

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Lessons From a Leader

YE4G · Student Workbook

Intermediate · Year 2: Creation

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

You Can Count on It

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 66:2 - My hand has made both earth and skies, and they are mine. Yet I will look with pity on the man who has a humble and contrite heart, who trembles at my word” (TLB).

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 17:1-4

Genesis 22:15-18

Genesis 28:13, 14

Genesis 35:11

Genesis 47:1-31

Isaiah 66:2

WORDS TO KNOW

SERF - a member of a servile feudal class bound to the soil and subject to the will of his lord.

DESCENDANTS - one descending from another or a common stock

COMPANY - association with another; a group of persons or things

VIRTUALLY- almost entirely, nearly

BOUNTIFUL - liberal in bestowing gifts or favors

THE LESSON

Jacob and his sons accepted the invitation from Pharaoh to move to Egypt and make it their home. After they arrived, Joseph immediately took his family to meet Pharaoh. Five of the brothers, who were shepherds, requested that Pharaoh let them live in the land of Goshen because they needed pastures for their flocks. Pharaoh had no problems with this arrangement and granted their wish.

Joseph brought his 130 year-old father, Jacob, to meet Pharaoh. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Then Joseph assigned the best land, the land of Rameses, to his father and brothers as Pharaoh had commanded.

The famine became increasingly worse while people in Egypt and Canaan were starving. Joseph sold them grain until they ran out of money. Then they asked for bread. So Joseph gave them

bread in exchange for their livestock. It didn't take long before Pharaoh owned all the flocks, herds, and donkeys of Egypt. Again the people came back wanting bread. So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt in exchange for food. This made Pharaoh very wealthy while turning the Egyptians into a bunch of poor serfs, or servants.

Joseph pointed out to the Egyptians what had actually happened - he had bought them and their land. He gave them grain and told them to go sow the land. When harvest time came, there would be a 20 percent tax to Pharaoh on everything the land produced. The remainder of the grain was theirs to keep. They could eat it and use it to plant next year's crop.

While the Egyptians were selling everything they had for food to feed their hungry stomachs, their new neighbors, the Israelites, were prospering and having large families. The Israelites had so many kids that there was a population explosion among them. Think about it. Having a large population gives you the wherewithal to produce more, and that gives you more power.

Word came to Joseph that his elderly dad was failing rapidly. So he took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim and went to visit his father. Jacob didn't want to leave this life without passing on the blessings to his heirs that God had given him. He adopted Joseph's two boys and they became his own sons that God had given him in Egypt.

By this time, Jacob was virtually blind and asked Joseph to bring his sons to him to bless. Joseph led Ephraim to Jacob's left side and Manasseh to his right side. Being on Jacob's right side was better than being on the left. Joseph was sure that was the way he should do it since Manasseh was older than Ephraim. But something very unexpected happened at this time. Jacob crossed his hand and put his right hand on Ephraim and his left on Manasseh to bless them. This upset Joseph. He was sure his elderly dad had it all wrong. But this was precisely what God intended. Jacob assured Joseph that Manasseh would become a great nation, but Ephraim would be even greater.

It is often thought that the people of the United States and Great Britain are descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, at least in type. There was a time not too many years ago when there was a saying, "The sun never sets on the British Empire." Think about that.

The following are just some of the nations and islands that have been a part of the British Empire: Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc. Look at a map and you can see that the sun never really set on the British Empire. As the earth turned on its axis, like no other empire, there was always daylight on some nation that was a part of the British Empire.

Genesis 35:11 says, "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins." Does this "company of nations" sound anything like the British Empire? If the British Empire is a

company of nations" mentioned here, then who would be a "nation?" Could that nation be the United States of America, which came out of Great Britain?

"And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly" (Genesis 47:27). Why? Because of their fathers' obedience to God - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Seventeen years after the elderly Jacob moved to Egypt, he died. Prior to his death he requested, "When I am dead, take me out of Egypt and bury me beside my ancestors." Joseph promised his dad that he would do that.

What can you learn from this lesson? God loves and richly blesses those who obey and follow Him. When He promises to bless you, You Can Count on It. Just make sure you've completed your end of the bargain. Then, you can be assured of God's blessings.

STUDENT PRAYER

Awesome Father,

You are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They obeyed you and you blessed them and their descendants. Blessings are things that are very real, such as food to eat, money to spend, healthy bodies, a good family, and a safe and prosperous nation. I am truly blessed. Thank you so much and help me to show you my gratitude in the way I live.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Genesis 28:13,14

Monday - Genesis 47:1-6

Tuesday - Genesis 47:7-16

Wednesday - Genesis 47: 17-26

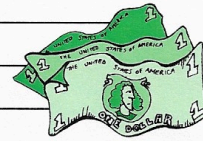
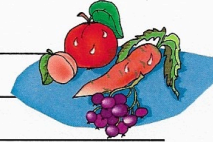
Thursday - Genesis 47: 27-31

Friday - Genesis 22:15-18

Saturday - Genesis 17:1-4

Activity

The title of your lesson is *You Can Count on It*. On the lines below, list as many blessings that you count on God giving you every day.



List as many blessings as you can think of that you have because you live in the United States that you wouldn't have if you lived in such places as Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ghana, or Egypt.



What would it take for every nation on the face of the earth to have a healthy, prosperous land with plenty to eat? On the lines below, write out 2 Chronicles 7:14

Israel Yesterday and Today

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 35:11 - "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins."

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 15:18

Genesis 18:14

Genesis 22:16-18

Genesis 35:9-12

Genesis 35:11

Genesis 49:1-33

Isaiah 41:21-23

WORDS TO KNOW

FLAGRANTLY - so obviously inconsistent with what is right or proper as to appear to be a flouting of law or morality.

THE LESSON

Have you ever looked in a concordance to see if you could find the United States, America, England, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Scotland, or Ireland? Before you start looking, I'll tell you that none of these countries are in a Bible concordance with those names. Well then, did the Bible completely overlook the greatest nation on the earth, the USA, and not say a word about it? At the same time, the word "Israel" takes up more than two pages in my Cruden's Complete Concordance.

In Genesis 49, Jacob called his sons together and told them "I will tell you that which will befall you in the last days." He outlined what will happen to all 12 of his sons - the 12 tribes of Israel - in the last days. Is this scripture just talking about the nation of Israel as we know it today? It takes up 8,367 square miles of this planet called Earth. The nation of Israel is about the size of the state of New Jersey. At this nation's narrowest point, it's nine miles wide. According to President George W. Bush, "Driveways in Texas are longer than that."

Do you remember what God said to Abraham after he took Isaac up the mountain to offer him as a sacrifice? He said, "because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your beloved son from me, I will bless you with incredible blessings and multiply your descendants into countless thousands and millions, like the stars above you in the sky, and like the sand along the seashore. These descendants of yours will conquer their enemies, and be a blessing to all the nations of the earth - all because you have obeyed me" (Genesis 22:16b-18 TLB).

