


LESSON 5: GOD SHOWS POWER AND SENDS TEN PLAGUES

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 Exodus 7:14–12:30

09/22/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Exodus 7:14–12:30
- In This Passage: God is all-powerful, and he shows his power in a big way! To show his power to the Pharaoh of Egypt, he sends 10 devastating plagues. Finally, Pharaoh is convinced of God's power and decides to free the Israelite slaves.
- Bible Point: God is all-powerful...
- Application: ...so we respect him.
- Summary Verse: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is all-powerful.* At times, kids can feel powerless. Full of worries, fears, and uncertainties, they may wonder if God's power is actually real for them. Help kids see that although the Israelites were powerless slaves, God showed up for them in a big, powerful way. He can do the same for us.
- Think About: What do you need God's power for in your life?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would reveal his power in kids' lives.

Quick Tip

- In a lesson about the 10 plagues, it can be tempting to focus on kids memorizing what the plagues were and in what order they happened. Try not to focus on that. The point is that God showed his power in big, amazing ways. If kids walk away knowing the 10 plagues in order but missing how God's power is real in their lives, you've missed an opportunity for transformation.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids discover soap's power.

Supplies

- small, sturdy foam or plastic plates
- cotton swabs
- whole milk
- food coloring
- dish soap
- 3-ounce cups (1 for every 4 kids)
- bucket or large bowl

Easy Prep

- Squeeze some dish soap into the 3-ounce cups.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids experience chaos as more and more supplies fill the room, and they act out the Passover.

Supplies

- Bible
- red streamers (at least 1 piece per child)
- inflated green and black balloons (1 of each for every 3 kids)
- pompoms (1 for every 2 kids)
- stuffed animals (at least 1 for every 10 kids)
- red circle stickers (at least 1 per child)
- tape
- crackers (1 per child)
- lamp
- paper

Easy Prep

- Section off an area in your room that can be the "safe place." It should be a place kids can easily move in and out of, with a real or makeshift "doorway." Place a lamp in this area that you'll be able to turn on.
- Crumple paper to make at least 1 paper wad per child.



CRAFT

Kids make sound sticks.

Supplies

- "Plague Poles Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- 3-ounce plastic cups (2 per child)
- drinking straws (at least 10 per child)
- thumbtacks
- pencils
- transparent tape
- duct tape
- 5 red, 5 yellow, 5 green, 5 brown, 5 white, and 10 black beads per child (various sizes will work best)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids try to keep paper wads inside or outside a circle.

Supplies

- paper wads (about 10 per child)
- masking tape
- medium boxes or plastic bins (3 for every 10 kids; if your total number of kids is less than 10, you can still use 3 boxes)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Save paper by tearing sheets of paper in half to make 2 balled-up wads from each piece of paper.
- Fill the boxes with paper wads.
- For every 10 kids, tape a circle on the floor that's big enough for 2 or 3 kids to lie down inside.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids race and hop like frogs.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids review the plagues, thank God for his power, and ask him to help them follow him.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “snappy mirthgray” (which rhymes with happy birthday).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll find out that God is all-powerful. That means God is more powerful than anything or anyone else! God has so much power, he can do anything. One time in the Bible, God did some surprising things to get people's attention. He sent swarms of bugs to fly all around the people and a whole bunch of frogs that hopped into their homes. And he sent several other surprising things that. Let's start our lesson by thinking about what we think would be worse.**

Share

- Say: **Would *you* rather have a home full of bugs or a home full of frogs? Personally, I'd rather...** Tell which *you'd* rather deal with and why.
- In small groups, have kids share whether *they'd* rather have a home full of bugs or a home full of frogs.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Both the bugs and the frogs would be awful! God sent them to get the people's attention so they would do what he needed them to do. He let the people know that he's all-powerful. God made other powerful things happen, too, and we'll read about them in the Bible today. God talks to us through the Bible. Let's listen to God as we hear from the Bible today.**

Pray, thanking God that he's all-powerful.



