

Exodus 7

God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to the palace in Egypt to ask Pharaoh (the king) to let God's people go. Moses and Aaron were Jewish people who were called "children of Israel." The Israelites were God's special people that he loved and they were being treated very badly by the wicked Pharaoh. The Pharaoh wouldn't listen to Moses and Aaron and he made the poor Israelite slaves work even harder than ever.

The next day Moses went to Pharaoh and said, God will show a sign, to prove how powerful he is: this staff will turn into a snake." Then Moses threw his staff on the ground and it turned into a writhing snake! Pharaoh called for his magicians, "Can you do what Moses did?" he demanded. Now the magicians had heard how Moses could do this miracle and they had a trick planned.

In Egypt there is a certain snake that will turn stiff when picked up. From a distance this snake looks like a staff. When the magicians threw these snakes on the ground, they started wiggling.



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"Hah!" Pharaoh said, "My magicians can do the same trick you did." While they were talking, guess what? Moses' snake ate up the Egyptian snakes! They weren't very powerful at all, were they? Pharaoh was angry and he told Moses to leave the palace.

The next morning Pharaoh was heading to the river to take a bath when Moses and Aaron went up to him. "God asked you to let his people go to pray to him, but you wouldn't let them go.. Now you will know how powerful he is. This river and all the water in Egypt will turn into blood."

That would be yucky, wouldn't it?

Then Aaron held out Moses' staff over the river and suddenly the water began to turn to bright red blood. It was smelly and tasted awful and all the fish began to die.

All the water in the Egyptian's homes, in the buckets and pots also turned into blood.



The Egyptians had no water to drink or to wash their hands or faces.



Do you think Pharaoh was sorry and would let the Israelites go now? No! Pharaoh got stubborn and angry and still wouldn't listen to God.

After seven long days, God told Moses and Aaron to go back to the palace and again ask Pharaoh to let the people go. Moses said, "If you don't let the Israelites go, God will send a plague of frogs on your land." Pharaoh thought, "What harm could frogs do?" He just laughed at Moses and Aaron, then ordered them out of his palace.

Do you like frogs?

They are sort of friendly and hop around and they don't cause any trouble, do they?



Well, one frog or even two don't cause much trouble, but what about a hundred frogs or a thousand, million, frogs? Suddenly there were frogs everywhere the Egyptians stepped; frogs in the beds, frogs in their clothes, frogs hopping into soup or a glass of milk and being baked into the bread. If one sat down they squished frogs, and hopped on people, got stuck in their hair, croaked all night and caused no end of trouble.

Finally Pharaoh couldn't stand it any longer. He called for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Pray to your God to get rid of these frogs. When the plague of frogs is gone then I will let your people go."

Do you think Pharaoh told the truth? Would he really do what he said?

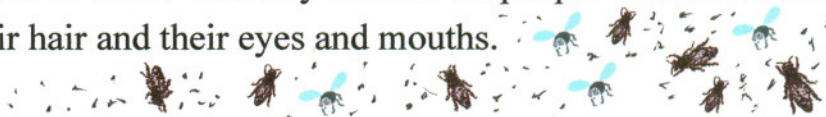
No...Pharaoh told a lie. As soon as the frogs were gone, he changed his mind and told Moses that the Israelites couldn't leave.

Is it a good thing to tell a lie? No, it's a bad thing to tell a lie, isn't it? We should always try to tell the truth for this makes God happy. It makes our mothers and fathers happy too. The Bible tells us to always tell the truth, even if we sometimes don't want to. It might seem like we will stay out of trouble if we tell mom or dad a little lie, but lies never help us, do they?

Moms and dads will find out about the lie and be unhappy and lies make God unhappy too.

Because Pharaoh didn't keep his word, more plagues came on the land of Egypt. Next there was a plague of lice and then a plague of flies. The tiny insects bit people and made bad sores on their skin. They got into their hair and their eyes and mouths.

Ugh!



The Egyptian people were having all kinds of trouble because of their stubborn, mean, king. However, where the Israelite slaves lived, there were no flies or lice. They didn't have bites and sores because God was taking care of them. They still had to work hard for the Egyptians, but the children of Israel didn't have the bad plagues like the others did.

