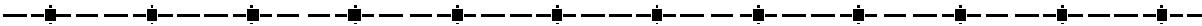


GOD'S BIG PLAN

Deliverance! Exodus 5-13

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 15:13-16; Numbers 33:1-5; Psalm 34:22, 78:1-13, 105:23-38, 139; John 8:31-36; Acts 7:35-44; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 11:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19



Lesson Goals: To see God's deliverance of Israel and punishment of Egypt.
To realize that sin deserves death.
To see Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin.

Scripture Memory The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NIV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Let's review what we have learned so far about God's Big Plan. (Review the previous stories, encouraging more and more students to share.)

Years ago, when God promised Abraham a new people and a new place, He also promised Abraham something else; something that would happen to those new people. God told Abraham that He would judge the nation that made slaves of His people. How long did God tell Abraham that his descendants would be in another land? (400 years.)

Where were Abraham's descendants slaves? (In Egypt.) How did they get there? (Joseph was sold to Egypt by his brothers.) How did they become slaves? (The king saw how many there were and became afraid.) When did God start working towards His plan of helping the sons of Israel? (When Moses was born.)

READ: Exodus 3:7-10, 19-21 (Remember, hold the Bible, opened, throughout the story.)

Moses, who left Egypt and became a shepherd, obeyed God. He left Midian, where he lived with his wife and children. Moses went back to Egypt as God had told him. Moses went to see the king, "Let my people go. They need to worship God." But just as God had said, the king said, "No!" The king made things harder for the sons of Israel and refused to let them leave.

Then, as God told him, Moses continued to ask the king to let the sons of Israel go. The king refused every time and God did some amazing things before Pharaoh and throughout all of Egypt. God turned all of their water into blood. He sent frogs to cover the land and swarm all through their houses. God turned the sand into gnats that covered people and animals and bit them. Then He sent a swarm of flies. All of the Egyptians' animals became sick and died and then the people were covered with sores. God even sent very heavy hail with thunder and fire. Plants were flattened and trees were crushed. Then God sent the locusts. They covered the ground like a carpet and what hadn't been destroyed by the hail, the locusts ate until there was nothing in Egypt - no plants or leaves on trees or animals. And then darkness covered Egypt. This wasn't a dark like it is at night when the moon and stars shine. This was a thick darkness; one they could feel. The darkness lasted for three days and the people did nothing but groaned. After all of this, the king still refused to let God's people go. But God would do one thing more and then the king would change his mind.

Moses instructed the sons of Israel to ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold and silver and clothes. The Egyptians liked them and they admired and respected Moses. They gave the sons of Israel many things, just as God said they would do. It was then that God shared with them what He would do. He also gave them instructions. God even gave Israel their own new calendar by telling them that “this month,” April, “is now the first month of the year to you.” He continued, “On the tenth day of this new month you are to all pick a lamb for yourselves. This lamb should be a male and he should be perfect. Keep him for four days.” Then God explained what else they were to do. On the fourteenth day of this new first month for them, just as the sun was beginning to go down, everyone was to take the lamb they had cared for and kill it. They should roast the lamb over a fire and eat it with flat bread and bitter herbs. Then, they were to take some of the lamb’s blood and paint around their doors. They were supposed to paint the two pieces of wood on either side of their door and the wood at the top, too. Then, when they sat down to eat their roasted lamb, they were to eat quickly, with their sandals on, and ready to go!

God was about to do something big! God was going to punish the Egyptians, and at the same time, He would deliver His people, Israel. God was going to come down and pass through Egypt. It would happen at midnight, on this fourteenth day. God would pass through and kill all of the firstborn - the king’s oldest son, the slave’s firstborn, and even the firstborn of all the animals. But, where God saw the blood of the lamb on the doors, He would pass over those homes and no one would be hurt.