OBJECT LESSON

Power Soap

[10 min]

Supplies

- small, sturdy foam or plastic plates
- cotton swabs
- whole milk
- food coloring
- dish soap
- 3-ounce cups (1 for every 4 kids)
- bucket or large bowl

Easy Prep

- Squeeze some dish soap into the 3-ounce cups.

Tip

- Whole milk is necessary for the activity to work properly.

Pour Milk Onto Plates

Say: **In our Bible story, God showed his power by sending things like bugs and darkness to Egypt. To help us think about power, let's see how much power soap has!**

- Give each child a plate and a cotton swab. Place cups of soap on the table within reach.
- Have adult or teen helpers pour just enough milk onto each child's plate to completely cover the bottom of the plate.

Add Food Coloring

Say: **Let's add dots of color to our milk. Each dot can remind us of something our powerful God sent to Egypt.**

- Have adult or teen helpers assist kids as they squeeze several drops of food coloring onto their plates of milk. Encourage kids to choose several different colors.
- As kids add the food coloring, review some of the plagues that God sent to Egypt.

Touch Bare Cotton Swab to Food Coloring

Say: **Let's see what happens when we poke the dots with a cotton swab.**

- Show kids how to touch the food coloring dots with one side of a cotton swab. Nothing will happen.
- Have kids dip the other side of their cotton swabs in a cup of soap and then dab the food coloring dots again. The soap will cause a reaction that makes the colors spin and spread around the plate.
- Encourage kids to watch as the colors keep moving for about a minute. Remind kids not to touch the milk with their fingers.



Talk About It

Say: The soap was powerful! It made the colors swirl and move around. God showed *his* power by covering Egypt with things like bugs, frogs, and darkness. People saw God's power then like we could see the soap make the colors move now. God is all-powerful. He's in charge and will help us, even when life seems all mixed up and out of control.

For cleanup, have adult or teen helpers pour the milk into a bowl or bucket and then carry it to a sink for disposal.



Supplies

- Bible
- red streamers (at least 1 piece per child)
- inflated green and black balloons (1 of each for every 3 kids)
- pompoms (1 for every 2 kids)
- stuffed animals (at least 1 for every 10 kids)
- red circle stickers (at least 1 per child)
- tape
- crackers (1 per child)
- lamp
- paper

Easy Prep

- Section off an area in your room that can be the “safe place.” It should be a place kids can easily move in and out of, with a real or makeshift “doorway.” Place a lamp in this area that you’ll be able to turn on.
- Crumple paper to make at least 1 paper wad per child.

Tip

- If any balloons pop, gather the pieces and throw them away immediately to prevent children from choking on them.

Experience Chaos

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible says God is all-powerful. It tells about many times God showed his power. One time he showed his power to help his friends get away from some mean people.**

The mean people, called Egyptians, weren’t treating God’s friends very well. They made God’s friends, the Israelites, do all kinds of hard work. The Egyptians beat the Israelites and hurt them. But even though the Egyptians seemed to have all the power, God had *more* power. God is all-powerful, and God used his power to show the Egyptians who’s boss.

Tell about someone who’s boss over *you*. You might share about your boss at work, a policeman who makes sure you follow the laws, or a leader who makes the laws.

Ask: • **Tell about someone who’s boss over *you*.** Kids might talk about parents, grandparents, or teachers.

Say: **It seemed like the Egyptians were boss over the Israelites, but God is boss of everyone. So when the Egyptians’ leader, Pharaoh, wouldn’t let the Israelites leave, God showed he’s boss. He used two brothers named Moses and Aaron to show his power. God talked to Moses about what he wanted them to do, and Aaron did it. So first, God had Aaron raise his staff, which is like a long walking stick. Lead the children to pretend to raise long sticks or staffs. And when Aaron touched his staff to the river, God made the water turn to blood all throughout the land.**

Give each child a red streamer, and encourage kids to hold the red streamers low by their sides and wiggle around the room like flowing water turned to blood.