These blessings were passed on to Abraham's son, Isaac, in Genesis 26. They were enlarged as they were passed on to Isaac's son, Jacob in Genesis 28:14, "And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Again, God appeared to Jacob and changed his name to Israel. In Genesis 35:11 "The Lord said to him, and I will cause you to be fertile and to multiply and to become a great nation, yes, many nations; many kings shall be among your descendants" (TLB).

Okay, let's compare what we've read to the little nation of Israel on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Would you say that approximately 10 million people really fits the description in Genesis 22 that says, "I will bless you with incredible blessings and multiply your descendants into countless thousands and millions, like the stars above you in the sky, and like the sand along the seashore"? Probably not.

How about the promise given to Isaac in Genesis 28 that his descendants would spread to the north, south, east, and west? It would be a little difficult for Israel to spread to the west since the Mediterranean Sea borders on its west side. Jordan is a very unfriendly nation to the east of Israel. So it would be difficult to spread that direction. Egypt is to the south of Israel and Lebanon is to the north. Neither of these nations would look kindly to Israel spreading its territory into their borders. So the little nation of Israel doesn't seem to fit what the Bible says would "befall you in the last days." But we still have another problem with the nation of Israel fitting the promises today that were made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Genesis 35:11, "The Lord said to him, 'and I will cause you to be fertile and to multiply and to become a great nation, yes, many nations; many kings shall be among your descendants'" (TLB). How can you find a great nation and many nations in that 8,367 square miles of land area off the Mediterranean coast? The King James Bible says "a nation and a company of nations."

We're left with yet another problem in Genesis 49. Jacob called his sons together and told them what would befall them "in the last days." He proceeded to list 12 tribes of Israel, not just Judea, which primarily makes up the nation of Israel today, off the coast of the Mediterranean in the Middle East. So where are those 12 tribes today? The nation of Israel today is only one of those tribes. The Bible tells us "in the last days" there will be 12 tribes of Israel - 12 nations on this

earth that fit the types in the Bible. Are they all dwelling in that tiny nation of Israel in the Middle East?

Many have made the case that Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's two sons, are actually the ethnic descendants of Israel. In other words, they think the United States is included in Bible prophecy. Even the Royal Family of Great Britain claims they are descendants of King David of Israel. They claim that King Charles III sits on David's throne. Unfortunately, as time has gone on, this belief has become identified with religions that are flagrantly racist.

What made this belief attractive to some people? They looked at what Israel would look like in the "latter days." What they saw in the Bible led them to feel that the United States and Great Britain are Israelite nations today. What do we learn when we look at Genesis 49 in context?

Would you agree that English-speaking peoples are the greatest nations on the earth today? Does it seem reasonable that the two greatest nations on earth today would be totally overlooked as end time players in world events? At least in type, the United States and Great Britain seem to more likely fit what it says in Genesis 35:11, "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins."

Let's throw one more scripture into this mix. In Genesis 12, when God told Abram to leave his own country, there was a promise with it that said, "and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." What nation or nations give more aid or help to nations in need than any other? Who helped Germany and Japan get back on their feet after World War I? Who went in and freed Afghanistan and Iraq of their oppressive dictators? What nation is usually first on the scene when a disaster, such as the Asian Tsunami, strikes? You have the evidence. Where do you think you will find the nation and company of nations today that are talked about in Genesis 35?

STUDENT PRAYER

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

Thank you for showing us the blessings you will pour out on the tribes of Israel in the last days.

Help me to understand your Word better and follow it each day of my life.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Genesis 12:1-3

Monday - Genesis 15:18

Tuesday - Genesis 35: 9-12

Wednesday - Genesis 49: 1-13

Thursday - Genesis 49: 14-21

Friday - Genesis 49:22-33

Saturday - Isaiah 41:21-23

Activity

On the lines below, list the 12 tribes of Israel with a brief description of what they will be like in the last days. You can turn in your Bible to Genesis 49 to help with this activity.



Like It Or Not

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 12:11 - “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (NIV).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 1:1-22

Exodus 2:1-25

Exodus 3:1-22

Hebrews 12:11

WORDS TO KNOW

MIDWIFE - a woman who delivers babies

TASKMASTER - one who imposes a task or burden on another with labor.

AUDIBLY - heard, or capable of being heard

THE LESSON

A banker called one of his customers about his account. He rebuked him for his financial affairs being in such a mess. Then he complained that his wife's account was constantly overdrawn, she was behind on her charge accounts, and her check stubs a mess. Then he asked, "Why don't you talk to her about it?" The man answered, "Because I would rather argue with you than with her."

Our lesson today is about Moses who would rather have argued with anyone other than Pharaoh. But God was about to give him this assignment, Like It or Not.

A man and a woman from the tribe of Levi married. They had a beautiful baby boy. But Like it or Not, the new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had given an order that all boy babies were to be killed. The Israelites were having so many babies that he was frightened that the Israeli population would outnumber the Egyptian population and threaten his security.

Pharaoh first told the midwives to kill every boy baby that was born. The midwives told him that Israelite babies were born so rapidly that they never got there in time for the birth and to kill the baby. So he went to plan B. That plan was to throw all boy babies into the Nile River.

This young mother from the tribe of Levi looked at her beautiful little boy and didn't have the heart to throw him in the Nile River. So she went to plan B. She built a little basket and

waterproofed it. Then she put Moses in the basket among the reeds in the Nile River. She assigned Moses' sister to watch and see what happened to baby Moses.

Before long, Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe and noticed this floating basket with a beautiful, crying baby boy in it. Moses' older sister knew exactly what to do. She approached the princess and asked if she could get a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. This sounded like a neat idea to the princess. So the little girl got none other than Moses' own mother to nurse and care for Moses. The princess didn't know this was the baby's mother. So she let her take him home with her. Later she brought Moses back to the princess and Moses became her son.

Moses grew up to be a man. He was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, near Horeb. Suddenly, the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him as a flame of fire in a bush. But this bush didn't burn up. This was cool! Moses thought this was worthy of a second look. While he was checking things out, God called out to him, "Moses! Moses!"

"Who is it?" Moses asked.

" 'Don't come any closer,' God told him. 'Take off your shoes, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your fathers - the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Moses covered his face with his hands, for he was afraid to look at God."

God has a message for Moses. He had seen how badly His people, Israel, were being mistreated and what deep sorrow they were experiencing. They wanted so desperately to be freed from the harsh taskmaster. God's time had come to deliver them. Not only that, He was going to take them to a wonderful land that flowed with milk and honey. And Moses was the man God had chosen to free His people, Like It Or Not. Well, Moses didn't like it. "I'm not the person for that job," Moses exclaimed.

God had no intention of letting Moses do this enormous task all by himself. He told Moses that He would go with him. But that didn't satisfy Moses. He told God that if he went to the Israelites and told them that their fathers' God had sent him, they would ask, "Which God are you talking about?" They had been slaves in Egypt so many years that they had lost track of who the true God was. God said, "Just tell them the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has sent me to you."

God instructed Moses to call all the elders of Israel together and tell them that He had appeared to him in the burning bush and promised to rescue them from the drudgery and humiliation they were undergoing. He said they would accept God's message and that they had to go to Pharaoh with him to explain that God had commanded them to go on a three-day journey to worship Him in the desert. God promised that they would leave Egypt with Egypt's finest clothes and jewelry.