When we listen to the Bible stories and when we try to be good boys and girls and obey our parents, God takes care of us too, doesn't he? Sometimes we have bad days or fall down and get hurt sometimes, but we know that God is watching over us and won't let us hurt for very long. The Bible promises us that God will watch over us just as he watched over the children of Israel.

In our next lesson we will tell about some more plagues that the Egyptians had, all because of stubborn old Pharaoh who wouldn't listen to God's words.

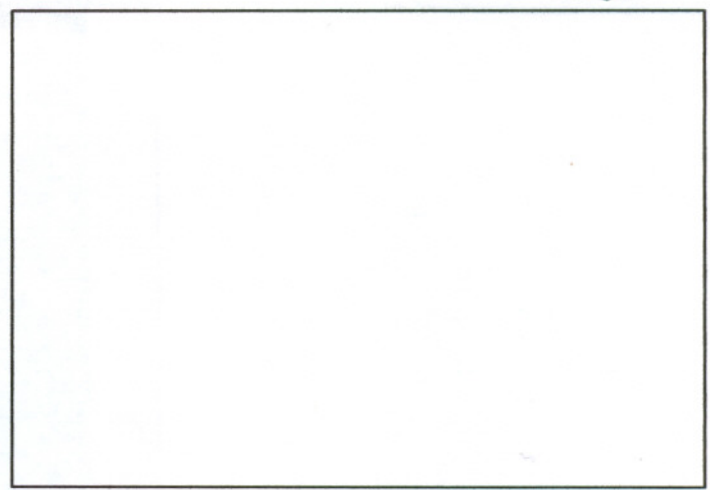
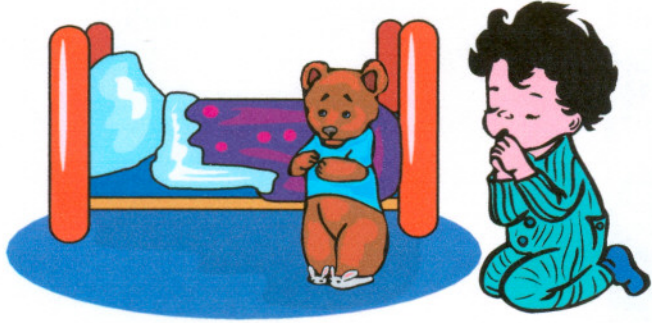



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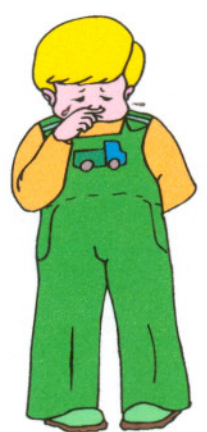
Question Page

1. When Moses threw down his staff, what did it turn into?
2. Were Pharaoh's magicians able to make a staff turn into a snake? Did they play a trick instead? Can you tell what the trick probably was?
3. Why was Pharaoh going down to the river? (to swim, to take a bath, to catch a snake)?
4. What happened when Aaron held the staff over the river, what did the river turn into?
6. Did the Egyptians pots of water turn to blood also?
7. What kind of animal came out of the river to plague the Egyptians?
(Frogs, Alligators, Fish) ?
8. Is it okay with God if we tell a little lie to help us get out of trouble?
9. Does it make God happy or sad when we tell lies?
10. Does it make our mothers and fathers happy or sad if we tell a lie?
11. What kind of insects did God send to plague Pharaoh? (bees, ants, lice and flies)
12. Did the children of Israel have plagues in their homes?
13. Did God watch over the children of Israel and keep them safe?
14. Will God watch over us and keep us safe if we try and do what's right?