Have the children sit where they are, and then say: **God made the water turn to blood to show the Egyptians that he’s all-powerful. All the fish died.** Lead kids to clean up by pushing all the red streamers to the edges of the room.

Have kids gather in the center of the room. Say: **Seven days passed, but the Egyptians wouldn’t let the Israelites go. So God continued to show his power. Aaron raised his staff again.** Lead the children to pretend to raise a staff. **God said, “Touch the river with your staff, and frogs will cover all the land of Egypt.”**

With his power, God made the frogs go everywhere—all over the people and their things. Give kids green balloons, and have them bat the balloons around the room for about 30 seconds. Then have kids sit where they are.

Say: **Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to him, and he asked for God to stop sending frogs. So God stopped.** Lead the children to push the green balloons to the edges of the room and then gather in the center of the room.

Say: **But when the frogs stopped coming, Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God talked to Moses again, and Aaron raised his staff.** Lead the children to pretend to raise a staff. **God said, "Touch the ground and the dust will turn into a swarm of gnats to cover all the land." Gnats are little bugs, and a swarm of gnats means there were enough bugs to cover all the people and their animals.**

Give kids pompoms, and have them bat the pompoms around for about 30 seconds. Then have kids sit where they are. Say: **But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God sent flies that bit Pharaoh and all the Egyptians.** Give kids black balloons, and have them bat the balloons around for about 30 seconds.

Say: **God protected the Israelites, though. He kept them safe from the bugs.** Have children drop the balloons, and lead kids into the "safe place" you made ahead of time.

Say: **While the Egyptians were covered in gnats and biting flies, the Israelites were okay. God showed he's all-powerful by protecting the Israelites.** So Pharaoh asked Moses and Aaron to come talk to him again. **Pharaoh wanted God to take away the bugs, and God did.** Have kids push the pompoms and balloons to the sides of the room.

Say: **But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God made all of the Egyptians' animals that were outside die.** Lead kids to return to the safe place, and then toss about half the stuffed animals into the center of the room.

Say: **God kept the Israelites' animals safe.** Hand the rest of the stuffed animals to the children as they sit in the safe place.

Say: **Still, Pharaoh wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God had Aaron toss some ash into the air, and God made the ash spread throughout Egypt. It made the Egyptians and their animals get lots of sores on their skin.** Give each child a red circle sticker, and have kids place the stickers on the stuffed animals outside the safe place.

Have the children return to the safe place. Say: **God kept the Israelites safe. God showed he's all-powerful, but Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go.**

So God told Moses, "Raise your staff toward the sky." Lead the children to pretend to raise a staff. **God sent icy rain, or hail, down from the sky.**

Give each child a paper wad, and have kids bat the paper wads around the room outside the safe place for about 30 seconds. Then have kids sit where they are. Say: **The hail was so terrible that it destroyed the Egyptians' land, and Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron back to his palace. Pharaoh begged for the hail to stop. So God made it stop, but the Egyptians had a lot to clean up!**

Lead the children to push the paper wads and stuffed animals to the edges of the room.

Have kids join you in the safe place. Say: **The Israelites didn't get hit by hail. God is all-powerful; he protected the Israelites. Pharaoh's friends begged Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God sent a swarm of locusts. Locusts are like grasshoppers.**

Give kids the green balloons (reuse the same ones as before), and have kids bat the balloons around the room outside the safe place for about 30 seconds. Then have kids sit where they are. Say: **The locusts ate up any plants that hadn't been killed in the hailstorm. Pharaoh asked for God to stop sending the locusts, and God did.**

Lead the children to push the green balloons to the edges of the room and then gather in the center of the room. Say: **But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. So God said to Moses, "Raise your hand to the sky."** Lead the children to raise a hand. **God made the sky go dark.**

But where the Israelites were, it wasn't dark. God protected the Israelites the whole time because God is all-powerful, and he can do anything.