Moses told God that the elders wouldn't believe him and would even doubt that Jehovah ever appeared to him. God assured Moses that his wasn't going to be an easy job. But He would keep the pressure on Pharaoh and, at last, he would let the Israelites go, Like It Or Not.

If God spoke to you, would you believe Him? Would you do what He said? Would you even know for sure that it was the true God speaking to you? How does God speak to you today? God speaks to you through the page of your Bible. How can you know that you would do what God asked you to do, if He spoke audibly to you? If you are presently obeying the things in the Bible that God tells you to do, you can know. Are you reading your Bible every day? Are you praying every day? Do you obey your parents when they tell you to be home at a certain time? Do you keep the Sabbath as it says to in Isaiah 58:13-14?

STUDENT PRAYER

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

Thank you for revealing yourself to me. Thank you for showing me beyond a doubt, who the true God is. Help me to believe you and to always do what you say.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 1:1-10

Monday- Exodus 1:11-17

Tuesday - Exodus 1:18-22

Wednesday - Exodus 2:1-4

Thursday - Exodus 2:5-9

Friday - Exodus 2:10-13

Saturday - Exodus 2:14-17

Activity

Let's assume you've been assigned to do some overpowering task, *Like it or Not*.

But you're determined not to fail. First come up with what would be an overpowering task for you.

It may be to rescue someone from a fire; you are a soldier in Iraq and a car bomb has struck friends near you; God has told you to tell your friends about how they can make it into His Kingdom, etc.

Now write your story about how you will accomplish this overpowering task. Think about these things and include as many as you can as you write: 1) How can you seize this very moment? 2) Are you in earnest about doing this task? 3) What can you do to succeed? 4) Where do you begin? 5) Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. 6) How can you engage your mind? 7) Begin and then the work will be completed.

On the lines below, write the story about your task and how you will ensure that it is completed.



From Bad to Worse

MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:25 - "For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality" (NASB).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 4:1-31

Exodus 5:1-23

Exodus 6:1-30

Exodus 7:1-25

Colossians 3:25

WORDS TO KNOW

BRIEFED - to give final precise instructions

AGENDA - a list of things to be done

THE LESSON

Have you ever dreaded giving a speech, or speaking before people? Have you wished that someone else could do the job for you? Well then, you'll understand how Moses felt.

Last week we learned that God called Moses from the burning bush to go to Pharaoh. He said, "Let my people go." Moses pleaded with God and said he was not a good speaker and, "Please get someone else." This wasn't what God wanted to hear from Moses. He became angry. "All right," He said, "your brother Aaron is a good speaker. And he is coming here to look for you and will be very happy when he finds you. So I will tell you what to tell him, and I will help both of you to speak well, and I will tell you what to do. He will be your spokesman to the people. And you will be as God to him, telling him what to say. And be sure to take your rod along so that you can perform the miracles I have shown you."

God sent Aaron to Mount Horeb to meet Moses in the wilderness. Moses briefed Aaron on the miracles God told him they must do before Pharaoh. They went on to Egypt and called all of the Israelite elders together and told them what God had told them. Moses performed miracles as the elders of Israel watched. After learning that God had visited them, had seen their sorrows, and had decided to rescue them from the cruel Egyptian slavery, they were so happy they bowed their heads in worship.

The next thing on Moses' and Aaron's agenda was to go visit Pharaoh. They told him the God of Israel said, "Let my people go, worship me in the wilderness." Pharaoh was not impressed and retorted, "Is that so?" But that didn't discourage Moses and Aaron. They insisted that Pharaoh let the Israelites take a three-day journey into the wilderness to worship Him and sacrifice to the Lord. They explained that if they didn't do this they could die.

Again, Pharaoh wasn't at all impressed. He claimed that they were distracting the Israelites from work. So he sent word to the taskmasters not to give the Israelites straw for making bricks while not reducing their production requirement. "Load them with work and make them sweat; that will teach them to listen to Moses' and Aaron's lies!"

Things went From Bad to Worse. The taskmasters became very brutal and whipped the Israelite work-crew bosses. "Why haven't you fulfilled your quotas either yesterday or today?" they roared. The Israelites explained that they weren't given any straw and were expected to make the same number of bricks. The Israelites became very angry with Moses and Aaron for the treatment the Egyptians were giving them.

Moses didn't like this kind of heat, so he started blaming God. "How can you mistreat your own people like this? . . . Ever since I gave Pharaoh your message, he has only been more and more brutal to them, and you have not delivered them at all!" Moses must have forgotten what God told him. He said He would make Pharaoh stubborn so that he would not let His people go (Exodus 3:19; 7:14).

Again God told Moses that Pharaoh wasn't going to be a knock-over, that he would have to be forced to let the Israelites go. God told Moses to tell the Israelites that He would use mighty power and perform great miracles to deliver and free them from slavery. In the end, God would bring them to the land He promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites were not impressed and wouldn't listen.

God spoke to Moses again and told him, "Go back again to Pharaoh and tell him that he must let the people of Israel go." Moses simply wasn't ready for this and he objected. "My own people won't even listen to me any more; how can I expect Pharaoh to? I'm no orator!" God wasn't going to take no for an answer, so He ordered Moses to go back to Pharaoh, demanding that the people be allowed to leave.

God appointed Aaron to be the spokesman and Moses was to tell Aaron everything God told Moses. Again, He warned that Pharaoh would stubbornly refuse. But God promised to multiply His miracles in Egypt and crush those people with a final major disaster and then lead His people to freedom.

Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh and performed miracles to prove that God had sent them. He threw down his rod and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh called in his magicians and

they were able to do the same thing. God sent Moses and Aaron back to be at the Nile River as Pharaoh arrived the next morning. God instructed Moses to hit the water of the Nile with his rod and the water would turn to blood. Why the Nile? This was the very first plague to come upon Egypt and it happened at the exact place where Pharaoh had commanded the boy babies to be thrown to die. Things really had gone From Bad to Worse, and God had not forgotten the evil that Pharaoh had brought upon His people. Will Pharaoh get off scot-free? What does your memory verse say?

STUDENT PRAYER

Great Eternal God,

Thank you for your power and wisdom. When things don't go like we want them to, it's so easy to doubt you. Yet we have so much proof in this lesson of your love for your people. You may not do what we want to get things done and when, but you always keep your promises. Help me to trust and obey you.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Colossians 3:25

Monday - Exodus 4:1-4

Tuesday - Exodus 4:5-9

Wednesday - Exodus 4:10-12

Thursday - Exodus 4:13-17

Friday - Exodus 4:29-31

Saturday - Exodus 5:1-9



Activity



GOD OF THE BIBLE

Think about it. In the lesson you just read,
were you surprised with some of the things God did?
Do the exercise below to see how your concept on God matches with the Bible.

