard to obey God too. But God shows us incredible grace by sending Jesus to obey perfectly when we could not. Now, when we put our faith in Christ, God sees Jesus' perfect obedience instead of our hard hearts and we can be forgiven!

***After completing this Sunday school lesson, the children will learn to look for God's warnings about bad behavior and how we can benefit when we listen to and obey God.***

## **TOPICS**

Fearing God, Hardened Heart, Moses, Plagues, Wrath

## **WARNING SIGNS (Activity)**

***This Sunday school activity will compare warning signs the children see everyday with warnings found in the Bible. Warning signs we see help us be safe, but warning signs from God help us in many more ways.***

## **TOPICS:**

Commandments, Fearing God, Guidance, Obedience, Protection



## MATERIALS:

Copies of handout for each child, or if not possible display one copy of the handout while doing the activity.



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## PREPARATION

Before class, print or make copies of the handout for each child. Or you can also do the activity together as a class.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

First, give the children a copy of the handout, and have them examine the pictures. Explain to the class that each object is a sign that gives us a warning. See if they can identify each warning.

After everyone has had a chance to make their guesses and write down their answers, go over each picture and let the children know which ones they knew and which ones they missed.

The signs shown on the handout are as follows:

Don't Smoke	Curving Road
Medicine (keep away from Children)	Caution, stairs
Stop	Hazardous Waste
Do Not Enter	Poison
Railroad Crossing	School Zone
Yield	Slippery when wet

In everyday life, we are constantly seeing signs that give us warnings. These warnings are usually there to either protect us or protect others. Warning signs are very important. Without them, people may do something that may hurt themselves or someone else. However, warnings do not just come from signs. The Bible is also full of warnings, and they are just as important. In fact, they are more important because obeying the warning signs in the Bible not only protects us, but also make us better persons. The Bible says, "Be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess." (Deuteronomy 5: 32, 33) "Be very careful then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

How can we know what the Lord's will is? (By reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus)  
Where can we find the warnings that God gives us? (By knowing what the Bible says, and by allowing the Holy Spirit to direct us in our actions.)

### **HARDENED HEART (Object Talk)**

***Being able to spin an egg that has been hard-boiled will show the kids how a hardened heart makes it difficult to resist the devil.***

#### **TOPICS:**

Fearing God, Hardened Heart, Obedience

#### **MATERIALS:**

1 hard-boiled egg  
1 uncooked egg  
Table or hard flat surface



#### **PREPARATION:**

Before class, hard-boil one egg and let cool. Mark one egg with an "A" and the other with a "B", or whatever marks you choose, so you can tell them apart.

#### **WHAT YOU WILL DO:**

You will show the class that the hard-boiled egg is easy to spin around like a top, but the uncooked egg will not spin as often as you try. You will compare the hard-boiled egg to someone with a hardened



heart. Just as we can spin the hard-boiled egg, the devil can make someone with a hardened heart do things they know is wrong.

#### **WHAT YOU WILL SAY:**

I have here two eggs. Except for the fact that one is marked "A" and this other one is marked "B", they look the same. However, they are very different. Let me show you. I need one volunteer. (Give the volunteer the hard-boiled egg.) What I would like you to do is spin this egg around like a top. Can you do that? That was easy, was it not? Now I need another volunteer to spin this other egg. (Give the second volunteer the uncooked egg.) What is wrong, are you having trouble spinning this egg? Some children may know already, in any case let the children experiment with the two eggs for a moment, and then ask to have them back. Explain that the difference between the two eggs is that one is hard inside, while the other is still liquid. We can spin the egg with the hard inside around. (If it's not possible for the children to experiment themselves, show them the experiment.)

The Bible says, "Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble" (Proverbs 28:14). This hard-boiled egg is like someone with a hardened heart and who does not fear the Lord. The devil can make this person do things they know are wrong. In a sense, the devil has some control over their life, and that is very scary is it not? Someone who is obedient to the Lord, and does not let his or her heart become hardened can resist the power of the devil. Like this egg with the soft center that we cannot spin around, a Christian who is obedient to the Word of God, and who fears the Lord cannot be controlled by the devil. We must make sure our hearts do not become hard, like a hard-boiled egg.

#### **APPLICATION**

Although Pharaoh was given many signs to know God was in control, he did not fear Him. Instead, his heart was hardened and that led to disobedience. We have warning signs too. Not only are there signs that warn us about physical dangers, like we discussed earlier today, but the Bible is also full of warning signs. The Ten Commandments are a good example of some of these warnings, and there are many others. Therefore, what do we need to do to learn how to fear God and try to be obedient to Him in every area of our lives?

#### ***Memory Verse:***

***8 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.***

***22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.***