Act Out Passover

Say: **Pharaoh still wouldn't let all the Israelites go, so God sent the last plague. But first God gave Moses some special directions, and Moses led the Israelites to follow them. God told them to go inside their homes.** Lead kids back into the safe place.

Say: **God had the Israelites cook a special meal of meat and bread. He had them mark their doorways so he'd be sure to keep them safe.** Lead a few kids to tape red streamers on the doorway of your safe place.

Say: **God told them to make a special kind of bread that's flat. The Israelites knew that God is all-powerful, so they did what he said.** Give each child a cracker, and allow a moment for kids to eat.

Say: **God protected the Israelites, but the Egyptians weren't safe. The Egyptians were so sad that they cried loudly in the streets. And finally, Pharaoh told the Israelites they could go. The Israelites were able to leave Egypt safely!**

Look at all the ways God showed he was the boss. Point to the piles of "plagues." God is all-powerful. When we remember that, it helps us follow him and do what he says. When we know he's boss, we can trust him and do what he says so he can protect us like he protected the Israelites. Lead children in a short prayer, thanking God that he uses his power to take care of us.



Supplies

- “Plague Poles Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- 3-ounce plastic cups (2 per child)
- drinking straws (at least 10 per child)
- thumbtacks
- pencils
- transparent tape
- duct tape
- 5 red, 5 yellow, 5 green, 5 brown, 5 white, and 10 black beads per child (various sizes will work best)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- One of our Dig In friends came up with a great alternative to make this craft easier. Rather than cutting straw pieces and poking them through holes, fold a straw or chenille wire in a zigzag pattern, twisting slightly so the zigzags aren't in a straight line. Stuff that in the tube so it fits snugly in place, and then tape the ends to secure it. (She also suggested using cupcake liners instead of cups to cap the ends.)

Make Plague Poles

Show kids the sample craft you made, turning it upside down so they can hear the hail noise. Say: **One of the plagues God sent on Egypt was a huge hailstorm with thunder and lightning. We're going to make plague poles so we can hear what that might've sounded like.**

Give each child a paper towel tube and two cups. Set out the other supplies to share, and lead kids through the instructions on the “Plague Poles Instructions” handout to make their own plague poles.

- Use a thumbtack to poke two holes roughly opposite each other on your tube.
- Stick a pencil into the holes to make them bigger.
- Cut a straw in half, and poke it through the two holes.
- Tape down the ends of the straw using transparent tape.
- Continue poking sets of holes and sticking straws through them, all at different levels and angles.
- You'll want at least 20 half-straws poking through your tube.
- Use duct tape to secure a cup on one end of the tube.

- Put five red beads in your tube to represent the water turned to blood.
- Put five green beads in your tube to represent the plague of frogs.
- Put 10 black beads in your tube to represent the plagues of gnats and flies.
- Put five brown beads in your tube to represent the death of the livestock.
- Put five white beads in your tube to represent the hail.
- Put five yellow beads in your tube to represent the locusts.
- Use duct tape to secure a cup on the other end of your tube. Then wrap the entire tube in duct tape.

Make a Hailstorm

- Have kids flip their tubes back and forth all at the same time for about 30 seconds.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How does hearing the hail help you understand God's power better?**

• **What other sounds make you think of power?**

Say: **God is all-powerful.** He showed his power in the plague of hail and all the other plagues.

Pharaoh didn't respect God's power, so God had to keep sending more and more plagues. But finally Pharaoh realized God's power and did what God wanted.

