

**Plague Station Workshop**  
**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."*

**Concepts:**

- God helps people who suffer.
- God remembers and keeps his promises.
- God commands us to remember God's salvation in worship.
- God saved God's people with a mighty hand.

**Objectives:**

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

1. The students will learn the story of Moses and the Plagues and Passover by acting.
2. The students will recognize that God kept his promises to protect suffering people.
3. The class will celebrate Passover with pita bread and grape juice.

**Supply List:**

- Blue towels and red streamers
- Bread bowl, plastic frogs
- Paper shreds, rice or confetti
- Black plastic flies, fly swatter, tray
- Large basket, stuffed animals
- Sticky paper circles
- Ping pong balls and picture of crops
- Green clothes pins and ficus tree
- White board and red dry erase markers
- Black table cloth and table
- Carpet square or table and chairs for Passover Celebration feast
- Matzo bread/Rice crackers and grape juice
- Cups and napkins

**Teacher preparation in advance:**

Read the scripture passages and attend the Bible Study.

Prepare a closing prayer.

Check out the room and props before your first Sunday to see where everything is located.

Make arrangements to have the plague stations set up ahead of time.

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**Welcome and Introductions:**

Greet the children and introduce yourself. Wear your nametag. Make sure the children are wearing nametags. The purpose of this workshop is to learn about the plagues and to celebrate the Passover.

**Lesson: Scripture/Bible Story**

Briefly, review the history of Moses. The Israelites have been slaves in Egypt and wish to leave, but the king of Egypt won't release them. God has told Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and has promised to help him. Moses and his brother Aaron speak to the king requesting that the slaves be released from slavery, but the king refuses. Aaron performs the miracle of turning the Nile to blood; still the king is not convinced. Through 9 plagues the king's heart is hardened and he refuses to let the Israelite people go.

The plagues are blood, frogs, gnats, flies, dead animals, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness; finally Moses warns the king that the Lord will pass through the land and every first born Egyptian will die. Still the king refuses to release the Israelites.

Have the children use their Bibles to locate the scripture for this lesson (Exodus 12:21-42). Make sure that all children are able to locate Exodus. Assist the kids having trouble. Once all of the children have located the passage read it together as a group. They may take turns reading or you can read it to them.

Ask if there are any questions. You may need to explain the terms, plague, locust and boil. If this is a first week of rotation you may want to show where Egypt and the Nile are on the map or globe.

**Application:**

Set up the plague stations and a Passover table before the lesson starts. Ask for volunteers to play the part of Pharaoh and God (you may choose to be God to help direct the action if the class is young). The rest of the class will be Israelites/Moses.

**The Plagues and Passover:**

Go as a group to each of the plague stations. The Israelites (all except those playing the role of the Pharaoh/King or God) at each station say, "Will you let our people go?" Each time the King replies, "No!"

**1) Blood plague - Blue towels lined up to represent the Nile**

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then Moses will command Aaron to touch his stick to the water and the Nile will turn to blood.

Children: throw a red streamer into the Nile to represent blood.

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**2) Frog plague** – Have a bag of small plastic frogs or cardboard pictures of frogs and a pillow and bowl.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then there will be a plague of frogs. Frogs will be everywhere, in your food bowls and in your beds.

Children: each try to toss a frog into the “kings” bowl or pillow.

**3) Gnats plague** – Gnats can be smaller paper shreds, rice or confetti.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then there will be a plague of gnats.

Leader: Sprinkle a few pieces of confetti into each child’s hair.

**4) Fly plague** – Small plastic flies.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then there will be flies buzzing everywhere.

Children: each take a turn swatting flies.

**5) Dead Animals plague** – Have some stuffed animals or bean bag animals and a basket.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then animals will die throughout the land.

Children: toss “dead animals” into the basket.

**6) Boil plague** – Have stick on circles for “boils”.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then people in this country will develop a skin disease and have boils on their skin.

Children: stick “boils” on their arms.

**7) Hail plague** – Have ping pong balls and throw them at a poster board picture of crops (wheat or corn, etc.)

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then great hailstones will destroy the crops in the fields.

Children: throw “hailstones” at the crops

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**8) Locust plague** – Have clothes pins painted green for locusts and a fake tree or plant.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then great swarms of locust will destroy what is left including the trees.

Children: clip a “locust” on the tree

**9) Darkness plague** – Table covered with a dark cloth.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Then there will be darkness both day and night.

Children: crawl under the dark table – could be a dark tunnel to crawl through representing the three days and nights

**10) The death of first born children** – white board and a red dry erase marker.

Israelites: Will you let our people go?

King: No!

God: Moses, tell your people to mark a red cross on their doors tonight. All firstborn sons of Egypt will die, but I will protect the houses with the red crosses, the illness will pass over these homes.

Children each draw a red cross on the white board or poster.

God: The next day Moses and his people were safe but many Egyptians had died.

King: Moses, you and your people must leave this country. Take your sheep and go away, but ask your God to be kind to me.

God: Moses, you and your people will celebrate Passover to give thanks that your first born children were spared from illness and to give thanks for your freedom from slavery.

**Passover Celebration**

At this time the workshop leader directs the children to the Passover area, either a table or carpet squares. Show a basket of Matzo crackers (Rice crackers for those with allergies) with the explanation that bread without yeast (flat bread) was eaten at Passover because the Israelites had to leave Egypt quickly without time to let bread rise properly. A lamb was killed and its blood used to mark the Israelites doors so that death would pass over that house. The lamb also represents Jesus who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Israelites sacrificed lambs to save their first born children. God sacrificed Jesus (who is called the Lamb of God) to save us from sin.

Eat the crackers and have some juice.

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**Reflection Time: Sharing and Discussion**

**God helped the Israelites suffering as slaves. How does God help us when we suffer?**

God gives us comfort when we pray, parents to help us feel better, doctors and nurses to heal us when we are sick, friends to cheer us up when we are sad, helpers like rescue workers, police officers, and fire fighters when there is a disaster, teachers and tutors when we are struggling in school, etc.

**How can we help others who are suffering?**

We can help with kind words, hugs prayers, or larger things such as donating food, time and money to those who need it.

**Journal Time**

Ask shepherds to pass out the faith journal pages and pencils and/or markers.

Prompts for journal writing: In what ways do we remember God and his promises to us? By worshipping, singing, praying, and learning about God and by our loving behavior everyday (being kind to and helping one another.)

**Closing Prayer:**

Thank you, God, for helping people who suffer and for keeping your promise to us by sending your son, Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

**References**

- Egypt to the Promised Land: The Plagues in Egypt, from Creative Bible Learning Series.
- Rotation Lesson Sets: Exodus Rotation Overview. Rotation Workshop Book by Neil McQueen.
- Life of Moses Museum, Children's Ministry Magazine, September/October 1998.

Adapted from lessons from FAITH QUEST - Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian, Cary N.C.