

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

### VIDEO WORKSHOP:

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Teaching method: Watch portions of the animated video, “The Prince of Egypt”. Children will learn the background of the Moses story from the burning bush to the plagues and the rescue of the Israelite people from slavery in Egypt.

For Scripture, Key Bible verse and lesson objectives see first post above.

Video Reference: *The Prince of Egypt* on DVD (A total of 26 minutes will be watched)

Note: this lesson is similar to one posted by Jan Marshall, however this lesson uses a DVD.

#### Leader Preparation:

Read the scripture for this lesson.

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

Preview the DVD and know how to cue to the correct starting place.

Gather the following materials

- The DVD listed above.
- Bibles
- *Read with Me Bible*
- Snack items: popcorn, napkins (On the back counter.)
- Two sets of “Plague cards” – pictures depicting each plague

#### Before Start of Class:

- Make sure you know how to use the Projector/DVD, especially how to move by chapters and scanning forward within a chapter.
- To save time, cue the DVD to be ready to start. From MAIN MENU, choose SCENE INDEX. Only four chapters are shown at one time, so use RIGHT ARROW to advance chapter choices until you see “15. Burning Bush” on the screen. Now you are ready!

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

### Opening:

- Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to the Video Workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults.
- Say: Let's begin with prayer.
- Since time is short in this workshop, lead the group in prayer. A suggestion: "Our wonderful counselor and mighty God, Thank you for being with us always. Thank you for teaching us and leading us. Help us to listen closely for your word and to trust you always. Amen"

### Dig In:

- Ask: How many of you have ever seen this video? [Show the DVD "box"]
- Say: This video is the story of Moses. We find the story of Moses in the Old Testament of the Bible. Today we will watch part of this video and learn more about the story of how God used Moses to save his people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt.
- *[Use pictures in the Read with Me Bible to tell the following story. Show page numbers as indicated.]*
- *[Note: Use the wording given here as a guideline of how to tell/review the story. In later weeks of the Rotation, ask the students to tell you the story, asking, "What happened next?" Fill in any parts left out. Using story Bible pictures is recommended for younger kids and may also help older students.]*
- Ask: Do you remember learning last year about Joseph and his colorful coat?
- Say: When Joseph's family moved to Egypt they numbered about 75 people. Now 400 years later, the descendants of Joseph have multiplied! [page 93] We call these people the "Israelites" or "Hebrews". The king in charge in Egypt, Pharaoh, said there were too many Israelites. [95] So he made their life miserable – he made them slaves. They had to make bricks from clay and straw. Pharaoh also said, "don't allow any Hebrew baby boys to live. Throw them into the Nile River." About this time Moses was born. [97]
- Ask: Do you remember the story of Moses when he was a baby?
- [Briefly summarize that Moses was hidden in a basket in the Nile River, found by Pharaoh's daughter, and grew up in Pharaoh's palace. [98- 99]
- Say: When Moses was 40 years old, he went to live in the desert in Midian. Moses worked as a shepherd and he married a woman named Zipporah.

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

- Ask: When Moses was 80 years old, God spoke to him. Do you remember what God used to get Moses' attention? [102]
- Say: God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. God said, "I have heard my people in Egypt crying. I know they are suffering as slaves. I want you, Moses, to go and rescue them. Tell Pharaoh to let my people go!" Moses wasn't so sure about this task. He didn't think he was up to the job. But he agreed to go to Egypt and see Pharaoh with his brother Aaron. Together Aaron and Moses asked Pharaoh to "Let my people go". [104] Let's take a look at the video. We'll start with Moses at the burning bush.
- [Have the Shepherd distribute the snack.]
- [Assuming you cued as directed on page 1...]  
Choose "15 – Burning Bush".
- Say: Now we will see Moses going off to work as a shepherd.  
VIEW the story of the burning bush. When Moses returns to his tent...  
Say: This is Zipporah, Moses' wife.
- When they leave on a camel...  
Say: Moses returns to Egypt. Now we will see some of his people and the way they were treated as slaves.
- CONTINUE VIEWING, a total of 9 minutes. PAUSE when Pharaoh lifts his hand to stop the music and dancing...  
Say: This is Pharaoh.
- Use right arrow to ADVANCE to chapter 19 (Moses and Pharaoh leave the main hall).
- VIEW this scene (about 2 and a half minutes)
- PAUSE when the doors close on Pharaoh (after he says workload will be doubled.)
- Ask: Did you notice in the video, someone went with Moses to see Pharaoh? (his wife)
- Say: But in the Bible it says that Aaron, Moses' brother, went with him to speak to Pharaoh. The creators of video do not always follow Bible stories exactly. It is important to read the story in the Bible to see what really happened.
- Ask: Did Pharaoh let the people go? (no)

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

- Say: In order to convince Pharaoh to allow the Hebrew people to leave, God sent trouble on the Egyptians. God showed his power. He sent ten plagues on Egypt.
- Ask: What's a plague? (something really bad that causes a lot of suffering)
  
- For 1st and 2nd graders:
  - Use the "plague cards" to tell about plagues 1-9. With each mentioned plague, handout the corresponding plague card. If you have more than 9 students, pass out duplicates. Don't worry if you have less than 9 students, but do talk about all 9 plagues.
  
