

**Games Workshop “Moved by the Spirit”**  
**The Great Escape: Moses Leads the Israelites Out of Egypt**  
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA**

**Scripture:** Exodus chapters 5-15 with emphasis on Exodus 12:21-42

**Memory Verse:** **Romans 8:38-39** (NIV) *Same as the kids' Bibles.*

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**Bonus Verse: Exodus 15:2**

*"The Lord is my strength and my song."*

## **Games Workshop: “Moved by the Spirit”**

**Concepts:**

1. God helps people who suffer.
2. We remember what God has done in the past and we celebrate what God is doing today.

**Objectives:**

*Please preview the rotation objectives found on the Overview Sheet.*

1. Older children will locate the story of the plagues and Passover in their Bibles.
2. The children will learn the basic events of the story.
3. The children will relate the story to the concepts above.

**Teacher preparation in advance:**

1. Read the scripture and attend the Bible Study.
2. Learn the story thoroughly and plan for telling it.
3. Prepare a closing prayer.

**Supply List:**

- Extra Bibles
- Bible storybook or props for story telling (optional)
- Dry-erase marker
- Memento for journals (optional)
- Skittles (optional)

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**Welcome and Introductions:**

Greet the children and introduce yourself. Wear your nametag.

**Scripture/Bible Story:**

Make sure everybody has a Bible. Help the students to find Exodus. After they've found Exodus, help them find chapter 4, then verse 27, and tell them this is where the story of the plagues and the Passover begins. Some of the children will confuse chapters and verses. Show them that chapter numbers are the big ones, and also are at the top of every page.

Review the story, using the summary below as a guide. After the first Sunday of the rotation, let the children help you tell the story. This will give you an idea of how much they already know. Consider showing illustrations from a Bible storybook, or using some props such as a walking stick, stuffed frogs, plastic bugs, a handful of confetti to simulate ashes, etc.

**Story Summary**

Remember that, last year, you learned about Moses and the burning bush – when God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. After that, Moses, his wife, Zipporah, and their two sons set off for Egypt.

In Egypt, Moses and his brother Aaron met with the Israelite leaders. They told them everything God had said. And the Israelites believed, and bowed down and worshiped God. They knew that God has seen their suffering and was going to help them.

Moses and Aaron went to the Pharaoh and said, "The Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'Let my people go, so they may hold a festival in the desert to honor me.'"

The Pharaoh said, "What do you mean by making the people neglect their work? Get back to work!" And then he called his slave drivers together and told them to push their workers even harder. And the Israelites complained bitterly to Moses and Aaron.

Moses called out to God, "Lord, why do you mistreat your people? Why did you send me? It has caused nothing but trouble and made things worse than ever for your people. The Pharaoh is now treating your people even more cruelly."

God answered, "You'll see. I have seen how my people are suffering and I will keep my promise to them and free them from slavery. Now I will force the Pharaoh to let my people go. In fact, he will drive them out of his land. Now you and Aaron must return to him and say as I command."

Then came ten plagues, each one worse than the one before. And in each plague, the region of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was spared.

First, Moses commanded Aaron to strike the surface of the Nile River with the walking stick, and the water turned into blood. All over the land water turned into blood — even in pots and pitchers. All the fish died. It stank.

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But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.  
(With each succeeding plague, pause after “But Pharaoh said...” and let the children say “NO!” They should catch on to the cue pretty quickly.)

Then God sent frogs. They covered the land and filled people’s houses. They jumped on everyone and everything — they even stole bread that was baking in ovens!

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Then Moses struck his walking stick on the ground and God turned the dust into gnats. Nasty little bugs that covered all the people and all the animals. They flew in eyes, ears, noses, and mouths. They were maddening.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

God sent flies. A cloud of fat, black flies that buzzed around and crawled into everything.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

God sent a terrible disease, and all the animals of the Egyptians died — the cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and donkeys.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Moses threw ashes into the air, and it settled on the Egyptian people and became boils, open sores all over the people's skin.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Moses raised his walking stick toward the sky, and God sent thunder and lightning and hail. All over Egypt the hail pounded people and plants and animals. It destroyed the flax and barley crops.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Moses raised his walking stick, and God sent an east wind that brought the locusts. Locusts that ate everything the hail did not destroy. They came in swarms and settled over the whole country. Not a green thing was left on any tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Moses lifted his hand toward the sky and there was heavy darkness throughout Egypt for three days. The Egyptians could not see each other and no one left his house.

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But Pharaoh said “NO!” He would not let the people of Israel go.