1. How often do you think about God? (Check one.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A. Rarely | ☐ C. Sometimes |
| ☐ B. He's in my thoughts continually | ☐ D. I'd rather not think about Him |

2. Put a check by the word pictures that seem to describe how you feel about God.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A. The God of my parents | ☐ B. The guy who makes me feel guilty |
| ☐ C. Awesome super hero | ☐ D. A nice old man |
| ☐ E. A friend who wouldn't want us to suffer pain | ☐ F. A Cosmic Santa Claus |
| ☐ G. Solves our instant message problems | ☐ H. One who is soft on sin |

3. On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the best, how would you rate your relationship with God?

4. Name one thing that surprised you about God in today's lesson. _____

5. On the lines below, summarize what you think Isaiah 55:7 is saying.

6. Read Romans 11:33-36 and on the lines below outline what we should do because of who God is.

Same Song, Second Verse

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 1:24-26 - "I have called you so often but still you won't come. I have pleaded, but all in vain. For you have spurned my counsel and reproof. Someday you'll be in trouble, and I'll laugh! Mock me, will you? - I'll mock you!" (TLB).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 8:1-32

Exodus 9:1-7

1 Samuel 15:1-23

Proverbs 1:24-26

Proverbs 29:1

WORDS TO KNOW

STUBBORN - unreasonably or perversely unyielding, obstinate, bullheaded, headstrong, mulish, pigheaded, stiff-necked, willful

THE LESSON

Seven days passed since the Nile River had turned to blood. Pharaoh may have sighed with relief thinking his visitors wouldn't return with a message from God. But that didn't happen.

"God said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and tell him "God's Message." Release my people so they can worship me. If you refuse to release them, I'm warning you, I'll hit the whole country with frogs. The Nile will swarm with frogs - they'll come up into your houses, into your bedrooms and into your beds, into your servants' quarters, among the people, into your ovens and pots and pans. They'll be all over you, all over everyone - frogs everywhere, on and in everything!'

"God said to Moses, Tell Aaron, 'Wave your staff over the rivers and canals and ponds. Bring up frogs on the land of Egypt.'

"Aaron stretched his staff over the waters of Egypt and a mob of frogs came up and covered the country" (The Message). Can you imagine what it must have been like to have thousands of the hopping critters everywhere you looked?

I'm sure Pharaoh got a certain satisfaction out of his magicians being able to produce frogs in Egypt. But there came a point where Pharaoh had enough frogs. So he called Moses and Aaron

and said, "Pray to God to rid us of these frogs. I'll release the people so that they can make their sacrifices and worship God."

This was agreeable to Moses; he just needed a time when Pharaoh wanted the frogs out. They agreed on the next day. Moses and Aaron left, and Moses prayed to God about the frogs. They died off, were piled in heaps, and stunk like you wouldn't believe.

But all those frogs, dead or alive, stinking or not stinking, didn't improve Pharaoh's stubborn attitude. And he still held the Israelites captive as slaves. God saw this as a sign to strike again.

This time the dust turned into lice all over Egypt. But this time Pharaoh's magicians couldn't produce lice. They even told him that "this was the finger of God". But that didn't phase Pharaoh. It was the Same Song, Second Verse. Just as God had said, Pharaoh became stubborn again and wouldn't listen to Moses and Aaron. God told Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes down to the water. Tell him, God's Message: 'Release my people so they can worship me. If you don't release my people, I'll release swarms of flies on you, your servants, your people, and your homes. The houses of the Egyptians and even the ground under their feet will be thick with flies.'" This time God made a big difference between His people and the Egyptians. He made Goshen, the place where they lived, a sanctuary where there were no flies. But Egypt was absolutely ruined with flies.

Every time things got bad, Pharaoh decided he'd obey God and let the Israelites go to worship Him. This time Pharaoh insisted that they stay in Egypt. Moses told him that wasn't what God had instructed. They couldn't do that because it would be offensive to the Egyptians and they would kill the Israelites. Pharaoh relented, but not for long. As soon as the flies left, Pharaoh became stubborn once again and wouldn't let God's people go.

God simply could not allow this. So again, He sent Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh with the same message. If he refused to obey this time, the consequences would be on his animals. God would strike them with a severe disease. However, God would draw a very sharp line between the Egyptian cattle and those that belonged to the Israelites. The next day, the plague hit the Egyptian livestock and all of their livestock died while the Israelites' cattle didn't even get sick. But Pharaoh still hadn't learned his lesson and remained stubborn.

Have you ever wondered why it was so bad for Pharaoh to be stubborn? Have you ever stubbornly clung to your own idea or desire and felt that really wasn't so bad? See what you can learn from this story:

Samuel gave God's commands to King Saul to completely destroy the nation of Amalek - men, women, babies, little children, oxen, sheep, camels, and donkeys. Saul mobilized his army. He captured King Agag, but killed everyone else. Then he only destroyed what was worthless or of

poor quality. This wasn't at all what God said do. So God became very sorry that He had ever made Saul king of Israel.

When Saul returned, he told Samuel that he had carried out the Lord's commands. Samuel rebuked him by saying. "When you didn't think much of yourself, God made you king of Israel. And He sent you on an errand and told you, 'Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.'" Samuel asked why he hadn't obeyed the Lord. He insisted that he had. How could this be when he had brought King Agag back with him alive?

"Samuel replied, 'Has the Lord as much pleasure in your burnt offerings and sacrifices as in your obedience? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. He is much more interested in your listening to him than in your offering the fat of rams to him. For rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols'" (I Samuel 15:22-23a TLB).

Always keep this in mind when you're tempted to rebel against God and compromise with His commandments. This was serious business for Pharaoh, for King Saul, and will be for you as well. Remember, "Obedience is far better than sacrifice."

STUDENT PRAYER

Great God of Israel,

Thank you for such outstanding lessons. Help me to really consider my life to see how I'm stubborn and help me to rid this sin from it.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 8: 1-4

Monday - Exodus 8:5-11

Tuesday - Exodus 8:12-15

Wednesday - Exodus 8:16-19

Thursday - Exodus 8:20-23

Friday - Exodus 8:24-32

Saturday - Proverbs 29:1

Activity

On the lines below, list the different animals used to define "stubborn" and explain things they do that reflect this attribute.

On the lines below, list the different plagues you read about in this lesson.

On the lines below, explain which plagues Pharaoh's magicians were able to duplicate.

On the lines below, list ways King Saul stubbornly disobeyed God's commands in 1 Samuel 15:22-23.

Flip Flopped

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 7:10 - “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death” (NIV).

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 9:1-35

Exodus 10:1-29

Jeremiah 13:23-27

2 Corinthians 7:10

James 1:1-8

WORDS TO KNOW

KLIN - an oven, furnace, or heated enclosure used for processing a substance by burning, firing, or drying

THE LESSON

When did Pharaoh say, “Enough!”? The Nile River turned to blood. Pesky frogs invaded everything he and the Egyptians had. The people almost scratched themselves crazy from the plague of lice. Flies filled their homes and covered the ground. Horses, donkeys, camels, flocks, cattle, and herds became sick and died. All the while, Pharaoh still thought he was so great that he could defy God’s power every time God removed a plague. So he steadfastly refused to let God’s people go into the wilderness to worship Him.