- For 3rd grade and up:
  - Distribute Bibles if needed. (Encourage everyone to bring his or her Bible every week.)
  - Ask: Do you remember where in our Bibles we find the story of Moses? (OT, Exodus)
  - Have them find Exodus 7:17-18. (Note: the exercise of finding these verses is important. Don't skip.) Ask someone to read these verses.
  - Ask: What was the first plague? (river to blood) Who knows what the next plague is?
  - Continue to ask about each plague through #9 (darkness).
  - With each mentioned plague, handout the corresponding "plague card". If you have more than 9 students, pass out duplicates. Don't worry if you have less than 9 students, but do talk about all 9 plagues.
  
- For all students:
  - Ask: Does someone have the first plague card? (river to blood)
  - Say: First we'll see your plague.
  
- Say: We're going to skip some of the video.  
[When you last paused you were at the end of chapter 19.]  
Use CONTROLS option to SCAN FORWARD to where Moses walks toward the river.
- VIEW this scene (about 4 and 1/2 minutes)
- PAUSE after Moses says, "Believe. For we will see God's wonders."
- Say: Now the video makes it look like the next eight plagues happen all at once. Each of you has a plague card. Watch to see if you see your plague.
  
- PLAY (chapter 21 will start – the plagues).  
VIEW this scene (about 3 minutes)  
PAUSE when see Moses walking from the village towards the darkness

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

- Ask: Did everyone get to see their plague?
- How do you suppose it would feel to experience these things? (frogs in your bed!)
- Why did God send plagues on the Egyptians? (steer them towards: God loved the Hebrew people so much that God didn't want to see them suffering as slaves. God had to do something to try to convince Pharaoh to free them.)
  
- Say: Now we are up to plague #10. This last plague would be the worst of all. At midnight God would go through Egypt and all firstborn sons would die, even the firstborn cattle. To prepare for this last plague, God gave Moses instructions on how the Hebrews could be saved. Listen...
  
- Use right arrow to ADVANCE to chapter 23 (Moses says "God has come to me again").
  
- PAUSE a few seconds after Moses closes the window blinds.  
Say: We don't really know what this plague of death looked like. The creators of this video decided to make it look almost like a windstorm.
  
- PLAY (plague of death starts)
  
- VIEW this scene (total about 2 minutes). [Do not watch the entire chapter.]
- PAUSE after shows oil lamp in 2nd story window gets snuffed out. (Am trying to stop before it is obvious that a little boy is killed.)
  
- Say: The first three plagues affected everyone: Egyptians and the Hebrew people. But starting with the 4th plague, only the Egyptians were affected. During the tenth plague the homes of Hebrews were passed over and no one died. With this plague Pharaoh said the Hebrew people were free to go.
  
- Use right arrow to ADVANCE to chapter 24 and SCAN FORWARD (about 30 seconds worth of video) to when then Miriam starts to sing.
- VIEW this scene (about 5 minutes).
- STOP when shows overhead scene of people massed on the beach (Israelites have marched out of Egypt and music is stopping). [If you are running out of time stop sooner.]

### Closing:

- Say: God heard the suffering of his people in Egypt. He sent Moses to save his people. Now they were free after more than 400 years of slavery. Certainly for a

## The Great Escape Rotation: Movie Lesson Plan

long time, it didn't seem like God was remembering the Hebrew people, but in time, God did keep his promises—and God keeps the promises made to us as well – to always be with us, even in times of trouble.

### Resources

- MacQueen, Neil. "A Brief Introduction to Teaching with Video." Sunday School Software web site. <http://www.sundaysoftware.com/video-tips.htm>
- Marshall, Jan. "Exodus: Plagues and Passover: Video." 2002. <http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve...6068121&m=5996068121>
- "State Street UMC G.R.E.A.T. Adventure, Drama Workshop, Moses #2: Plagues, Passover and Escape!" Lessons from State Street United Methodist Church. 2003. <http://www.state-street.org/ch...essonsets/index.html>(some discussion questions)
- Where did the plague cards come from? Sorry I didn't keep track of this source. It was black and white line drawings of the 10 plagues, probably found with a Google image search.
- *The Prince of Egypt*. DVD. DreamWorks Pictures. 1998.
- Scripture quoted is taken from the Contemporary English Version © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.
- If you use this material, even in a modified form, please include the following reference:  
Hulbert, Carol. Lesson set posted at rotation.org: " Moses, The Plagues, And Passover - Video." January 2005. Place URL where lesson found inside angle brackets <<http://www.rotation.org/topic/complete-lesson-set-moses-plagues-passover---fumc-ann-arbor-mi>>.