Then God said to Moses, "I will send only one more punishment on the Pharaoh and his people. Then he will make you leave. Now tell the Israelites and to prepare as I direct you. Every family must choose a special sheep or a goat, and kill it and put some of the blood on the doorposts of their house. I will go through the land of Egypt and kill every first-born male, human and animal. But I will pass over the homes of the Israelites, if they are marked with blood on the doorposts as I have instructed."

Moses warned the Pharaoh that this was going to happen, but Pharaoh still said “NO!” So when the time came, at midnight, God killed all the first-born sons in Egypt, from the Pharaoh's son to the son of every prisoner in jail. There was loud crying throughout Egypt, because there was not one home without a dead son.

The Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron: "Get out! Leave my country. Go and worship your Lord, as you asked. Take your wives and people, your sheep, goats, and cattle, and leave."

The Israelites quickly packed their things and left. For food, the Israelites hastily made some bread dough and put it in pans, but they did not mix any yeast in the dough to make it rise. When they baked it the bread was very flat.

After they left Egypt, God commanded the Israelites to remember the Passover and celebrate it every year. Even today, during Passover time the Jews eat unleavened bread. They have a special Passover meal to remember how God saved their people from slavery.

**Application:**

1. Divide the class into several teams of three to five players (name them the Frogs, the Locusts, etc.). Have the shepherd keep score on the white board. Line the teams up and let them take turns spinning the game wheel, then answering questions. Let the first person in line spin for the team. The spinner can ask his team for help, but he is the only one who can answer.
2. If the spinner guesses correctly, award his team the points he spun for. If he answers wrong, no points. Make sure the class hears the correct answer. Either way, go on to the next team for the next question.
3. After spinning, the player goes to the end of his team's line. One spin and one question per turn.
4. Keep going until every child has spun at least once. If the kids are taking too long to answer, give them a 30-second limit and get the shepherd to time the game using the timer in the supply bin. They can find the answers in their Bibles if they wish.
5. See end of lesson plan for questions. Feel free to add some of your own. For the first couple of weeks, ask the questions in the order given to reinforce the sequence of events. In later weeks, if the children seem to know the story well, you might mix them up. If time is short, skip some of the questions regarding details of specific plagues. Grades 1-2: Use multiple-choice questions. Grades 3-6: Ask the same questions, but don't offer choice of answers.

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**Reflection Time:**

Tell the children: The story of the plagues and the Passover is very long so we’ve left out some of the details. But there are some important parts that I want us to read now.

Grades 1-2: Read these verses to the children and briefly discuss. Read directly from the Bible to emphasize that’s where the story is.

Grades 3-5: Have the children close their Bibles. Call out a verse; let the first to find it read it out loud (different child each time). Then briefly discuss the verse.

Exodus 6:5 -- “Now I have seen how the people of Israel are suffering because of the Egyptians, and I will keep my promise.”

*Even when it looked as if things were getting worse and worse for the Israelites, God knew they were suffering and promised to help them. And today, God still helps people who are suffering, even when it doesn’t look that way.*

Exodus 10: 2 -- “I did this because I want you to tell your children and your grandchildren about my miracles and about my harsh treatment of the Egyptians. Then all of you will know that I am the Lord.”

*Some terrible things happen to people in this story, but here God explains that there is a purpose behind it – so the Israelites will know God’s power and teach their children about God. Sometimes today terrible things happen that we might not understand, but we can trust that God cares about people who suffer and that we can care for people who suffer also.*

Exodus 12:14 – “Remember this day and celebrate it each year as a festival in my honor.”

And Exodus 12:17 – “Celebrate this Festival of Thin Bread as a way of remembering the day that I brought your families and tribes out of Egypt. And do this each year.”

*God commanded the Israelites to remember their rescue and celebrate it every year. We also remember great things God has done and celebrate them in our worship. Especially, we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection every Easter.*

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**Faith Journals:**

Ask the shepherds to pass out the journals and pencils/markers. You may wish to give the children a sticker or some memento to paste in their journal as a reminder of the story.

Have the children write at the top of the page: Remember and Celebrate (write it on the white board for the little ones). Ask them to write or draw a picture of something that God has done in the past that they remember and celebrate today. It might be something we all do in our church – such as remembering and celebrating Jesus’ resurrection at Easter. Or it might be something that God has done for them or their family or someone they know.

**Closing:**

**Prayer:** Close with a prayer such as: “God, we remember that you kept your promise and helped the people of Israel when they were suffering. We know that you still help people today when they are suffering. Help us also to care for people who suffer. Help us remember and celebrate the good things you have done and are still doing today.”