What would it take before Pharaoh would believe and obey God? Jeremiah 13:23-24 asks a question. “Can the Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Or a leopard take away his spots? Nor can you who are so used to doing evil now start being good. Because you have put me out of your mind and put your trust in false gods, I will scatter you as chaff is scattered by the fierce winds of the desert” (TLB). This seems to indicate that arrogant Pharaoh would yet be in for some very hard times. Hold on to your seat and let's see how this drama unfolded.

“Then Jehovah said to Moses and Aaron, “Take ashes from the kiln. Moses, toss it into the sky as Pharaoh watches. It will spread like fine dust over all the land of Egypt and cause boils to break out upon people and animals alike, throughout the land.”

Moses and Aaron took the ashes and headed out to see Pharaoh. Pharaoh watched as they tossed the ashes toward the sky. Humans and animals alike broke out in painful boils throughout all of Egypt. The magicians couldn't even stand before Moses because of their agonizing boils. However, Pharaoh, in his arrogance, refused to listen, as God had predicted.

God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh and tell him to “Let my people go to worship me. This time I am going to send a plague that will really speak to you and to your servants and to all the Egyptian people, and prove to you there is no other God in all the earth. I could have killed you all by now, but I didn’t.” Then why do you think God didn’t kill them? Because He wanted to demonstrate His power to all the earth. Believing that God is the only true God who has total power offered them so many benefits. That meant they could call on this Power to protect, guide, and help them. What an awesome benefit! But Pharaoh still thought he was great stuff and could stubbornly defy the God of heaven. So he Flip Flopped! Because of this, his people got hurt badly. But there was even more to come.

"Tomorrow about this time I will send a hailstorm across the nation such as there has never been since Egypt was founded! Quick! Bring in your cattle from the fields, for every man and animal left out in the fields will die beneath the hail."

Some of the Egyptians had begun believing God, and they brought their cattle and slaves in from the fields. Those who had no regard for God's Word left them out to die in a terrible storm that defied all description. It was worse than anything in Egyptian history.

Well, it began to look like there was some hope for Pharaoh. He told Moses and Aaron that he had seen his mistake and that he'd been wrong all along. "Beg God to end this terrifying thunder and hail, and I will let you go at once."

Moses left the city and held his hands to heaven to the Lord, and the storm stopped. Wasn't God being more than generous after the experience He'd had, up to this point, with Pharaoh? But how real do you think Pharaoh's repentance was? When he saw that the storm had ended, he and his officials stubbornly sinned yet more and Flip Flopped on what they had promised.

God is not one to give up. He wasn't about to lose this battle. Having His people free to worship Him was extremely important; it was very much for their good. So God told His two servants to go back to Pharaoh again and make their demands. "How long will you refuse to submit to me? Let my people go so they can worship me." If he refused this time, the penalty would be a thick layer of locusts that would finish destroying everything that escaped the hail. "They will fill your palace, and the homes of your officials, and all the houses of Egypt. Never in the history of Egypt has there been a plague like this will be!" Then Moses stalked out (Exodus 10:6 TLB). You've guessed it. Pharaoh Flip Flopped and did the predictable thing. He stubbornly refused to let God's people go worship Him. The plague of locusts came as God said.

Pharaoh sent an urgent call for Moses and Aaron and said, "Forgive my sin only this once, and beg Jehovah your God to take away this death. I promise not to refuse afterwards." But he Flip Flopped. There was yet another plague. It was darkness without a ray of light upon the land of Egypt. During all that time the people scarcely moved, but the Israelites had light. This time Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron that he'd let the Israelites go with their children, but they must leave their animals. This wasn't good enough. What do you think God will do this time?

Have you ever Flip Flopped like Pharaoh when you sinned, then repented, and God let up on you? Did you revert to your old attitude? Your memory verse says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." Any time you consider repeating a sin, remember what happened to Pharaoh. Things could be much worse the next time.

STUDENT PRAYER

All wise and powerful God,

You love us so much that you'll do what it takes to bring us to repentance and salvation. Thank you for teaching me lessons of the plagues brought on Egypt because of an arrogant, stubborn ruler. Help me to always believe you and repent with a repentance that leaves no regret.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 9: 1-7

Monday - Exodus 9:8-12

Tuesday - Exodus 9:13-19

Wednesday - Exodus 9:20-26

Thursday - Jeremiah 13:23-27

Friday - 2 Corinthians 7:10

Saturday - James 1:1-8

Activity

1. Write a brief paragraph describing how you think Pharaoh looked sitting on his thrown, and what his state of mind must have been when Moses and Aaron came to see him each time.

2. Write out Proverbs 16:18 on the following lines.

3. How do you see the above scripture applying to Pharaoh?

4. How do you see Proverbs 16:18 applying to your life?

5. How can you ensure that your repentance is sincere?



The First Passover

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 12:14 - “You shall celebrate this event each year (this is a permanent law) to remind you of this fatal night” (TLB)

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 9:13-35

Exodus 10:1-29

Exodus 11:1-10

Exodus 12:1-28

Exodus 12:14

Leviticus 23:4-8

Numbers 9:6-13

Deuteronomy 16:3-7

Psalms 81:1-16

1 Corinthians 5:7

WORDS TO KNOW

VIRTUALLY - almost entirely; nearly

INFAMOUS - having a reputation of the worst kind

THE LESSON

The plagues that God had brought on Egypt virtually destroyed that nation. It all happened because stubborn Pharaoh would not allow the Israelites to go into the wilderness for three days and worship God.

Think about it. The hail storm God sent was like none other. You've heard of hail being the size of golf balls, and even baseballs. God sent thunder, hail, and lightning. The Bible says, "It was terrible beyond description. Never in all the history of Egypt had there been a storm like that. All Egypt lay in ruins. Everything left in the fields, men and animals alike, was killed, and the trees were shattered and the crops were destroyed. The only spot in all Egypt without hail that day was the land of Goshen where the people of Israel lived" (Exodus 9:22-25).

Then came the locust plague. These short-horned grasshoppers ate every twig left on any vegetation. It's difficult for us to imagine such devastation. And yet, God wasn't through.

The ninth plague was three days of darkness - darkness that could be felt! (Exodus 10:21) If you have ever been deep inside a cave, you know what that feels like. There is no light to see anything. The Bible says the Egyptians didn't move from their place for three days, but there was light in the land of Goshen.

"God said to Moses: I'm going to hit Pharaoh and Egypt one final time, and then he'll let you go." In fact Pharaoh would be so anxious to get rid of the Israelites that he would practically throw them out of Egypt.

God knew that when Pharaoh was really ready to free the Israelites, they had better be ready to go. God told Moses to "Tell the people to ask, each man from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor, for things made of silver and gold.' God saw to it that the Egyptians liked the people" (The Message). Have you ever doubted that God works in your life behind the scenes? The Holy Spirit is available to us today to do things like give us favor in someone's eyes, as God did here with the Israelites. But we must ask God for it and expect it.