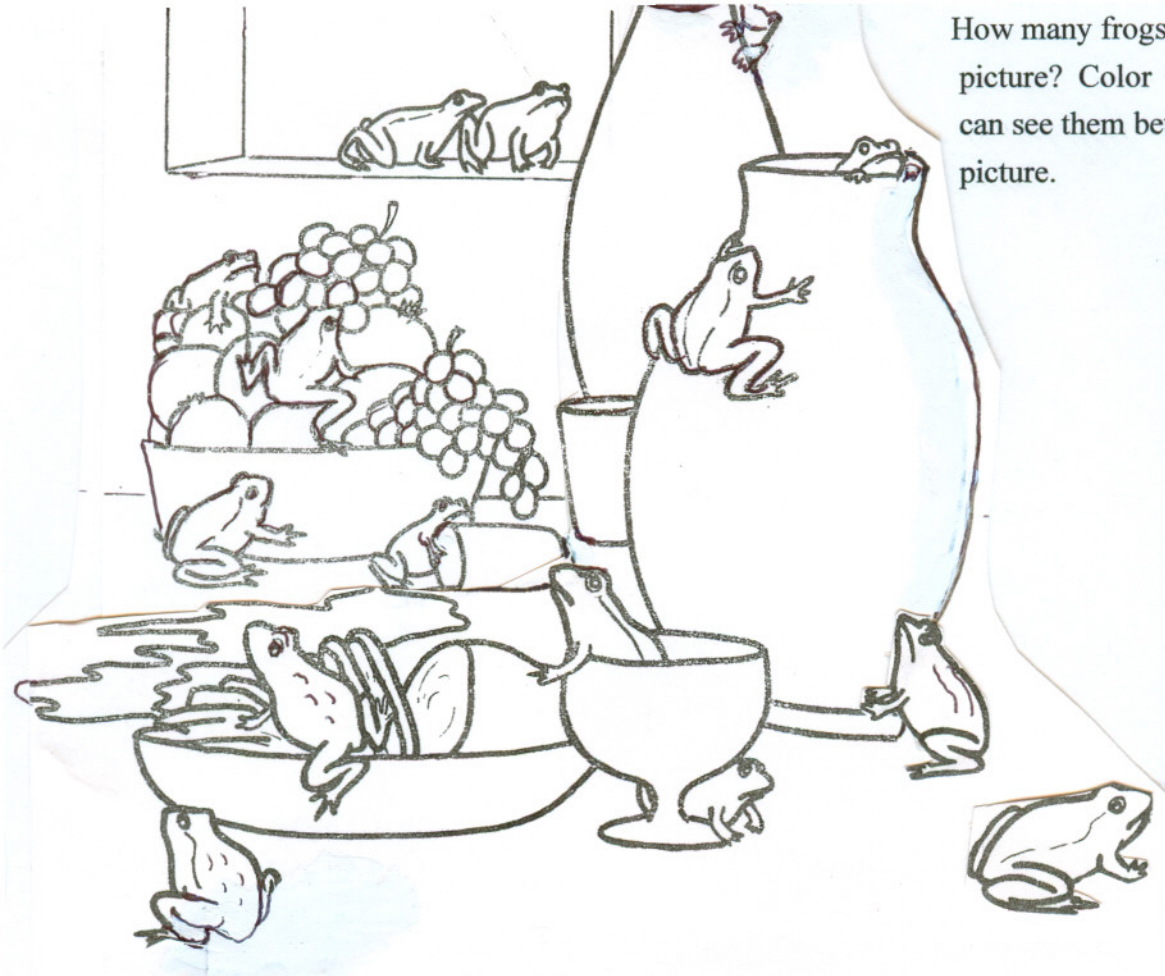
The Israelites were to leave Egypt so they could worship and pray to God. There are different times we can pray. When we are happy, pray for our food, when we sing to God, and before we go to bed. In the square, draw a picture of how you pray to God.



These children are having a plague of flies or a plague of lice. Can you make a lot of dots with your pencil to show a million, zillion lice or flies all around the children?  Which children are mad and stomping on the bugs? Which children are crying because they hurt from the sores and bites?



How many frogs can you count in this picture? Color them green so you can see them better, then color the picture.



Color the river bright red to look like blood. Color the water in the bucket bright red also. Draw a well under the tree and color bright red water in the well. This was one of the plagues God brought on Egypt.

