

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 25

Y is for Yahweh

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the kids that God's name is Yahweh, and He is the only true God.

Key Verses

Exodus 5-8—Main Teaching Passage
Exodus 3:13-14

Memory Verse - Psalm 145:3 (June Memory Verse)

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."

Hook

Describe someone else in the classroom and see if the kids can guess who you're talking about. Then tell them you are going to try to get them to guess another person, but this time just say the person's name. Ask which was easier, guessing a person based on their name or based on a description. Then ask if any of the students know God's name.

In the story of the burning bush, Moses asked the Lord what His name is, and the Lord answered that His name is Yahweh (see Exodus 3:13-14). Ask the students if any of them have heard this name before.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Today's story takes place at a time when the children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt. Now the Egyptians worshipped many false gods, but they did not know the true God, who revealed His name, Yahweh, to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:13-14). In Exodus 5:1-9, Moses told Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, that Yahweh was commanding him to let the Israelites go, but Pharaoh responded by asking, "Who is Yahweh?" He had never heard of Yahweh before, and he was not going to listen to a God he had never heard of. The Lord would quickly expose this mistake.

Moses again asked Pharaoh to let the people go in Exodus 7, and again Pharaoh refused. In response, the Lord caused Moses' staff to become a snake. Pharaoh's magicians were able to replicate this miracle, but the snake from Moses' staff ate the magicians' snakes. The Lord then began sending plagues on Egypt. The first plague was turning the water of the Nile River into blood, and the second plague covered the land of Egypt with frogs. Pharaoh's magicians again were able to copy these two plagues. However, when the Lord sent the third plague of lice (or gnats), the magicians could not reproduce this miracle. At that moment, they realized that these plagues were from God.

LOOK

A person's name is very important. It helps to distinguish them from everyone else. As we saw in the game we played at the start of class, it is much easier to identify a person by saying their name than by describing them. If I say, "The boy with the brown hair," or, "The girl with the blue shirt," I could be talking about a number of people. But if I say a person's name, everyone knows who I'm talking about. This is why it is important to know God's name.

Pharaoh and the Egyptians believed in many different gods. If Moses had gone to Pharaoh and said, "God says, 'Let my people go!'", Pharaoh would not have known which God Moses was talking about. Was he referring to one of the Egyptian gods, or another God? But when Moses went to Pharaoh, he referred to God by His name, Yahweh. Moses wasn't referring to one of the Egyptian gods. He was speaking the words of the one true God, Yahweh.

His name wasn't the only thing that made Yahweh different from the Egyptian gods. Yahweh is the only true God. All other gods are fake gods. The gods of the Egyptians were powerless to stop the plagues Yahweh sent on Egypt. And even though the Egyptian magicians were able

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

to copy some of the plagues, by the time they got to the third plague, the magicians realized that Yahweh was not like their gods. That's because Yahweh is the only real, true God. Their fake gods couldn't do the miracles Yahweh could do because they weren't real.

Just like Egypt in Bible times, there are many different people who believe in many different gods today. But there is only one God who can save us from our sins and bring us to heaven: Yahweh. In the New Testament, Yahweh would reveal Himself by another name: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Bible tells us there is no other name by which we can be saved except His. That is why it is important for us to believe in Jesus, and to tell everyone we know to believe in Him. He is the only true God.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the students what God's name is. Review the four miracles He did that we read about today (turning the staff into a snake, water into blood, frogs, lice). Were the Egyptian gods able to copy all of them?

Pray: Praise Yahweh for being the only true God. Pray that the children, their friends, and their families would all put their faith in Yahweh.

Parent Question: What is God's name?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Exodus 5 & 8 (Select Passages) By David Guzik

A. Pharaoh receives Moses and Aaron and responds with a command.

1. ([Exo 5:1-3](#)) Moses asks Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go to the wilderness to worship.

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’” And Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.” So they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”

a. **Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh:** This confrontation took tremendous courage, and **Moses and Aaron** should be commended for their obedience to God in doing it.

i. Pharaoh was nothing like a public servant; the entire public lived to serve the Pharaoh. His power and authority were supreme and there was no constitution or law or legislature higher or even remotely equal to him.

ii. The Pharaohs were said to be the children of the sun; they were friends to the greatest gods of Egypt and sat with them in their own temples to receive worship alongside them.

iii. An inscription by a Pharaoh on an ancient Egyptian temple gives the idea: “I am that which was, and is, and shall be, and no man has lifted my veil.” (Meyer) The Pharaoh was more than a man; he considered himself a god, and the Egyptians agreed.

iv. Having grown up in the royal courts of Egypt, Moses knew this well; but he also knew that *Pharaoh was just a man*. With the authority of the living God, Moses confronted Pharaoh.

b. **Let My people go:** The fundamental demand of God to Pharaoh (through His messengers Moses and Aaron) was *freedom for His people*. God asserted that Israel belonged to *Him*, not Pharaoh; and therefore, that they should be free. Those who belong to God should be free, not bound.

c. **Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go:** Pharaoh knew of many gods, but did not recognize the Lord or His ownership of Israel. Therefore he refused the request.

i. **Who is the Lord?** Pharaoh did not have the right heart, but he did ask the right question. Moses asked *Who am I?* ([Exodus 3:11](#)) The relevant questions were not about the identity of Moses or Pharaoh, but **who is the Lord?** If Pharaoh really knew who the Lord was, he would have gladly released Israel.

d. **Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the Lord our God:** Moses relayed the demand God first gave him back at [Exodus 3:18](#). God presented the smaller request to Pharaoh first so that the request would be as appealing and as easy to accept as possible. He did this so Pharaoh would have no excuse at all for refusing God and hardening his heart.