"Now Moses announced to Pharaoh, 'Jehovah says, About midnight I will pass through Egypt. And all the oldest sons shall die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest child of Pharaoh, heir to his throne, to the oldest child of his lowliest slave; and even the firstborn of the animals'" (Exodus 11:4, 5 TLB). Do you think God still remembered the command that Pharaoh gave the midwives to kill all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born?

Moses and Aaron described to Pharaoh what that infamous night was going to be like. "But not a dog shall move his tongue against any of the people of Israel." This was going to be a real turning point in the events. God would make a real distinction between the Egyptians and His people, the Israelites. They told Pharaoh that all of his officials would come running to them bowing and begging, "Please leave at once, and take all your people with you." Then Moses stomped out of the palace red-faced with anger.

God continued His instructions by saying, "This is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or goats."

They were to take care of the year-old lamb until the 14th of the month when the Israelites were to slaughter it at evening. The blood was to be put on two-sided frames of the door of every home and on the panel above the door. It was proof that they obeyed God and the firstborn children would not be killed.

God's instructions continued. The people were to roast the lamb over a fire with its head, legs, heart and liver. None of the lamb was to be left until morning. Any leftovers were to be burned. Exodus 12:22 said the Israelites were not to go outside until morning.

This event was so important, so special that God made it a permanent law to remind all following generations of this fatal night. God continues His instruction to celebrate the Days of Unleavened Bread for seven days so we will always remember when He brought the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses explained that they were to, "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' Then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians. Then the people bowed down and worshiped. The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron" (Exodus 12:24-28 NIV).

When you celebrate the Night to Be Much Observed with your church and family, do you talk about this first Passover? Do you ask the minister or the adults what this night really means? Why not suggest to your minister that he let the children and teens ask questions about the meaning of this night and let the adults answer them? This would be doing what the Bible says. Will you also do just what the LORD commands as the Israelites did?

STUDENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the Passover. The blood of a lamb was shed on the first Passover and put on the doorframes of their houses. When the Destroyer passed over, the Israelites were saved from death. Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb and He shed His blood so that we might have forgiveness of our sins and be saved from eternal death. Help me never to forget, I owe you so much.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Leviticus 23:4-8

Monday - Psalm 81:1-5

Tuesday - Psalm 81:6-12

Wednesday - Psalm 81:13-16

Thursday - Deuteronomy 16:3-7

Friday - Numbers 9:6-13

Saturday - I Corinthians 5:7

Activity

Churches observe the Passover, sometimes with some variations.
YEA has taken that into consideration with the questions that are asked below.
Please answer them honestly, as best you can.

- A. Children and teens who are not yet baptized come to the Passover service at my church and (check as many as apply to you):

1. I learn a lot from listening and watching what goes on. _____
2. I'd rather not attend that service. _____
3. There are things I see that I don't understand, but I wish I did. _____
4. I find the service depressing. _____
5. I find the service inspires me. _____
6. I look forward to the day that I can keep the Passover. _____
7. I feel closer to God after attending the Passover service. _____
8. I have never attended a Passover service. _____



- B. Before I read this lesson (check the one that applies):

1. I did not realize that Christ shed His blood for my sins. _____
2. I did not know that a lamb or a goat was killed and people ate it at the first Passover. _____
3. I did not know that the first Passover was started so many years ago. _____

- C. Most churches feel a person should be baptized before they can take the Passover (check the one that applies):

1. I feel I have repented of my sins and I would like to be baptized so I can take the Passover. _____
2. I've never considered being baptized because I feel I am too young. _____
3. I've never considered being baptized because I don't understand what is required. _____
4. I have been baptized. _____

- D. On the lines below write out I Corinthians 5:7.

20/20 Hindsight

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 66:2 - “To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 3:1-10

Exodus 11:1-13

Isaiah 51:2

Isaiah 66:2

Acts 7:34-35

Acts 9:15-16

Hebrews 11:28

1 Peter 2:9-10

WORDS TO KNOW

RELUCTANT - feeling or showing aversion, hesitation, or unwillingness

THE LESSON

Do you recall? “One day as Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, out at the edge of the dessert near Horeb, the mountain of God, suddenly the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him as a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw that the bush was on fire and that it didn't burn up, he went over to investigate. Then God called out to him.”

Well, I think you'd agree there's been a lot of water that has gone under the bridge since that day. You might even say a lot of major destruction has taken place and a nation destroyed.

When God called Moses from the burning bush, he protested to God that he wasn't the person for this job. God assured him that He would be with him. Moses was still insecure about this job. One reason was because the Israelites had been in Egypt so long they didn't even know who the True God was. God told Moses He would destroy Egypt with His miracles, and then at last He would let the Israelites go. God promised that the Egyptians would actually load the Israelites down with gifts of jewels, silver, gold, and the finest of clothes. But Moses said, “They won't believe me! They won't do what I tell them to. They'll say, 'Jehovah never appeared to you!'" Did Moses sound a little like you might have felt?

Now you have 20/20 Hindsight. You know all of these things did happen and much, much more as well. Moses started this God-given assignment without the knowledge you now have. He had doubts, fears, and was reluctant. It would have been much easier to live a normal life and enjoy his friends and family. But in the end, Moses did the right thing and rose to the occasion. He turned out to be a God-fearing leader who went down in history as the man God used to deliver over one million Israelites from the clutches of slavery. Exodus 11:3 says, "Moses was a very great man in the land of Egypt and was revered by Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptian people alike."

Think about what you've covered in the past seven lessons. Without a doubt, Egypt was the most prosperous nation on the face of the earth before the plagues began. Do you remember how Egypt became so prosperous? The people would have died off in a famine if God hadn't caused Joseph's brothers to sell him as a slave. Do you remember the dream where there would be seven good years and seven bad years? It was Joseph's plan that saved Egypt and made it prosperous. But, oh, how fast the Egyptians forgot this and became ungrateful. Egypt became the greatest nation on the face of the earth at that time, because of the Israelites. The Egyptians owned the Israelites. They benefitted from their intelligence. Israeli manpower was at their total disposal for over 400 years. They could use them as many hours a day as they wanted. The work of the Israelites made Egypt richer and greater.

But the Egyptians and their leaders were not a humble, God-fearing, gentle people. They abused the Israelites, killed their babies, and never dreamed the day would come when the Great God of Heaven would take notice and do something about it. But God did.

He told Moses, "I have seen the deep sorrows of my people in Egypt, and have heard their pleas for freedom from their harsh taskmasters. I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians and to take them out of Egypt into a good land, a large land, a land 'flowing with milk and honey' -the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live. Yes, the wail of the people of Israel has risen to me in heaven, and I have seen the heavy tasks the Egyptians have oppressed them with. Now I am going to send you to Pharaoh, to demand that he let you lead my people out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:7-10 TLB).

According to Halley's Bible Handbook some think all the plagues that unnecessarily destroyed Egypt took about one year. Egypt experienced plague after plague, including an awesome hail storm that flattened everything. Then came a plague of locusts that ate every twig that survived

There are so many lessons you can learn from one year of history. You can learn from the character of Moses and Aaron and what leaders they were. When God says, "I have a job for you to do," you'd better say, "Yes, Lord," and go do it. We've seen that after Moses' initial reluctance, he carried out every command the Lord gave him right on schedule.