**Tidy and Dismissal:** Ask children to help collect Bibles, journals, etc.

*A Note from Amy Crane: I find that the kids participate better if they get little rewards along the way. Skittles are highly motivating for some reason. If I were leading this workshop I’d give them a Skittle for bringing their Bible, for finding the Bible passage, for answering a question in the game (one to everybody on the team), for participating in discussion, a Skittle to everybody on the way out the door after cleanup, etc. I’d have several small jars of Skittles on hand and put the shepherds in charge of distribution. (Better check with shepherds and make sure nobody is diabetic!)*

**References**

Story summary from adaptation by Amy Crane for Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida. Posted on Workshop Rotation Idea and Lesson Exchange,  
For tips on biblical storytelling, see Storytelling in Sunday School Settings, © Amy Crane,  
<http://www.rotation.org/lessons/storytell.htm>

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## Questions for game

Who went with Moses to talk to the Israelite leaders and the Pharaoh?

- A. His brother Joseph
- B. His brother Aaron
- C. His wife, Zipporah

What was the name of the region of Egypt where the Israelites lived?

- A. The Nile
- B. Canaan
- C. Goshen

When Moses and Aaron first met with the Israelite leaders and told them that God had sent them to lead their people out of slavery, what did the Israelite leaders do?

- A. They believed, and bowed down and worshiped God. (They knew that God had seen their suffering and was going to help them.)
- B. They said, “Don’t you dare talk to Pharaoh! It will only make things worse!”
- C. They said, “No way, Pharaoh is more powerful than our God.”

Moses and Aaron asked the Pharaoh to let the Israelites walk into the desert. What reason did they give for wanting to do this?

- A. They told Pharaoh they wanted to leave Egypt and never come back.
- B. They told Pharaoh the land of Goshen was full and they wanted to build themselves new houses in the desert.
- C. They told Pharaoh they wanted to hold a festival in the desert to honor God.

When Moses and Aaron asked the Pharaoh to let the Israelites walk into the desert, how did the pharaoh respond?

- A. He said, "That sounds reasonable enough. Have a good journey."
- B. He told the slave drivers to push the workers harder than ever.
- C. He asked his magicians to send plagues upon the Israelites.

When the slave drivers started forcing the Israelites to work harder than ever, how did they respond?

- A. They blamed Moses and complained bitterly.
- B. They trusted that God would rescue them from slavery.
- C. They began to plot a revolution against the Egyptians.

When the Israelites complained to Moses, what did he do?

- A. He told them not to worry and to trust God.
- B. He reminded them of God’s promise to rescue them from slavery.
- C. He complained to God.

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When Moses complained to God, how did God answer?

- A. God said, “I have seen how my people are suffering and I will keep my promise to them and free them from slavery.”
- B. God said, “I’ll do what I can, but that Pharaoh is a tough guy.”
- C. God said, “Tell my people to stop whining. A little hard work never hurt anybody.”

How many plagues were there?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 15

What happened when Aaron struck the Nile River with the walking stick?

- A. The water turned into wine.
- B. The water began to boil.
- C. The water turned into blood.

Which animals stole bread out of the Egyptians’ ovens?

- A. Frogs
- B. Locusts
- C. Flies

When Aaron struck his walking stick on the ground, what did the dust turn into?

- A. Flies
- B. Gnats
- C. Locusts

What happened to the Egyptians’ animals?

- A. They died from a terrible disease.
- B. They were eaten by locusts.
- C. They were forced to work as hard as the Israelite slaves.

What happened when Moses threw ashes into the air?

- A. They cast a shadow that caused three days of darkness.
- B. They settled on the Nile and turned the water to blood.
- C. They settled on the Egyptian people and became sores on their skin.

What did the hailstorm do?

- A. It pounded people and plants and animals, and destroyed crops.
- B. It killed the Pharaoh’s oldest son.
- C. It killed all the frogs.



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What did the locusts do?

- A. They drove away the animals.
- B. They cast a shadow that turned the sky black for three days.
- C. They ate all the plants and crops that the hail had not destroyed.

How long was Egypt covered with darkness?

- A. Three days
- B. Three weeks
- C. Three months

What was the punishment that finally caused Pharaoh to let the Israelites go?

- A. The plague of darkness
- B. The plague of locusts
- C. The death of the first-born son in every family.

What were the Israelites told to do so their first-born sons would not be killed?

- A. To hide their children.
- B. To kill a special sheep or goat and put some of the blood on the doorposts of their house.
- C. To wear special clothes.

What food did the Israelites take when they left Egypt?

- A. Bread made without yeast
- B. Bread made without flour
- C. Bread made without salt

After they left Egypt, what did God command the Israelites to do every year?

- A. Remember the Passover and celebrate it with a special song.
- B. Remember the Passover and celebrate it with a special meal.
- C. Remember the Passover and celebrate it with a big party.