

PASSING OVER

CONCEPT

God saves those who trust Him.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that the Passover was a picture of how 2000 years later Christ would die for us.

Non-Christian students will learn that if we accept the forgiveness offered through Christ's blood, shed for our sins, God's judgment will "pass over" us and we will have a relationship with Him forever.

PASSAGE: EXODUS 5-13

Key Verse: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." Exodus 12:13

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Learning Activity #1:

- Plagues Research sheet, 1/student
- Markers

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- Balloons, 10/class
- 3 fly swatters
- Velcro for goal line
- Candy canes 2/student
- *Legend of a Candy Cane*
- "Candy Cane Poem" 1/student
- Red Ribbon
- Markers
- Hole Punch
- Scissors

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

The story of the first Passover contains rich images of the saving work of Christ. The Hebrew people had to take action on the first Passover night. They had to smear the blood of a lamb on their doors to protect all those inside the house. This symbolized the action that all must take to be saved from destruction. We must accept the blood of Christ as payment for our sin to be passed out of judgment.

"GOD AND PHARAOH

In chs. 4:29-12:36 a drama is enacted the parties of which are God, Egypt, and Israel. The object of it is three-fold: to reveal the power of God over His enemies; to demonstrate that Israel belonged to God and not to Pharaoh; and to establish the faith of Israel in God.

...6:14-10:29 is a series of plagues, which were a clash between two Powers, one Divine, and one human; a conflict between two religions, one true, and one false; a struggle for the supremacy of heaven, or of earth; of a Saviour or of a 'Serpent' (4:1-5).

The struggle was protracted and the battle swayed to and fro, but the devil was defeated by the Deliverer. These plagues were something more than devices to reduce Pharaoh's power of resistance; they were attacks upon the religion of the Egyptians, and upon their many gods. They were in a trinity of triplets, with a final movement which is both a curse and a blessing, a plague and a Passover.¹

As you prepare this lesson, consider Christ's blood, shed for your sins. Does the reality of His forgiveness make a difference in your daily life?

¹ W. Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, 1994, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pp. 153-155.

LESSON PLAN

SET UP	Instructions: Request that the Music team sing "Pharaoh, Pharaoh."
INCORPORATION -- 15-20 MIN	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games Goal: Introduce the Plagues Instructions: Place Velcro starting and goal lines on the carpet. To make the connection between the relays and the plagues, be sure to begin with the name of the relay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Plague of the Jumping Frogs. Make 2 teams with the students who have arrived. Each team has an inflated balloon. The objective is for players to jump to a goal line with the balloon between their knees. When they reach the goal line, players hold the balloon, run back and pass the balloon on to the next player in line. Then that player does the same. ○ The Plague of the Buzzing Flies. The players run to the goal line while swatting the balloon up in the air with a fly swatter. When they reach the goal line, players hold fly swatter and balloon, run back and pass them on to the next team member. • Craft – Candy Canes Instructions: Read <i>Legend of a Candy Cane</i> while students cut out and color labels for their candy canes to take home. There are two candy canes for each student: one to enjoy during class and one to take home. Encourage them to share the other candy cane with someone else and tell them the story. • Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child.
INTRODUCTION/ INSTRUCTION – LG GROUP 5 MIN	Music: Sing "Pharaoh, Pharaoh." Last week we read in the book of Exodus that God talked to Moses from a burning bush. God wanted Moses to go back to the country of Egypt and talk with the Pharaoh, who was the ruler of Egypt. God's special people, the Israelites, had been living as slaves in Egypt for many years. God wanted to use Moses to free the Israelites from slavery and help them move to a new country. Moses gave God many excuses why he should not be the one to go talk to Pharaoh. Do any of you remember what his excuses were? But finally he agreed to go. Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelite people go. In Exodus 5:2 we can read Pharaoh's response: " Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." Instead of letting the people go, Pharaoh made them work harder! Can you imagine being Moses in this situation? He must have been so frustrated! He was very scared to go back to Egypt, but he trusted in God and went and talked to Pharaoh, but when he did, Pharaoh just treated the Israelite people worse! How would you feel if you were Moses in this situation? What would you do next?
LESSON -- LG GROUP 10 – 15 MIN	Moses asked God what to do next. We can read God's answer in Exodus 7:2-5 "You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, 4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. 5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it." "After this, the Lord did ten terrible things to the Egyptians to show them his great power. These are often called 'plagues,' and 9 of these were: (1) The water of the Nile River was turned to blood . (2) Frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. (3) Gnats came from the ground and were everywhere. (4) Flies swarmed all over the Egyptians, <u>but not on the people of Israel.</u> (5)

Sickness attacked and killed all the cows and sheep of the Egyptians. (6) **Boils** and open sores covered the bodies of the Egyptians. (7) **Hail** stones fell from the sky and killed all Egyptians who were outside, but none fell on the people of Israel. (8) Swarms of **grasshoppers** came and ate all crops and trees that the hailstorm did not destroy. (9) **Darkness** covered the entire land of Egypt for three days."²

God caused all these things to happen but Pharaoh still wouldn't let God's people go! He wanted them to keep them in his country as his slaves. So, God sends a 10th plague. In the 10th plague, God will finally get Pharaoh's attention.