We've learned how respected Moses was by the Egyptians and even revered by Pharaoh's officials. We can see clearly with 20/20 Hindsight and learn from this awesome story that it pays abundantly to obey God, go where He says, and do what He commands.

The big question is how will these Lessons From a Leader change your life? God will probably never speak to you through a burning bush. But He has spoken to you through the pages of your Bible. He tells you to treat others as you would like to be treated. Will you be like Pharaoh, or will you do what God says to do? God tells you to, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Will you carefully ensure that each Sabbath's celebration is an honor to God, or will you renege on your promise to keep it as Pharaoh did? Will you be faithful with your tithes and holy day offerings, or will you try to make yourself richer as Pharaoh did? How can you know if you will obey God? Use 20/20 Hindsight and look back at how well you obeyed God yesterday. That will tell you a lot.

God helped Moses when he felt like he wasn't the man for the job. He'll give you the strength to obey Him. But you must always try. Always remember, you were Born to Win and God is trying to turn you into a leader. Will you work with Him?

STUDENT PRAYER

Almighty God,

Thank you for these awesome lessons about how you used Moses and Aaron to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. You give and you take away. Egypt was so blessed, but they were a cruel people who mistreated your own chosen people. They were brought down in one year to poverty. Help me to always remember these lessons and walk with you daily.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 11:1-10

Monday - Exodus 3:1-10

Tuesday - I Peter 2:9-10

Wednesday - Isaiah 51:2

Thursday - Hebrews 11:28

Friday - Acts 7:34-35

Saturday - Acts 9:15,16

Activity

On the lines below, list the ten plagues and how they could have been avoided.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



Pharaoh Won't Renege

MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 6:7-8 “Don’t be misled; remember that you can’t ignore God and get away with it; a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life which the Holy Spirit gives him.”

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 11:1-10

Exodus 12:1-32

Deuteronomy 32:39

Nehemiah 9:9-10

Galatians 6:7-8

WORDS TO KNOW

RENEGE - to go back on a promise or commitment

THE LESSON

Pharaoh had sown stubborn seeds to please his own desires. He had forgotten that it was because the True God helped Joseph with a plan that his nation was saved from famine. He had forgotten that because Joseph's brothers and father settled in Egypt, they provided offspring as a workforce to build the cities and his nation. He took God's blessing for granted and abused the Israelites - one of Egypt's greatest blessings.

Pharaoh felt threatened by the Israelites having such large families. He feared their numbers would become so large that they would soon take over his country. He looked upon God's people as being a source of cheap and plentiful labor. He wanted to keep them that way. He thought the way to do it meant control! Yes, even controlling the number of children they had. So he first commanded midwives to kill newborn babies at birth. That didn't work, so he commanded that all boy babies be thrown into the Nile River to die.

There wasn't a humble bone in Pharaoh's body. He was King of Egypt and planned to stay that way, regardless of what it took. But God had other plans.

Pharaoh never gave a thought to God sitting at the controls of the universe. In his arrogance he thought of himself as all-powerful. Deuteronomy 32:39 says, "Don't you see that I alone am God? I kill and make live. I wound and heal - No one delivers from my power" (TLB).

Pharaoh was a hard nut to crack. but God set out systematically to bring him down. The plagues that God had already brought on Egypt, because he wouldn't allow the Israelites to go into the wilderness for three days and worship Him, virtually destroyed that nation. And yet, God wasn't through.

"God said to Moses: 'I'm going to hit Pharaoh and Egypt one final time, and then he'll let you go.'" Hurray! Pharaoh Won't Renege. So what do you think God did to get Pharaoh's attention and to keep him from changing his mind? Read on.

"Now Moses announced to Pharaoh, 'Jehovah says, About midnight I will pass through Egypt. And all the oldest sons shall die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest child of Pharaoh, heir to his throne, to the oldest child of his lowliest slave; and even the firstborn of the animals'" (Exodus 11:4,5 TLB). Do you think that God ever forgot the order Pharaoh gave the midwives to kill all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born?

The Apostle Paul warns us in Galatians 6:7-8. "Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it; a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows! If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life which the Holy Spirit gives him." Well, Pharaoh wasn't going to get away with the evil seeds he had sown.

God explained that the Israelites were to eat the Passover hurriedly with their traveling clothes and walking shoes on, with their walking stick in their hands. He would pass through the land of Egypt that night and kill all the oldest sons and firstborn male animals in that land. This was done to execute judgment upon all of the gods of Egypt. The blood the Israelites placed on their doorframes would be proof that they obeyed God. "When I see the blood I will pass over you and I will not destroy your firstborn children when I smite the land of Egypt" (Exodus 12:13 TLB).

The Israelites did as Moses and Aaron commanded. "That night, at midnight, Jehovah killed all the firstborn sons in Egypt, from Pharaoh's oldest son to the oldest son of the captive in the dungeon; also all the firstborn of the cattle." Pharaoh and his officials and all the people of Egypt got up in the night. There wasn't a single house where someone wasn't dead. Can you imagine the bitter crying throughout the land?

Pharaoh didn't let any grass grow under his feet until he called for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Leave us; please go away, all of you; go and serve Jehovah as you said. Take your flocks and herds and be gone, and oh, give me a blessing as you go. And the Egyptians were urgent

upon the people of Israel, to get them out of the land as quickly as possible. For they said, 'We are as good as dead.'”

Think about it. This was a horrible night. Every Egyptian family had someone dead in their household. Not only that, animals had died as well. Pharaoh had certainly sown to please his own wrong desires. He planted seeds of evil. This night when the Destroyer passed over a house in Egypt and didn't see blood on the doorframes, that family reaped a harvest of spiritual decay and death.

What about you? Are you planting the good things of the Spirit, so you will reap everlasting life which the Holy Spirit will give you?

STUDENT PRAYER

Gracious and Holy Father,

It almost blows my mind to think that Pharaoh could be so stubborn. But then I have to look at my own life and remember the times when I've been stubborn and have sown evil seeds to please my own wrong desires. I've learned from this lesson that this type of thing will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death. Please be merciful to me and forgive me.

It's in Jesus' holy name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 11:1-3

Monday - Exodus 11:4-6

Tuesday - Exodus 11:7-10

Wednesday - Deuteronomy 32:39

Thursday - Exodus 12:1-10

Friday - Exodus 12:11-13

Saturday - Nehemiah 9:9-10

Activity

1. Go to a private place and get on your knees with your Bible and YEA book opened in front of you. Pray that God will show you any wicked way in your heart and things you should repent of. As the Holy Spirit calls to your mind things you have sown to please your own wrong desires and evil seeds you have planted, write those things on the lines below.

2. Now explain to God in prayer that you don't want to reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death and ask His forgiveness of the things you wrote on the lines above.