And that is exactly what happened. At midnight, God passed through Egypt and destroyed those who had been born first. And on that same night, the king woke up in the middle of the night. His servants woke up as well and they cried out in Egypt like they never have since. There wasn’t a single house where someone hadn’t died. Then the king said, “Get out! Go, NOW!” And as God had promised Abraham so long ago, at the end of 430 years to the exact day, God delivered His people!

Review:

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

That seems like such a sad story, doesn’t it? Even with God rescuing His people, it seems sad that the Egyptians had to suffer so much. But that’s how sin is. Sin, disobedience to the God of the universe, causes pain, not just for us but also for those around us.

The king of Egypt refused to listen to God and let Israel go. Have you ever refused to obey God? You know what, all of us have. Everyone has sinned. And sin deserves to be punished; in fact, the punishment for sin is death. The sons of Israel killed lambs. The lambs’ blood protected them. God took the firstborn of Egypt as “payment” for their sin. We also deserve death for our disobedience. When we sin, we are slaves to sin. God offers us deliverance.

Who knows what God did, during Passover many years later that offers us deliverance from our sins? God gave His very own firstborn Son to die for you and for me. God’s Son, Jesus, died on the cross in your place and in my place. The Bible even calls Jesus the “Lamb of God.” The perfect Lamb of God gave His life and spilt His blood so that you and I can be delivered from sin. And He came back to life three days later!

God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. He wants to deliver you, too. God offers you freedom and deliverance through His Son, the Lamb of God. Will you accept His Son as the only way to be right with God? It’s a choice you have to make for yourself; no one else can do it for you. Will you trust Him today and be delivered?

**Planning for Next Week
Lesson 15 • The Wilderness
Exodus 13-Deuteronomy 34**

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”

SHARE: Have you ever gotten in trouble for eating fast? Maybe you really like what you were eating and you couldn't eat it fast enough. We are going to talk about a special meal. This special meal had to be eaten fast! Listen to find out why.

Last week we learned about a special baby. He was so beautiful that his mom hid him. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she made a basket for him and put him in the river. The king's daughter found him and raised him in the palace. His name was Moses. Moses grew up and was chosen by God to help some people. These people were special to God. They were slaves to a mean king. The king did not want these people to leave, but God had other plans. Moses did what God said.

The night before God rescued His people, they ate a special meal. They had to eat it quickly because God was going to make the king send them away. They ate lamb that night. They ate it with flat bread and green herbs, or plants. God told them that this is something they would remember and do over and over again forever.

In fact, many years later, after Jesus was born and had grown up, and was teaching His disciples, he celebrated this special meal called the Passover meal. On the last night that Jesus was alive, before he was hung on the cross, Jesus ate this special meal with His friends, the disciples. They ate lamb and flat bread and green herbs. But Jesus wasn't just eating this meal to remember the past, Jesus was trying to show His friends that He had come to do something very special for them like God had done years ago. God had gotten His people out of slavery and Jesus came to get us out of sin. That is why He died on the cross the day after He ate that special meal with His friends. But the good news is that He didn't stay on the cross or in the grave. Three days later, Jesus came back to life!

PRAY: Thank you, God, for sending your Son Jesus.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage your students to draw the memory verse, “frame by frame.” For example: Begin with a calendar page to illustrate “the next day.” Follow with a drawing of John and his disciples with Jesus walking towards them, etc. Caption each frame with the applicable part of the memory verse.
- Make origami insects. Patterns are readily available for simple origami grasshopper (locusts) and frogs. After making them, practice making them jump!
- Play a “Ten Plagues” memory game. Provide pictures that represent each of the ten plagues. Provide scripture references of the ten plagues and number them in the order they occurred. Match the picture with its reference.
- Run a relay of games to help understand each of the ten plagues.
- Sing “The Plague Song.”
- Bring the components of a Passover Meal. Your students might like to try lamb with flat bread and bitter herbs. They might try it more readily as a pita pocket sandwich!
- Bring robes and costume jewelry. Act out the Passover part of the story.