

Family Worship Guide – Week 6

READ

- As the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, God was already working out His glorious plan to deliver them. He chose Moses to be the one to lead them out of their slavery. God provided Moses' brother Aaron to come along and speak to Pharaoh with him. Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh and presented a seemingly ridiculous request: "Let my people go." Since the Israelites were the major workforce in Egypt, Pharaoh realized that letting them go would put a halt to any work in his kingdom. Pharaoh's response was no. However, God was determined to display His power and to redeem His people. God brought great plagues upon the Egyptians, demonstrating His sovereignty over all creation and all people—even Egyptian kings.

Describe what each of these plagues might have been like:

Plague 1: Water turned to blood

Plague 2: Frogs

Plague 3: Gnats

Plague 4: Flies

Plague 5: Livestock was killed

Plague 6: Boils on the Egyptians

Plague 7: Hail

Plague 8: Locusts

Plague 9: Darkness

Plague 10: Death of the Firstborn

Each plague put Egypt in an increasingly desperate situation. The last plague temporarily broke Pharaoh's resolve. While grieving for his eldest son, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go.

- Exodus 12:30-42; 14:5-31
- Oftentimes, it is hard for us to see the big picture. As the Israelites were working as slaves for years and years, they likely did not feel that they were experiencing the goodness of God. It was easy during those times to forget that there was a bigger story at work. God had more in mind for the Israelites. The Israelites' time in slavery was only a tiny portion of the grand story that God began at creation and will ultimately finish in the last days. This is truly a story of our redemption and, more importantly, a display of His glory.

The Bottom Line: God displayed His goodness and His greatness as the One who delivers His people from slavery, a picture of the slavery He would deliver us from through Christ in the New Testament. By His grace and in His power, He delivers us from darkness and brings us into His light.

Questions:

How was this story a display of God's goodness?

How did God display His goodness and faithfulness even through the plagues?

What is an area in your life that you are waiting for God to show His faithfulness?

PRAY

- Read *Window On The World*, Pg. 12-13 *Afghanistan*
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyric sheet and mp3 download of "Praise To The Lord The Almighty"
- "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" was written in 1680 by a German Calvinist named Joachim Neander. It is based on Psalm 103 and Psalm 150. Neander loved to walk through the valleys and woods near his home, where he would sing praise to God. He wrote many songs during these walks as he considered the grandeur of God's creation. At the age of 30, Neander wrote this hymn while battling tuberculosis. He would die later that year. His lyrics are an encouraging example to us of rejoicing amidst suffering: "O my soul praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation..." Translated into English by Catherine Winkworth, this hymn has been sung for generations.

We chose this song for this week because God is worthy of our praise no matter our circumstances. The situation that God's people were in during their slavery in Egypt is a prime example. God was still sovereign, and He was still good even through their suffering. Even in difficult times, we know that He is sovereign and that He cares for us. He

is our health and salvation, He shelters us, He is our defender, He is good and merciful, and He is worthy of our praise. Let us consider His provision for us and His love for us through these lyrics.

MEMORIZE

- Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created to help parents better communicate the Biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the 'Read' section on Page 1. Remember, these suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Gather a couple of items like a bike helmet or a winter coat. Show the children one item at a time and ask the following questions:
- How can this bike helmet protect you? Is it good to wear a bike helmet to keep you from getting hurt? What kind of protection can this coat provide? Is it a good idea to wear a coat on a really cold day? Can you see how all of these items are made to help protect us from something that could be harmful?
- Just like there are many different items that can protect us from harm, did you know that people could also protect us from harm? (Example: firemen, policemen) It's good to have firemen and policemen to help us when we need them.
- God protects us, too. His protection is always there, even when we don't know it.
- God is great and God is good! God is the creator of everything and everything God made is good! God wants us to know that He is good. He also has a plan for us just like he did for Moses and the Hebrew people. He protected them from all of the plagues and rescued them from the Pharaoh king.
- God loves us so much, He sent His son Jesus to rescue us, too. Not from an evil king, but from the power of our sin. What a good and great God.

Children (Grades 1-5)

- Ask the following questions: **What is a plague?** A plague is a disaster or deadly disease that affects a lot of people. **What is a miracle?** A miracle is an event made possible by the power of God and performed as a sign or revelation of God and His character.
- God's people were in slavery in Egypt. Their lives were horrible because Pharaoh treated the Israelites with great cruelty. They were forced to work hard until their bodies were so tired they could hardly stand up! If they did not work they would be beaten or even worse.
- God displayed His goodness and glory by sending the ten plagues. He used these plagues and His servant Moses to set His people free from slavery. God showed that He is the only one who could deliver them from slavery and darkness into His light.
- God would one day send His Son to the earth to free us from slavery. Not from slavery under an evil Pharaoh but slavery from the power of sin. When we were powerless to free ourselves from sin, Christ went to the cross to bring us from spiritual darkness into His great light.
- As you play the games below with your children, remind them of how God's display of His goodness and greatness in rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt points to His delivering us out of darkness and into His great light through Jesus.
- Game 1: Play a game of Pictionary® using the 10 plagues. Write the name of the 10 plagues on strips of paper, fold in half, and place in a container. Have each member of the family take turns selecting a piece of paper from the container and drawing a picture of the plague. As the family member is drawing the other family members try to guess the plague that is being illustrated. The family member who is the first to answer correctly, then gets to select a piece of paper and draw a plague. Continue until all the plagues have been drawn.
- Game 2: Have your children Unscramble the following plagues.

LODBO _ _ _ _ _	GFRSO _ _ _ _ _
GTSNA _ _ _ _ _	SIFEL _ _ _ _ _
CEKIOVLST _ _ _ _ _	LSIBO _ _ _ _ _
HLIA _ _ _ _ _	CSUSTLO _ _ _ _ _
SDRKANES _ _ _ _ _	RFSBNTIRO _ _ _ _ _

Students (Grades 6-12)

- Read Exodus 14:12-14 again. The Israelite people had just been freed from slavery and immediately they second-guessed leaving their chains. Each day many of us who call ourselves Christ-followers go to our schools and other environments where we must choose whether we will put on the chains of our old life or leave them off. What are some things that might pull at you from that old life? What about popularity, or what people think, or talking about others? What is it for you? Discuss.
- What are some ways we can be reminded that God's power is sufficient to help us overcome these things?

Prayer

Praise

Praise is an act of worship through prayer in which we express our adoration of and love for God. It is rejoicing in who God is and the salvation He gives us through Christ. We recognize the many facets of His character and the work He has done in our lives. It is giving thanks for the blessings He has given us. When we praise God, we give glory, honor, and thanks to Him.

Biblical basis for Praise:

Deuteronomy 10:21; 1 Chronicles 16:8-13; Psalm 150; Romans 15:8-11; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9

Take some time for each of those gathered with you to lift up praises to the Lord.

Nations: Afghanistan

- Peace for this war-torn land
- Help and protection for those translating scripture
- Many people must listen to Christian radio in secret; pray they will understand what they hear and will come to know Jesus

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Praise To The Lord The Almighty

Words by Joachim Neander
Arrangement by Christy and Nathan Nockels

VERSE 1:

Praise to the Lord
The Almighty the King of creation
O my soul, praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear
Now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

VERSE 3:

Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness
And mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

VERSE 2:

Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things so wonderfully reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings
Yea, so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

VERSE 4:

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the 'amen' sound from His people again
Gladly for e're we adore Him

CHORUS:

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

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Scripture Memory

Week 6

Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Due to copyright limitations, we are only allowed to print the lyrics to this song with no chords. We encourage you to download an mp3 of this song from iTunes.