3. Remind God that you are aware of Pharaoh saying "Forgive my sin only this once, and beg Jehovah your God to take away this death. I promise not to refuse afterwards . . ." Tell Him that you are sincere with your repentance and ask for His help in devising a plan that will help you to never repeat the mistakes you mentioned above. On the lines below, outline your plan for never repeating those mistakes again. It might include such things as praying once, twice, or three times daily for the strength to overcome this problem. You might plan ways that will prevent you from being tempted, such as staying away from certain people or situations.

4. To fortify your plan, write your memory verse on the lines below.

The Trek Began

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 105:37 - "He brought them forth also with silver and gold; and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 12:14-51

Exodus 13:1-22

Psalm 105:1-43

Psalm 105:37

WORDS TO KNOW

KNEADING TROUGH - a wooden, earthenware, or bronze bowl where bread was made and left to rise.

THE LESSON

The Israelites did as Moses and Aaron commanded. At midnight, Jehovah killed all the firstborn sons in Egypt. Pharaoh and his officials and all the people of Egypt got up in the night. There wasn't a single house where someone didn't die. Can you imagine the bitter crying that was heard throughout the land?

The Israelites "took with them their bread dough without yeast, and bound their kneading troughs into their spare clothes, and carried them on their shoulders. And the people of Israel did as Moses said and asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. And the Lord gave the Israelis favor with the Egyptians, so that they gave them whatever they wanted. And the Egyptians were practically stripped of everything they owned!

"That night the people of Israel left Rameses and started for Succoth; there were six hundred thousand of them, besides all the women and children, going on foot" (Exodus 12:34-37 TLB). In other words, there were likely over a million people walking out of Egypt with numerous kinds of carts loaded down with their earthly goods. Maybe even small children and the elderly rode on the carts as well. But notice in your memory verse this remarkable statement: "There was not one feeble person among their tribes." Now that was a group of healthy individuals. What an awesome sight this must have been under a big full moon.

Did you realize that some of the people who left Rameses in Egypt that night were not Israelites? People of various sorts went with them. The same law applied to these people as to the Israelites (v. 49). Then there was the vast number of animals - flocks, herds, and cattle.

God instructed Moses to "Dedicate to me all of the firstborn sons of Israel, and every firstborn male animal: they are mine!" (Exodus 13:1)

As you celebrate the Night to Be Much Observed this spring, go outside and look up at that same full moon. Think about what happened several thousand years ago as you celebrate this night. More than one million people of all ages and sorts, with children, animals and their household possessions, walked out of Egypt. Some were newly born. Some were old. Some were tired. But they had their freedom after 430 years and they knew they must put one foot in front of another going towards the Promised Land.

They stopped to prepare a meal for their families. They baked unleavened bread from the yeastless dough they brought along in their kneading troughs. No, there was no pizza, nor a quick hamburger this night. The Israelites were pushed out of Egypt and didn't even have time for their bread to rise. So whether they liked it or not, everyone had unleavened bread, as God commanded.

"Then Moses said to the people, 'This is a day to remember forever - the day of leaving Egypt and your slavery; for the Lord has brought you out with mighty miracles. Now remember, during the annual celebration of this event you are to use no yeast: don't even have any in your homes. . . For seven days you shall eat only bread without yeast, and there must be no yeast in your homes, or anywhere within the borders of your land! Then, on the seventh day, a great feast to the Lord shall be held.

"During those celebration days each year you must explain to your children why you are celebrating - it is a celebration of what the Lord did for you when you left Egypt. This annual memorial week will brand you as his own unique people, just as though he had branded his mark of ownership upon your hands or your forehead" (Exodus 13:3-9 TLB).

At last, Pharaoh didn't renege on his word and he let God's people go. God led them through the land of the Philistines even though this wasn't the most direct route to the Promised Land. What God had in mind by taking them through the Red Sea wilderness was to prevent discouragement that might cause the people to turn around and go back to Egypt. If they took the most direct route to the Promised Land, they might have to fight their way through. However, they had left Egypt armed.

Do you remember that Joseph made the sons of Israel vow that when they left Egypt they wouldn't leave his bones there? Moses remembered that and took Joseph's bones with them as they left Egyptian slavery.

The first place they camped after leaving Succoth was in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. God guided them by a pillar of cloud during the daytime and by a pillar of fire at night. This made it possible for them to travel at night or during the daytime.

What a happy occasion! What a time to celebrate! After being slaves for 430 and being brutally treated, they were free at last, and The Trek Began to the Promised Land. How grateful do you think the Israelites were? How long do you think they would remember God's miracles to deliver them? If this had been you, how long would you have remembered God's miraculous deliverance and continued to obey God? Read the next YEA lesson and find out.

STUDENT PRAYER

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

What an awesome God you are to remember your people and deliver them from slavery after 430 years. We can always count on you. Help us to be the kind of people that you can count on.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday - Exodus 12:14-39

Monday - Exodus 12:40-47

Tuesday - Exodus 12:48-51

Wednesday - Exodus 13:1-7

Thursday - Exodus 13:8-13

Friday - Psalm 105:1-22

Saturday - Psalm 105:23-43

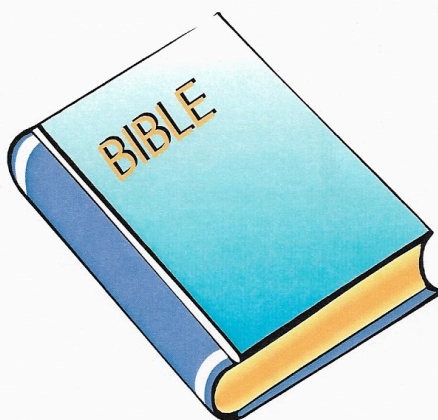
Activity

Mark the following statements True or False.

1. ____ If you let the Bible set your priorities, you'll have an unhappy life.
2. ____ Middle school students don't need to worry about priorities.
3. ____ Keeping God's law does not have to be a priority in my life.
4. ____ My life is okay without worrying about God's blessings.

Check the six most important things in your life today.

1. ____ Wearing the right clothes.
2. ____ Having the right friends.
3. ____ Being good at a sport.
4. ____ Making good grades.
5. ____ Spending time with my family.
6. ____ Being cool.
7. ____ Pleasing God with what I do.
8. ____ Going to summer camp.
9. ____ Learning more about God's Word.
10. ____ Having fun.
12. ____ Studying my YEA lessons.
13. ____ Hanging out with friends.



Check the things you've learned from these third Creation Book lessons.

1. ____ When God sets out to make you obey, He will win.
2. ____ That disobeying God has unhappy consequences.
3. ____ That obeying God brings blessings.
4. ____ That God gives you every opportunity to obey Him.
5. ____ That God considers the big picture.
6. ____ That God has an awesome plan for His people.
7. ____ That the US and Britain are at least in type Israel today.
8. ____ That there wasn't a single feeble person who left Egypt.
9. ____ That man will reap just the kind of crop he sows.

Congratulations for completing the third YEA book in the creation series. Pick up the phone now and call 1-888-BIBLE 44 and order the fourth YEA book in the Creation Series and follow the Israelites to Mount Sinai to receive God's law.