

Family Worship Guide

Week 19

Read

Exodus 7-10

- **Questions**

Discuss the following questions as a family. The brief answers provided may help you guide the conversation as needed.

1. So far we have read about 9 of the plagues that God sent against the Egyptians. Let's see if we can remember them all from memory.

1) Water to blood, 2) Frogs, 3) Lice, 4) Flies, 5) Livestock disease, 6) Boils, 7) Hail, 8) Locusts, and 9) Darkness. Can someone list them all in order?

2. In your opinion, which of these plagues is the most scary?

Listen as different family members share what they think would be the worst, most terrible, or most disgusting plague.

3. Why did Pharaoh not let the people go?

Over and over again, the Bible tells us that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Sometimes the Bible says that Pharaoh hardened his heart, other times it says that God hardened his heart. Because Pharaoh's heart was "hard" toward God he continually refused to let the Israelites go.

4. What does it mean to have a hard heart?

Many times in the Bible God warns us against having a hard heart. A hard hearted person is prideful (Daniel 5:20). A hard hearted person will not listen to God speak through the Bible (Zechariah 7:12). A hard hearted person doesn't want to listen to or see the truth (Matthew 13:15). A hard hearted person is rebellious against God (Hebrews 3:8).

5. If this is what it means to have a hard heart toward God - what does it mean to have a soft heart toward Him? How can we help each other as a family be soft hearted toward God and each other?

A soft hearted person is humble, believes what God says in the Bible, listens to the truth, and obeys God with a thankful heart. Talk as a family about practical ways you can help each other grow in these godly character traits.

Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself
Grace and Mercy
Salvation
Our family
Our church family
What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – “He keeps His promises.”
- CONFESSION – “Confess times when we have not obeyed”
- THANKSGIVING – “How has God been faithful to your family?”
- SUPPLICATION – “God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him.”
- Pray that we will live obediently to God’s Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our EFM mission field in Northern India. Please pray for our missionary team (Michael and Kathryn Linville). Pray for the Gospel to be received and lives to be changed!

Memorize

“For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: ‘I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’”

- Romans 9:17

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Words in **bold** are what you can say to lead this activity. Adapt the activity as you see fit based on the ages of your children. If you have both teens and younger children, encourage the teens to lead the activity. It is good leadership practice for them, and the younger siblings will enjoy it.

Supplies needed: a bin of dirty laundry - keep it out of sight until the time is right. A small treat (piece of candy, pack of gum, cookie, etc).

I need to warn you, our activity for family worship today is a little gross.

Can I have a volunteer please? Be careful. You are volunteering for something that may be...well, gross. Who is up to the challenge?

See who is brave enough to volunteer!

OK, we need you to lay down on the ground, and you need to lay perfectly still. You can keep your eyes open, but you can’t move.

Now bring out the bin of laundry.

Here is where it gets a little gross. This is a bin of dirty laundry. The rest of us are going to drop this laundry on you, piece by piece until you are covered. We won't drop any on your face. But if we do our job right, in a few minutes you will be covered with dirty laundry from your neck down. Are you ready?

Have each family member drop the laundry, piece by piece over the good-hearted volunteer. Continue until they are well covered - from neck to toe. Don't be surprised if another sibling actually wants to volunteer after the first person is done!

After you are done, give the first person who volunteered the small treat to thank them for their bravery.

That was pretty gross. Hopefully this will be the last time in your life you are covered with dirty laundry. In our Bible story tonight, we are going to read about the true events when God covered the Egyptians with things far more disgusting than dirty laundry.

(Note: Next week's activity requires more preparation than usual - but it will be worth it)

For Teens

Talk about these questions with your teen:

1. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is one of the most important theological points of these events. Why was his heart hard? The text is clear that at times Pharaoh hardened his heart - at other times God hardened his heart. Why would God harden Pharaoh's heart? Didn't God want Pharaoh to let the people go? Discover the amazing answer in Romans 9:14-22.

In Romans 9 we find amazing truth about the sovereignty of God. According to this text, God raised up Pharaoh so that He might defeat him for the world to see. God did this to show His power and glory to the world. God accomplished what He set out to do. Today, 3400 years later, we still tell the story of how God defeated Pharaoh and his armies.

2. Pharaoh was stubborn and hard hearted - even though it was obvious God was speaking to him. Do you sometimes struggle with having a hard heart? Do you sometimes struggle to trust and obey what the Bible says?

It may be helpful for a parent to share about a situation, past or present, of being hard hearted toward God and the truth of the Bible. Work hard to create an environment where your teen feels he or she can be open and honest with you. If he or she shares something they are struggling with, be sure to praise them for their honesty!