Let's read about this 10th plague in **Exodus 11 - 12**:

11:1 Now the Lord had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here. . .

4 So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave. . . and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. . .

12:1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 3 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. . . 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect. . . all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses. . .

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. . .

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. . .

29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. . ."

Wow! So in this plague God told the Israelites to mark their doors with the blood of a perfect lamb. Then, that night when the angel of the Lord passed through, no one in the homes marked with the lambs blood would die. He passed over the houses that had blood on their doors. That

² *Brave Believers*, 1990, American Bible Society, pp. 59-60.

	<p>is why this is called the Passover. Do any of you know why God had them mark the doorways with the blood of a perfect lamb? (To be a picture of what Jesus would do for all people when He died on the cross)</p> <p>That's right, just like God passed over the houses of the Israelites that were marked with the blood of the lamb, He will pass over the sins of those who accept Jesus' death to count for them. When we accept Jesus' death, God says to us, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). That is why we were talking about the story of the candy canes earlier. The red stripe on the candy cane is to remind us of Jesus' blood when He died for us. It is because of His blood that we are able to be forgiven by God.</p> <p>The Bible tells us that we all sin. It also says that all sin must be punished. If we accept the forgiveness offered through Christ's blood, shed for our sins, God's judgment will "pass over" us and we will have a relationship with Him forever. He will not punish us for our sin because Jesus has already been punished for us.</p> <p>[Note to discuss if students have further questions about why God killed the firstborn of the Egyptians: "God does not enjoy judging us. But sometimes that's the only way He can get our attention. (Often it is not enough to <i>tell</i> somebody he's wrong. We have to <i>show</i> him.) That means we have to learn by being punished when no other way can help. Nobody likes punishment. But punishment is sometimes the kindest thing to do because it stops us from doing things that ruin our lives. The sad truth is that some people never seem to learn. Pharaoh of Egypt seems to be one of those people."³ Maybe God's punishment made some people in Egypt believe in the true God so they will be in heaven with all believers forever.]</p>
TRANSITION – 2 MIN	Let's get into our small groups talk about plagues and the Passover more.
LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – SM GROUP 10 MIN Rationale: to apply scripture to real life.	Instructions: Give each student a "Plagues Research" worksheet. Follow the directions as you go through it in your group. Take markers so students can draw. Let's pray . If you have not asked Jesus' death to be the punishment for your sins, that is something that you can ask Him at any time. When we pray, we can also thank Jesus for dying for us and making it possible for us to be saved.

³ *Explorer's Bible*, 1991, Thomas Nelson Publishing, "Digging In," p. 88.

Plagues Research

Instructions: Read about the first 9 plagues in Exodus 7-10. Draw a picture of each in the box provided. Answer the questions on the reverse side of the page.

1st plague: Ex. 7:20, 21	2nd plague: Ex. 8:1,2,6,7	3rd plague: Ex. 8:16-19
Nile changed to blood	Frogs	Gnats
4th plague: Ex. 8: 20-22, 31,32	5th plague: Ex. 9:1-7	6th plague: Ex. 9:8-12
Flies	Disease on livestock	Boils
7th plague: Ex. 9:13-35	8th plague: Ex. 10:1-20	9th plague: Ex. 10:21-23
Hail	Locusts - grasshoppers	Darkness

Instructions: To help you answer the following questions, look up the verses beside them.

- What did God intend for Pharaoh, the Egyptians, Israelites to know about Him as a result of the plagues?
Pharaoh and Egyptians: Exodus 7:5
"By this you shall know that **I am the LORD.**"

Israelites: Exodus 6:7; 9:16
I will be your God; and you shall know that **I am the LORD your God**, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
I allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power, and in order to **proclaim My name through all the earth.**
- What is the 10th plague called (Exodus 12:29)? What did God command that the Israelites celebrate to remember what He did that night (Exodus 12:27)? Why is it called Passover (Exodus 12:27)?
Death of the Firstborn; Passover – because He passed over the homes of the Israelites who had blood on the door posts
- What event in God's Incredible Plan does Passover picture (John 1:29 & 1 Corinthians 5:7)?
Crucifixion