2. ([Exo 5:4-9](#)) Pharaoh increases the burden of the Israelites.

Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get *back* to your labor.” And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land *are* many now, and you make them rest from their labor!” So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, “You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, ‘Let us go *and* sacrifice to our God.’ Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words.”

a. **Why do you take the people from their work?** Pharaoh not only rejected the idea of giving the Israelites three days off, he saw the request itself as a waste of good working time.

b. **The people of the land are many now:** Pharaoh knew that the previous attempts to cut the population of Israel had failed. They continued to multiply. This was good for Israel, but bad for Pharaoh.

c. **For they are idle; therefore they cry out:** To punish Israel for the request and to give them more work (“You seem to have enough time to make these crazy requests – then you must have enough time to work more!”), Pharaoh commanded that the Israelites must gather their own materials (specifically, straw) for making bricks.

i. Straw has an acidic content that makes the bricks stronger. The use of straw in making bricks in Egypt during this period is confirmed by archaeology. “Bricks of all sorts have been found in Egypt, some with regularly chopped straw, some with rough roots and oddments, some without straw at all.” (Cole)

ii. “Chopped straw was mixed in with the clay to make the bricks more pliable and stronger by first binding the clay together and then by decaying and releasing a humic acid.” (Kaiser)

iii. “The eastern bricks are often made of *clay* and *straw* kneaded together, and then not burned, but thoroughly dried in the sun. This is expressly mentioned by Philo...’because straw is the bond by which the brick is held together.” (Clarke)

A. The second plague: Frogs.

1. ([Exo 8:1-4](#)) The warning of the second plague.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, “Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.” “

a. **Go to Pharaoh:** This series of plagues will end with death coming to almost every home in Egypt. God could have brought that terrible last plague early in this series, but did not – and did not for a determined purpose. God used this series of plagues to glorify Himself (especially above the gods of the Egyptians), *and* to give Pharaoh chance to repent.

i. We should see the good mercy of God in doing this. He might have gone directly to the more severe judgment, but instead gave Pharaoh many chances to repent and change.

b. **I will smite all your territory with frogs:** God threatened a plague of **frogs** for a specific reason. The Egyptian goddess *Heqet* (or, *Heket*) was always pictured with the head of a frog. Among the ancient Egyptians, frogs were considered sacred and could not be killed.

i. Egyptians worshipped the frog as a female goddess because frogs were common around the Nile, because they reproduced rapidly, and because being amphibians they are part of two worlds, creatures of both land and water.

2. ([Exo 8:5-7](#)) God brings frogs upon the land through Moses and Aaron and the magicians of Egypt do the same.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.’” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

a. **The frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt:** Since the Egyptians worshipped the frog, God gave them a plague of frogs. We see both God’s determined plan and His sense of humor.

i. “Though he is the Lord of hosts he has no need of powerful armies, the ministry of angels, or the thunderbolts of justice to punish a sinner or a sinful nation; the *frog* or the *fly* in his hands is a sufficient instrument of vengeance.” (Clarke)

ii. “Thus the first and this second plague are about the water; the third and fourth about the earth; the five next about the air; and the last about man.” (Trapp)

b. **And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs:** The ability of the magicians to do the same **with their enchantments** points to a supernatural power present; this wasn’t the work of a skilled illusionist, this was occult power at work.

i. For all their occult powers, all the magicians could do was make *more* frogs! They could only make the problem worse; yet their work gave Pharaoh an excuse to further harden his heart.

B. The third plague: Lice.

1. ([Exo 8:16-17](#)) God tells Moses to initiate the plague of lice.

So the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.’” And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

a. **Stretch out your rod:** This plague came unannounced. This time God did not show Pharaoh the mercy of a warning and an invitation to repentance.

i. We must never think God is unfair when He does not show mercy. If someone were *totally* fair, they would *never* show mercy.

b. **Struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast:** This plague struck at the heart of all Egyptian worship, especially at their priests. The Egyptian priesthood was extremely careful about hygiene and ritual cleansing; an infestation of lice made them unable to worship their gods.

i. The plague of lice was also upon every **beast**. The gods of Egypt would not receive the sacrifice of lice-infested animals, so this stopped their sacrificial system.

2. ([Exo 8:18-19](#)) The magicians of Egypt are unable to duplicate this plague.

Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.

a. **Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not:** These magicians could use occult powers to change a rod into a snake, to turn water into blood, and to summon frogs – yet they could no bring forth lice. This shows that as great as Satan's power is, it is limited – and it comes to its limit rather early.

b. **This is the finger of God:** When the magicians said this to Pharaoh, it showed they knew there was a power greater than their own, yet it was a power that they did not honor and serve.

c. **Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them:** The hardness of Pharaoh's heart is shown when he would not even listen to the analysis of his own advisers. There was no *rational* reason why he insisted on resisting and rejecting the Lord God.