Have kids take their plague poles home and show their friends and families how the poles represent God's power through the plague of hail. Kids can also talk about the different colored beads in the plague poles that represent other plagues.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Game Overwhelmed

Supplies

- paper wads (about 10 per child)
- masking tape
- medium boxes or plastic bins (3 for every 10 kids; if your total number of kids is less than 10, you can still use 3 boxes)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Save paper by tearing sheets of paper in half to make 2 balled-up wads from each piece of paper.
- Fill the boxes with paper wads.
- For every 10 kids, tape a circle on the floor that's big enough for 2 or 3 kids to lie down inside.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

Throw Paper Wads

Say: **Today's Bible story shows us how powerful God is. God showed he's the one true and all-powerful God when he sent 10 plagues to the people of Egypt.**

Sometimes we need a reminder of how big and strong God is—especially when things in our lives are making us feel powerless or like it's "game over" no matter how hard we try. Let's play a wacky game to help us see what it's like when life gets overwhelming.

- Form teams of about 10, and have two or three kids from each team lie down on their stomachs inside a taped circle.
- Have the rest of the team spread out around the circle, and give three of the standing players at each circle a box of paper wads. Whatever the size of your teams, the goal is that the kids inside the circle are very outnumbered by those standing around them.
- When you start the game, anyone holding a box of paper wads will dump them on the kids lying down in the circle.
- The kids in the circle will try to get all the paper wads out of the circle while everyone who's standing will work to keep the paper wads in the circle.
- Cue the start of the game. If you'd like, play music.
- Allow a few minutes for a first round, and then have kids switch roles and play another round. Play as many rounds as time allows so kids can experience both roles.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to be lying inside the circle?**

• **Why did getting all the paper out of the circle seem impossible, or not?**

• **What are other things you've had to do that seemed impossible? Maybe you've felt overwhelmed by something new you were learning at school, or maybe you couldn't fix a problem between family members.** Share an example from your own life.

• **Why can it be hard to believe God is all-powerful when things are out of control around us?**

Say: **For kids and grown-ups, life is full of challenges that can make us feel overwhelmed. When we ask God for help with what overwhelms us, we show God we believe in his power and we know he's stronger. God is all-powerful whether we're facing homework on a new subject or a fight with a friend; God has the power to get us through it all.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Hop Away

Hop Across the Room

Say: **In our Bible story, the Egyptians wouldn't let God's friends, the Israelites, go. So God showed his power by sending darkness, bugs, and frogs! Let's pretend we're frogs and play a racing game!**

- Have kids line up across one side of the room. On "go," have them hop to the other side of the room and then back to where they started.
- Race again, this time changing the way they hop. Ideas include hopping sideways, hopping on one foot, or hopping over friends (like leapfrog).
- Play several rounds, changing the way kids hop each time.

Talk About It

Say: **In our Bible story, the frogs showed the Egyptians that God is all-powerful. He can do whatever he wants, including sending frogs to hop around everywhere! God is all-powerful. Even when life seems confusing and out of control, God is in charge, and he'll always win! Have kids take a big frog leap and shout "Yay, God!"**



Thank God for His Power

Review the Plagues

Say: **Today we found out that God is all-powerful when we heard about all the things God did to get the Egyptians' attention.** Review each of the plagues covered in the Core Bible Discovery activity. Lead kids to respond to each plague by saying the point, God is all-powerful, and making muscles.

- God made the water turn to blood.
- God covered the land with frogs.
- God made the dust turn into gnats that covered the people and animals.
- God sent more bugs to fill the land.
- God made the Egyptians' animals sick.
- God covered the Egyptians' bodies in sores.
- God sent a thunderstorm and hail.
- God protected his friends in their homes.

Say: **Let's thank God that he's powerful and that he uses his power for our good.** Lead children in a short prayer, and end it by leading kids to make muscles and say "Thank you, God, for your power."

Ask God for Help

Say: **Because God is all-powerful, we can trust what he does, and we can trust what he asks us to do. When we remember that God wants the best for us, it can help us respect him. *Respect* means we follow him and do what he says. God loves us so much, so we know that everything he asks of us is good. Let's ask God for help with following him.**

Lead the children in a short prayer, asking him to help you and the children follow him and trust that he uses his power for their good.

Say: **I'm glad you were here at church today. Come back next week so we can learn more about our amazing God!**